

Community Corner

This week's question:

We asked this question to students in Pam Ellis' third-grade class at Flanders Elementary School in the Farmington District.

Why is the United States fighting Iraq in the Persian Gulf?



"We're fighting for freedom for the people who don't like Saddam Hussein."

— Mickey Owen



"We're fighting for freedom and so that Saddam Hussein doesn't get the land and the oil."

— Kendal Fabian



"So everyone can have freedom and to run Saddam Hussein from Iraq."

— Jonny Reeve



"For the freedom of Kuwait . . . Saddam Hussein thinks he owns it."

— Sean Murphy



"We don't want Saddam Hussein to get all the oil."

— Sarah Davies



"Because Iraq wants to take over Kuwait."

— Jennifer Altschul

police/fire calls

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

ARMED ROBBERY

An unidentified man in his late 20s robbed Sweats & More, 30965 Orchard Lake Road, at about 8:40 p.m.

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Monday, after he walked around a couple other nearby stores and bought a pair of shoes at one, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

The man walked into Sweats & More and handed the lone employee a note that said, "This is a hold-up, just give me the cash — I don't want to hurt you."

The employee asked the man to go somewhere else. But, with his hand in his leather jacket pocket, the man said, "I don't want to shoot you but I have no where else I can go, I need money for my drug habit."

The man, whose head was covered by the hood of his sweatshirt, took money from the cash register and fled.

Employees at nearby Parade of Shoes, 30507 Orchard Lake, and Shoe Towne, 30865 Orchard Lake, con-

firmed that a man matching the description of the robber was in their stores about 10 minutes before the robbery, according to police.

At the Parade of Shoes, the man looked around and asked if it was only a women's shoe store. When employees told him it was, he left.

At Shoe Towne, the man reportedly looked around, bought a pair of shoes and asked for the time. Employee saw him get into a white "Probe-type car," parked in front of the store.

The man is described as 5 feet, 7 inches tall, 150 pounds, thin build, with ash blonde, wavy hair. The employees said he wore green, work-type pants and appeared dirty as though he had not changed his clothes or showered, according to the report.

Anyone with information can contact the Farmington police at 474-4700 or Bob Ray at 476-7272.

WINDOWS SMASHED

A downtown Farmington merchant is offering a \$1,000 reward for information about an incident which caused \$20,000 in damage to his windows.

Bob Ray of Ray's Interiors had all but one of his business' windows shattered sometime Jan. 29-30, with what police believe may have been a sledge hammer or a similar heavy object.

A man plowing the Ray's Interior parking lot on Jan. 30 called police after he broke glass everywhere that morning, said Commander Chuck Lee of the Farmington Hills Department of Public Safety. A total of 27 windows were broken. Another incident at the business reportedly occurred on Jan. 9-10, when safety glass was cracked, Lee said.

Anyone with information can contact the Farmington police at 474-4700 or Bob Ray at 476-7272.

GAS FIRE

An employee of a heating and cooling company was burned on the hands and face Monday while trying to shut off a natural gas valve. The valve broke and ignited, causing a

fireball in a lower furnace room of Independence Green Apartments at Halsted and Grand River, according to a Farmington Hills fire report.

When firefighters arrived at the scene at 9:20 a.m., they found light smoke throughout the building on Independence.

City's 65th birthday celebrated

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Although much has changed, some things are the same.

"We have always been a city that's delivered basic services," said Deadman, who also served as one of the city's first public safety officers and was director of public safety before being appointed city manager.

"It would have been interesting to see the city's operation in the 1920s. The world was certainly not as complicated then."

Basic record-keeping of the 1920s, where fire calls were noted by homeowner's name and many items were handled verbally, has become a thing of the past, Dead-

man said. With changes in state and federal laws, cities' responsibilities have changed.

"There's been a whidh lot of communication that was verbal," he said. "Now, we have contracts I don't know, but I assume if a piece of equipment broke, you took it and get it fixed. That may not be the bid process."

"All of that is to keep government open — so people can follow a trail."

Also completed for Monday's reception was a project spearheaded by Richardson and coordinated by assistant city manager Robert Schultz in which photographs of all former Farmington mayors were found, framed, identified and will hang on a city hall wall.

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