

police/fire calls

Listed below are some of the Farmington-area police incidents, fire calls and court cases reported during the past week:

WOMAN SHOCKED

A groundskeeper was shocked while cleaning a Detroit Edison-owned mercury vapor light near primary power lines in an Edison right of way at Windemere Apartments on Independence Drive in Farmington Hills Aug. 23.

Tara S. Heichel, 20, of Southfield, was taken to Botsford General Hospital, Farmington Hills, with critical injuries.

When Farmington Hills firefighters arrived at 2:15 p.m., they found the woman lying on the ground, on top of a metal ladder, along the north property line of the apartment complex.

Either she or the ladder, or both, came in contact with the power line. A man working with her who apparently touched the ladder suffered hand burns but he sought his own medical treatment, said Stephen Hume, Farmington Hills fire marshal.

Windemere management could not be reached for comment.

RACIAL SLUR

A construction worker hurled a racial slur toward her while she was stopped for a red light at 13 Mile and Drake Monday, a black Farmington Hills woman told police.

According to the police report: The 39-year-old woman, with her 4-year-old son in tow, was stopped behind another car for a red light at 13 Mile and Drake at 4:20 p.m.

When the light changed to green, the lead driver failed to go, so she tapped on her horn to get his attention. He then drove on.

At the same time, a worker laying sidewalk on the northwest corner hurled a racial slur toward her. She got out and complained to the crew supervisor. She later called the police.

PROBE CONTINUES
Farmington Hills Police are investigating to determine if alcohol was involved in a car accident that injured Detroit Tigers pitcher Charles Hudson on Aug. 19.

"We expect movement in the case in about a week or so," Sgt. Ray Cranston said Thursday.

Hudson, who broke his left leg and right ankle, is recuperating at Providence Hospital, Southfield.

The 31-year-old West Bloomfield resident required orthopedic surgery after his car hit a utility pole and broke in half when he lost control after passing another car on southbound Northwestern Highway at 2:10 a.m. Aug. 19, police said.

SUSPICIOUS INCIDENT

A man tried to lure two young girls playing on a cul-de-sac island into his car Wednesday afternoon. According to a Farmington Hills

Police report:

At 3:50 p.m., the teenage driver of a small, black car stopped on North- and asked the girls if they wanted a ride. When they said no, he offered them candy. When they ran, he drove off.

It appeared that he had a female passenger.

GUN SEIZED

A 35-year-old Detroit man faces a concealed weapons charge after a .38-caliber revolver was found in his car during a traffic stop at Eight Mile and Farmington Road Wednesday.

The loaded handgun was found in a pouch on the back seat, according to a Farmington Hills Police report.

NARCOTICS PARAPHERNALIA

A 21-year-old Farmington Hills man was ticketed for possessing narcotics paraphernalia Wednesday. Items including a marijuana pipe, roach and baggie of suspected marijuana were found in his car during a traffic stop on Hearstone, according to a Farmington Hills Police report.

A 36-year-old Detroit woman was ticketed for possessing narcotics paraphernalia Tuesday. Syringes and baggies of crack residue were found in her purse during a traffic stop at Grand River and Orchard Lake Road, according to a Farmington Department of Public Safety report.

MONEY BURNED

Currency of different amounts

were found burned or scorched on the floor of the Village Clippers, 33335 Grand River, Wednesday night.

A cleaning woman who arrived in the late evening found the front door open, walked inside and smelled something smoldering. That's when she found several bills lying next to an envelope on the floor, behind the counter.

The money was moved from elsewhere in the shop.

"It's real strange," said Detective Dan Potter of the Farmington Department of Public Safety. He's investigating to try to establish a motive and to identify possible suspects.

CARS VANDALIZED

Eight cars parked in driveways on Kneelingham Knoll and Balmoral Way in Farmington Hills were vandalized between 10 p.m. Tuesday and 7:45 a.m. Wednesday.

A briefcase, a console holder, cassette tapes, wallets, a makeup bag and tools were among the items taken. The property was valued at more than \$1,200.

Some of the items were recovered nearby, according to Farmington Hills police reports.

THEFTS REPORTED

A 1989 Chevrolet Cavalier valued at \$11,000 was reported stolen from Gateway Apartments on 12 Mile, Farmington Hills, Aug. 29-30. It was recovered in Detroit.

Tools and garden equipment valued at \$2,330 were reported stolen from a garage on Colgate, Farmington Hills, Aug. 30.

Residents irked

Continued from Page 1

Vagnozzi recommended that the city pay for half of the cost.

"That (the city paying half) would at least show the city is bending," Harper said. "At least they would be meeting us in the middle."

