

Hills cops arrest 2 teens in weekend robbery, car theft

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

A Farmington Hills teen probably wishes he had just listened to the radio instead of taking a convertible for a spin.

The 16-year-old, who borrowed the keys to a 1991 purple Geo Metro convertible to listen to the car's radio, ended up being beaten and robbed on July 16.

Mendo Roman Love, 17, of Detroit and Jason Aaron Kirkpatrick, 17, of Farmington Hills were arraigned in connection with the theft of the car and robbery of the 16-year-old.

The incident took place at about 5:30 p.m. when the 16-year-old drove the car to the Independence Green Apartments near Halsted to talk with two men he had talked with earlier in the day.

Two young men forced their way into the car. One drove and the other, who was seated behind the 16-year-old, choked him from behind, demanding money. The man in the back seat then pushed the 16-year-old out of the car onto the ground and kicked him, police said.

The 16-year-old escaped and called police. The car then drove away but was stopped by Farmington Public Safety officers who had heard the description of the Geo and were providing security for the Founders Festival. Officer Robert Schultz arrested Kirkpatrick, who had stopped at the light at the corner of Grand River and Farmington. He was traveling east on Grand River Avenue.

The other suspect, who police said had hailed out of the car,

crossed M-102 on foot heading south. He ran through the back yards of a nearby subdivision and was captured by Hills officer Kathy Tiano about 1/8 mile east of the Fairmont Park Apartments.

Both men were arraigned July 17 before magistrate James Brady in 47th District Court. Love was charged with unarmed robbery, which carries a maximum sentence of 16 years in prison and auto theft, a five-year felony. Bond was set at \$10,000 or 10 percent. Love remains in the Oakland County Jail.

Kirkpatrick was charged with auto theft. Bond was set at \$2,000 or 10 percent, which he posted.

Both men face arraignment at 8:30 a.m. Friday in 47th District Court.

Development from page 1A

of the planned pond fence, said the retention pond fence would also be a likely place for kids to climb, which would be a safety hazard.

Vagnozzi and councilman Terry Sever said the proposed development is too dense because of the number of proposed units. And Marjorie Wilson, president of the Heatherwood Condominium Association on the northern border of the development said there have been too many developments built in the area and Sally Davis, who lives south of the project, said the fencing and the "row house" effect of the project would be noisy and unsightly.

The 4.3-acre site plan, which has 188 feet in frontage on Middlebelt and is 890 feet wide, drew little praise from the council either.

"This site plan, frankly is not one of the most attractive I've seen," said councilman Larry Lichtman.

Lichtman said he was not comfortable with the plan because the history of how it came to council was incomplete, and that the available planning commission minutes from June 17 were "cryptic" concerning the project.

Dickow told council members that he had lived up to all zoning and other requirements for the project.

"Every one of the issues addressed tonight was addressed by the planning commission," Dickow said.

But although council members agreed that the project met zoning requirements, they voted to meet for a study session on Aug. 9 and put the proposal back on the agenda for the Aug. 16 regular meeting.

The council also looked at, and approved, two other proposed developments.

Vagnozzi, who said the cluster plan for a 46-unit development on the south side of 13 Mile west of

Halsted allows for too much density.

The cluster plan allows wetlands to be considered in determining the total density of the property. But Vagnozzi said the spirit of the city ordinance would consider a common area to be one for recreation, not just an aesthetic area that can only be viewed.

Lichtman countered that the project was preserving wetlands, which was a goal of the ordinance.

The council approved the plan 4-1, with Vagnozzi opposed and councilmen Ben Marks and Jon Grant absent.

The council also approved a cluster site plan for a development on the south side of 13 Mile Road west of Drake Road that will have six houses.

Richardson from page 1A

"Certainly Shirley brought a lot of grace and style to the council," said Mayor William Hartscock. "She was a person who thought about doing that little extra that no one else on council had thought of, that special touch."

"Shirley is a very creative person. She's very thoughtful. She's very fair. We certainly will miss that."

Added Tupper: "I think she really knows the community. I think she had a lot of time of volunteering. She took on some rather large-sized projects."

Authority and city architect Chris Wazany became involved in the project, which turned from a streetscape timepiece into a 28-foot clock tower.

Several residents spoke in opposition, leading to the scrapping of the clock-tower plan. Richardson found herself in the middle.



Shirley Richardson

She's Involved

Her concern of the city hasn't been limited to council activity. Richardson's tireless involvement in community groups such as Farmington Beautification Committee, the Farmington Joyce Auxiliary and the Farmington Area Goodfellows had made her well-known to area residents before being nominated to serve on council. She was named the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year in 1987.

Criticized newspaper

She criticized the Observer for portraying her role in the dispute as a council member instead of a resident.

"It was very difficult to speak out and say what I felt because I felt if I did it really wasn't going to come from Shirley Richardson, it was going to be coming from councilwoman Richardson," she said, "which puts a political light on the situation."

Richardson, the resident, plans to stay involved.

Her son is getting married. She and her husband, John Richardson, a former councilman, also have two grown daughters. They plan to build a new home.

In her final months on council, Richardson said she will put together a list of recommendations for the city.

"It is a city I love dearly," said Richardson, whose family has lived in Farmington for 32 years. "I know we have gone through some very difficult times already. And I can foresee many, many difficult times ahead. I think we will need to see changes as well along the way."

The biggest change on council

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Shirley Richardson

will be that members will have to get used to her not being around. They were shocked by her announcement.

Hartscock compared it to Robert Deadman's announcement last year that he was stepping down as city manager.

Added Tupper after Richardson said she would not run: "We're sorry to hear that."

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