

Suspect in 2 Hills armed robberies charged

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one grab her shoulder purse from behind. A man who had parked an aisle away, pulled in next to her, then reached through his open driver's window for her purse. When she tugged, he produced a blunt object. As she stopped tugging, she fell to

the pavement, scraping a knee. Her assailant then drove off.

Armed with a description of the getaway car, Southfield police arrested the suspect at 12:30 p.m. The Bloomfield Hills woman's leather purse was in his possession. The purse contained an eel skin wallet with \$35 in cash.

MEANWHILE, A man sporting a black T-shirt with a white skeleton took \$2,500 at gunpoint from the Ram's Horn, 28990 Orchard Lake, at 2 a.m. Sunday.

After using the lobby pay phone, a man thought to be in his 30s approached the counter and asked the manager for change for a \$5 bill. When the manager asked what kind

of change, the man gave a reply. He then produced a handgun.

When the manager ran toward a booth of patrons, the gunman reached over the counter and took the cash drawer from the open register. He left in a car parked in the lot. At noon Monday, a gun-wielding man who first asked for change for a nickel produced a handgun and took

the cash drawer, containing \$200, from a clerk at Major Video, 23300 Middlebelt. He left in a car parked in the lot.

"We're trying to see if the Ram's Horn and the Major Video incidents are related," Sgt. Nebus said. "In both cases, the cash drawer was taken."

Armed robberies often increase

this time of year — 2-3 months before the holiday season. "We're experiencing an increase in the last couple of weeks and we've noticed our surrounding departments also have experienced an increase," Nebus added.

The escalating drug problem is a contributing factor to the increase, he said.

Farmington Hills council denies rezoning bid

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quest on Sept. 21 in a 7-2 vote. John Traflet and Mary Avery favored the rezoning.

THE SURROUNDING land at 13 Mile and Halsted is zoned RC-2. The required change in zoning would conform to the master land use plan, said Claude Coates, city planning and zoning consultant from Villacan-Leman Associates, Southfield.

Coates recommended that the city council follow the multi-family land use called for in the master plan, which serves as planning guide for the city but which is not legally binding. "When you deviate from the mas-

ter plan, I think you need good reason to do it, and I'm not sure if I have seen enough reason," Coates said.

While there are a certain group of homeowners who will continually come up and continually complain and object — and most often there is some credence to their objections — there is also credence for the position that you should develop according to the master plan and abide by it," Adelson said.

The present land use on the opposite corners at 13 Mile and Halsted are:

- Northwest corner, vacant, zoned RC-2, multiple family.
- Southwest corner, senior citizen complex, zoned RC-2, multiple family.

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"THE NORTHEAST corner, Sierra Point, is not a typical multiple zoning because the buildings vary between five and six units per building, rather than 10," said Mark Read, a Halsted resident. "It is not the maximum density. It is more like a single-family cluster than regular multiple-family."

Julius Yuhasz, a representative of the Sierra Point Condominium Association, is concerned that another condominium complex would add to

traffic overcrowding along Halsted.

"Although we are condo owners, we are against the rezoning," Yuhasz said. "Coming home between 4 and 5 o'clock on Halsted, the traffic is backed up now and emergency vehicles have had problems getting through there."

Councilman Paul Sowerby said the city may not be able to support the proposed development. He cited the increase in traffic and a possible strain on the sewer system.

"With two cars per unit, I don't think we could support your plan," Sowerby told Adelson. "I would rather reconsider if (the plan) a year

or two down the road when we are better prepared."

THE DENSITY permitted in the RA-1 (single family) zone is 1.8 units per acre; it's 3.1 units per acre if developed as cluster housing. RC-2 (multiple-family) permits 10 units per acre.

Robert Layton, the land planner and landscape architect representing Adelson, said under city ordinance, the developer is required to provide for a 10-year storm before seeking site plan approval.

Based on national standards, a one-family residential district gen-

erates more traffic than a multiple-family residential district. One-family districts average 10-15 trips per unit per day whereas multiple-family districts average 5-2 trips per unit per day, Layton said.

"Some single families may have as many as four cars per household — sometimes with two teenagers driving," he said. "The lifestyle of condominium owners does not create a lot of traffic. There may be more units but there is a different kind of trip average."

Coates agreed that a one-family residential subdivision creates more traffic.

Downtown plans for the holidays

Downtown Farmington businesses are once again planning for the holidays, as they prepare for the busiest shopping months of the year.

Merchants and business people are planning to install lighting throughout the business district Nov. 5. And the Downtown Farmington Business Association is, once again, ordering holiday garland and ribbon in bulk and offering it to downtown businesses.

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