

Parking from page 1A

and tried to back out of the parking space at the complex. Because the wrecker was behind her car, she then drove onto the snow-covered grass and tried to turn around.

In the process, she drove the car toward officer Mike Ciaramitaro, who drew his pistol, police testified. She stopped the car, but then drove it away once Ciaramitaro had holstered his gun.

Officers had tried to open the passenger side door, but the woman kept her hand on the lock, officers testified.

Officers testified that she then drove south on Oxford Street and turned west on Grand River. Shortly after that, the car became stuck in a right turn lane at Middlebelt.

Police then surrounded the car. She refused to get out of the car,

police testified. After breaking out a rear side window, officers finally used pepper gas to subdue the woman and unlock the car doors, they said.

She struggled with police and had to be handcuffed, officers said.

Tucker has no previous convictions, police said. She faces up to four years in prison on the assault charge and two years for malicious destruction of police property. Fleeing and eluding carries a maximum one-year sentence.

Judge Maria Parker set bond at a total of \$5,000. Tucker is in the Farmington Hills jail.

"Parking in a handicapped space is a \$100 fine," said Hills traffic supervisor Ray Cranston.

Tucker's preliminary exam is Monday, Feb. 7, at 47th District Court.

Catch from page 1A

Hausman said. Safety is the main reason for the addition.

Other districts in Oakland County are using video cameras on buses this year, including Bloomfield Hills and Waterford. Officials in several others are considering the idea.

"It does a good job," said Donald Erdman, transportation manager for Bloomfield Hills Schools. "The clarity of it is very good. You can easily pick out the students who are giving somebody a bad time."

Erdman said he's also noticed a decline in bus vandalism since the video boxes have been installed.

"Anything that takes the driver's attention off the road is inappropriate," Hausman said. "We're trying to eliminate that."

"We try to be ahead of the time. We felt this is one more safety item we could add to the fleet."

He might see it as George Orwell's vision coming true as Big Brother boards the bus.

No serious challenges have been mounted against the school districts' rights to have cameras on buses, said Ed Smith, Oakland Schools Transportation Services director. Smith said they are not an invasion of privacy as long as districts don't use them in an "irresponsible fashion."

He points out tapes are often reused and not stored, which decreases the possibility of them being viewed for anything else

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transportation manager
Bloomfield Hills Schools

other than what they're intended.

"We're operating in the best interests of the youngster," Smith said. "This is another tool. The rights of privacy are protected."

"Anything could be challenged," Hausman said. "We haven't had any calls from parents since this program has been announced. We'll have to wait and see."

Drivers see it as a way to deter kids from running in the aisles, hopping over seats, hanging their heads out the window and doing other "kid stuff" on the bus.

"I think it's going to help in the long run," said driver Pam Polton. "We'll be able to identify the students who are causing most of the trouble."

"Parents who think their kids don't misbehave are going to be in for a real surprise to see how their children react on the bus. . . If you don't have a witness, it's difficult to prove to parents their kids are (mis)behaving."

Ice from page 1A

But one didn't have to be in a car to feel the effects of the icy conditions.

A Farmington man fell outside his home and was taken to St. Mary Hospital in Livonia with a possible broken hip.

Farmington police were also called on for vehicles in the ditch and to help a mail truck to become unstuck on Oakland. There was also a report on Meadowland of arcing wires, weighed down by the ice.

"We did call back our D-plateon, additional people in weather situations," Higgins said. "They were expecting downed power lines, which never materialized."

Farmington Hills police report 21 accidents from 7 a.m. Thursday to 7 a.m. Friday, about three times the normal amount.

"We were getting so far behind that we couldn't even respond to road run offs if there was no injury," said Sgt. Ray Cranston, Hills traffic supervisor.

Cranston said that in 21 accidents there were only four people injured. All of the injuries were minor, he said. "We had some bruises and soreness, but that's it."

He said towing companies in the city had every piece of equipment on the road due to the icy conditions.

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