

Cops from page 1A

"The idea is to blend in with the average citizen," says Doug, a sergeant in charge of the unit who goes by the nickname of "Viking," possibly due to his Scandinavian surname or his beard.

Duffier's car is the only one with a computer. Otherwise, it's a dark, nondescript model like his partners have and like most motorists drive. The undercover police keep in contact with radios on their own frequency and also can hear the regular police band.

Fifteen minutes later, Duffier, who wears a college sweatshirt and looks like he's just come from a bowling alley, spots the two men walking toward the Detroit Water Works building on the Livonia side of Eight Mile.

Men spotted
What follows is a series of passes by four of the five cars. Viking stays with "the ride" of the two men, an older Mercury, Raven and "Tids," a 35-year-old with long hair who you'd card if you were tending bar, keep track of the men until they can't see them when they go behind the water works.

Then "99," a petite blonde named for the "Get Smart" TV character, comes into the picture. "It looks like they picked something up on the side of the road," 99 says.

Just after the two men return to their car and start driving east on Eight Mile, Viking makes the call to a uniformed officer to make the arrest. Two Baggies of marijuana are found along with muddy boot cutters.

Duffier and 99 head to the water works to look for evidence of a break-in.

"Why would anyone want to break in here?" Duffier says. An-

swers like, "Maybe they're thirsty" come to mind.

The utility is surrounded by chain-link fence and barbed wire. Duffier and 99 scale the front gate, flashlights in hand. The thinner 99 goes over first, slipping nimbly between the gate and fence on top. She admits that there are other reasons why being a woman is sometimes an advantage for this type of police work.

'A real advantage'

"People really don't suspect that I'm a police officer," she says. "That can be a real advantage."

Duffier, who recently received two citations for his undercover work, follows her over the fence and impales his hand on a barb. Hazards of the trade.

After searching the grounds, the two find a hole cut in the fence at the rear of the building. About that time, the maintenance man ambles in, hardly noticing the two unmarked police cars blocking the entrance. He puts in the key and the electric fence opens. He goes into the building briefly, comes out, and notices someone sitting in one of the cars.

"Police?" he says when informed that officers are checking out a break-in. A uniformed Livonia officer arrives.

Why not wait for someone from the utility to open the gate? Duffier explains that the evidence like muddy footprints could be washed away if they waited. Duffier is clearly happy because Raven's hunch has paid off.

Luck is needed

But some nights nothing happens, Viking says. Catching someone committing a crime is part

good police work and part luck.

"The Comfort Inn robbery was almost a once-in-a-lifetime thing," says Duffier. That case resulted in a robbery conviction and an on-the-spot recovery of stolen money.

Duffier, who has worked with the Oakland County Narcotics Enforcement Team, patrol and in the detective bureau, and 99 head to the scene of the arrest, on Campus off of Eight Mile. But they keep their distance.

"We don't want to burn everybody up," she says in lingo that translates to, "We don't want to blow our cover." Viking and the uniform make the arrest.

"It's tedious, sometimes boring," says Farmington Hills Police Chief Bill Dwyer. "But this unit has been very successful."

They've made drug busts, including one of 70 pounds of marijuana and \$90,000 in cash; caught robbers; busted two men who had broken into several units at the Muirwood Apartments; and assisted the FBI, Oakland County Narcotics Enforcement Team and the Michigan State Police with several investigations.

Difficult decisions

But, besides the boredom and nights when they come up with nothing, undercover police have to make some difficult decisions.

"We could have waited, and maybe they (two B&E suspects) would have recognized us and gotten away to break in somewhere else," says Viking. "It's a judgment call."

The five officers make out their reports and book the suspects before calling in the Livonia Police, who arrest the men for the break-in.

It may have only been a small break-in, but undercover police think it sends a clear message that they could at the right place when a crime is committed.

"We usually work at night," says Viking, "because that's usually when they (criminals) work. But we'll sometimes work during the day if it's called for."