The state has ordered the city to reduce sewage flows transported through the interceptor for treatment in Detroit.

The basement backup program will supplement interceptor corrections made within 2-3 years as part of the Evergreen Farmington Pollution Control Facilities Plan.

The program will ease some but perhaps not all of the basement flooding caused by interceptor overflow in major storms, Blaisell said.

Interceptor overflow and sewer pipe backup results from water infiltration through leaks in the system

and storm water inflow through house downspouts and footing drains. The problem is compounded by upstream communities discharging into the interceptor.

CITY STAFF will inspect houses to determine necessary improvements to prevent backup. They also will review the contractors' plans and estimates. Homeowners must sign an agreement if they want the improvements done.

Basement flooding must be directly attributed to overflow of the interceptor.

Backup program participants must document flooding at least once for each of the last three years. And basement elevation of the residence must be below the highest level of flow in the Farmington Interceptor based on Oakland County records.

City OKs payback

By Norreen Flack
staff writer

Farmington Hills residents along the Middlebelt corridor want to know why a 3-3 city council deadlock on Aug. 14 turned into a 5-1 vote two weeks later in favor of them paying for a backflow preventer device to help ease basement flooding.

They hoped the city council would pay all or at least part of the cost of the household flood control program. The council will pay for the installation and residents will pay the city back in quarterly installments at no interest.

"The city is partially responsible," Mayor Terry Sever said. "We were alarmed with the number of people who may have already paid for the device and would want reimbursement."

"We wanted to provide an avenue to make sure everyone affected by this could participate in the program," Sever said. "By financing it this way, we are picking up half the cost (through a long-term payback at no interest)."

In a 5-1 vote on Aug. 28, councilman Aldo Vagnozzi cast the lone vote in favor of the city paying half the overall cost. "I think putting the whole burden on the residents is not fair. Part of the problem with the backup was our sewer system," Vagnozzi said.

"In view of the previous vote in council, I came up with the plan to share the cost," he said. "But I found that I was alone."

Councilwoman Jody Soronen said opposition by other council members

caused her to change her vote after Aug. 14. The council felt the city was concerned with liability for doing work on private property, Soronen said.

"My original feeling was that the city should pick up the cost for it," Soronen said. "Had I had support, I would have continued to vote that way. The important thing is to have something done for them."

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Man robbed in downtown parking lot

Two men thought to be teens robbed a Detroit man of \$375 at knifepoint in the Downtown Farmington Center parking lot Wednesday.

According to a Farmington Department of Public Safety report, at 3:45 p.m. Wednesday the 25-year-old victim was walking from Farmington Road through the west lot, near Center Tire. He heard two men talking but didn't pay attention to them.

At he neared the east end of the Center Tire building, the man was

punched in the back and his wallet was taken. One robber then ran north along the building with the man in pursuit.

When the robber passed a trash bin and moved behind a fence, he stopped and pointed a double-edged knife at the victim and rummaged through the wallet. He took the cash

and tossed the wallet into the trash bin.

The second robber, meanwhile, had come up behind the victim and prevented him from leaving. As the victim bent down to retrieve his wallet, he was pushed into the fence.

The robbers then ran west toward Farmington Road.

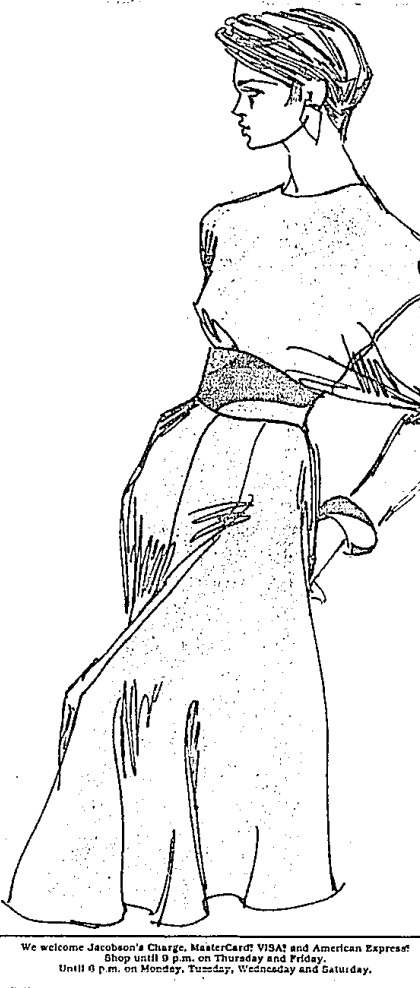
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