Duffier finishes his report in a room filled with maps of the city dotted with colored pins representing months and criminal activity, a useful guide. Then it's back out the door.

It's past midnight. It's the busiest time of the night for these officers.

ON THE AGENDA

Below are highlights from the agendas of meetings this week. All meetings are open to the public.

Farmington Hills City Council
Farmington Hills City Hall
471-8116

7:30 p.m. Monday, April 12, 1993

Agenda items include:

■ Presentation of awards to Friends of Heritage and John Grasmir & Associates from Michigan Recreation and Parks Association.

■ Consideration of request from Councilman Aldo Vagozzi regarding telephone call-in during city council meetings.

■ Consideration of introduction of toxic/hazardous ordinance.

■ Consideration of approval of a contract with the Michigan Department of Transportation for crossovers on Grand River Avenue.

■ Consideration of approval of installation of a traffic signal at the intersection of Shiloh and Middlebelt roads.

■ Transmittal of capital improvement program for 1993/94 through 1998/99.

■ Consideration of approval of the 1993 fee schedule for the San Marino Golf Course.

■ Consideration of award of bid for soccer field restoration.

Responses to billiards question

On page 13A of the April 8 Farmington Observer, readers were asked to respond by telephone to a question: "Is billiards your idea of a good time?"

There were seven responses. They are:

"I do enjoy playing billiards."

"Billiards and pool are a lot of fun."

"Yes, I do enjoy pool and billiards."

"Yes, billiards is a good time."

"Yes, I play billiards constantly. It's a great game."

"Sure, we enjoy playing billiards."

"I've enjoyed playing pool over 20 years."

The question was asked in connection with an article about the efforts of a billiards center on Eight Mile near Grand River to obtain a Class B "lavern" license that would permit the sale of beer and wine.

Arthritis Today

Joseph J. Weiss, M.D. Rheumatology
18829 Farmington Road
Livonia, Michigan 48152
Phone: 478-7860

THE IMPORTANCE OF TIME IN ARTHRITIS

When you see your doctor because of arthritis, one of the first questions he may ask is: "How long have you hurt?"
Make your answer as precise as possible; what you relate is important. For example, you may be able to tell him you've had pain on and off for years. As distressing as the disturbance is for you, the doctor can give you assurance. Arthritis present for months to years, waning and waxing, is unlikely to result in impairment.
Joint pain that comes on overnight and is accompanied by marked distress and swelling, may seem threatening to you. However, this presentation is the feature of gout, a condition readily resolved. A similar situation occurs in polymyalgia rheumatica. Pain comes on over days and is incapacitating. This pattern is characteristic of polymyalgia, a condition that medicine can treat.
In contrast, arthritis that develops over weeks to months, in a fashion known as "insidious onset," is evidence for a long term problem. This relation between time and pain is associated with rheumatoid arthritis, a condition that can be treated but rarely ended.
Thus, knowing when your arthritis began, often provides your doctor the best indication of how and where your arthritis will end.



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• Tues. Morning Ladies 10:00 a.m.
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• Wed. Pizza Kids 4:00 p.m. only \$5.00/week (includes 3 games - rental shoes - pizza - pop)
• Thurs. Parent Youth 7:30 p.m.
Summer Swingers • Mixed Teams of 4 • 7:30 p.m.
• Fri. Pizza Team \$8.00/week (includes 3 games - pizza - pop)
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Monthly Allergy Tip

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ITCHY, WATERY EYES?
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FARMINGTON SCHOOLS INVITATION TO BID

Farmington Public Schools will accept sealed bids for asbestos abatement at Alameda Early Childhood Center, Flanders Elementary School, Larkshire Elementary School and Farmington Training Center until 10:00 A.M. Wednesday, April 21, 1993 at the Lewis Schulman Administration Center, 33500 Shiloh, Farmington, Michigan 48336, addressed to Beverly Hausman at which time they will be publicly opened and read for presentation to the Board of Education at their next regularly scheduled meeting.

The Board of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or to waive any informality therein, or for reasons of establishing uniformity, to award the contract to other than the low bidder.

Attendance at the prebid meeting at 9:00 A.M. on Wednesday, April 14, 1993 at Flanders Elementary School, 32600 Flanders, Farmington, Michigan 48336 is highly recommended.

A bid bond or certified check for 5% of the bid must accompany the bid. Bid specifications and documents may be obtained after April 8, 1993 from the purchasing department, 33500 Shiloh, Farmington, Michigan 48336, (313) 489-3546 or at the prebid meeting.

JOSEPH A. SVOKE, Secretary
Board of Education

Public: April 8 and 12, 1993

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FARMINGTON SCHOOLS INVITATION TO BID

Farmington Public Schools will accept sealed bids for Flanders Elementary School addition and renovation; Alameda Early Childhood Center and Larkshire Elementary School renovations; and Hillside Elementary School exterior canopy until 10:00 P.M. Monday, April 26, 1993 at the Lewis Schulman Administration Center, 33500 Shiloh, Farmington, Michigan 48336, addressed to Beverly Hausman at which time they will be publicly opened and read for presentation to the Board of Education at their next regularly scheduled meeting.

The Board of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or to waive any informality therein; or for reasons of establishing uniformity, to award the contract to other than the low bidder.

It is highly recommended that bidders attend the prebid meeting at 9:00 A.M. on Tuesday, April 13, 1993 at Flanders Elementary School, 32600 Flanders, Farmington, Michigan 48336.

A bid bond or certified check for 5% of the bid must accompany the bid. Bid specifications and documents may be obtained after April 8, 1993 from the purchasing department, 33500 Shiloh, Farmington, Michigan 48336, (313) 489-3546 or at the prebid meeting.

JOSEPH A. SVOKE, Secretary
Board of Education

Public: April 8 and 12, 1993

CITY OF FARMINGTON COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS (Summary)

A regular meeting of the Farmington City Council was called to order by Mayor Hartcock at 8:00 p.m. on April 5, 1993, in Council Chambers, 23600 Liberty Street, Farmington, Michigan. Notice of the meeting was posted in compliance with Public Act 267-1976.

PRESENT: Campbell, Hartcock, McKane, Richardson.

ABSENT: Tupper.

OTHERS PRESENT: Director Billing, City Clerk/Treasurer Cantrell, City Attorney Donohue, Director Gosa, City Manager Lauboff, Adm. Assistant Schmitt. Minutes of the special and regular meeting of March 18, 1993 approved as written.

Minutes of other boards were received and filed.

Council approved the Crop Walk for Hanger on Sunday, May 2, 1993 at 1:30 p.m. Council authorized parade permit for South Farmington Baseball/Softball on Saturday, May 1, 1993.

Council authorized payment of \$33,078.64 to Posen Construction, Inc., and Dean's Excavating, Inc. payment of \$145,928.73 for work completed on Sewer Improvement Project.

Council authorized City Manager and City Clerk to sign the Land Lease Agreement between the City and Farmington Masonic Temple Association; and authorized payment of \$99.00 to the Masonic Lodge for the ninety-nine year lease agreement.

Council authorized continued membership in the Michigan Municipal League, Legal Defense Fund, and payment of \$1,945.00 for annual dues.

Council supported resolution for Farmington Hills Bike Path Grant Application.

Council authorized payment of \$4,350.00 to Griffin-Hoffman Fire Equipment, Inc. for fire truck repair.

Public comments were heard.

Council comments and announcements were heard.

Council cancelled regular city council meeting on July 6, 1993 and August 3, 1993.

Council scheduled budget study sessions at 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. on May 5, 1993 and 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. on May 11, 1993.

Councilman Campbell was appointed as an alternate to Eight Mile Corridor Policy Group.

Council received and filed General Fund and 47th District Court Financial Report eight months ended February 23, 1993.

Monthly bills were approved for payment.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

WILLIAM S. HARTCOCK, Mayor
PATSY K. CANTRELL, City Clerk/Treasurer

Public: April 13, 1993