

POLICE/FIRE CALLS

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

THEFT

A spoiler was stolen May 20 from a 1992 Toyota that was parked in the rear lot of Dress Barn on Orchard Lake in Farmington Hills. A Southfield woman told police the item was valued at \$700. Damage was estimated at \$200. A spoiler sits on either the front or rear deck of a car and reduces the tendency to lift off the road at high speeds.

Some \$8,400 in tools were stolen from a storage box left open in a 1980 Ford dump truck, parked on Orchard Lake. The incident, reported May 20, occurred May 14.

A car stereo and cassettes val-

ued at \$500 were stolen from a 1993 Pontiac parked in the south-east lot of the Target store May 21. Some \$100 damage was done to the car.

A \$1,000 car stereo was stolen from a vehicle in the Clarion Hotel parking lot May 22. Damage was estimated at \$200.

DRUGS

Police arrested a Sterling Heights man with a rock of crack cocaine in his car after stopping him for speeding on I-696 at 3 a.m. May 21. The man had been following a woman in his Ford Ranger from 15 Mile and Ryan in Warren. The frightened woman drove to the Hills police station to make a report. He pulled into the lot of an office building on the northwest corner of 11 Mile and Orchard Lake. He told police that he in-

tended to follow the woman until she talked to him. The driver was also issued a speeding ticket.

BREAK-INS

About \$2,195 in property was stolen from an Ashley residence May 20 in a forced breaking and entering. Stolen were baseball and golf gear as well as garden equipment.

ASSAULT AND BATTERY

The parents of a 14-year-old Power Middle School student took their son to Botsford Hospital for treatment of cuts to the back of his head and facial bruises on May 20.

The boy fell victim to an attack by another male student age 14 who asked what he was staring at. He then punched the victim in the shoulder. The attacker then

asked: "My punches don't hurt?" He followed up by punching the victim about the face and head. The victim's father reported the incident to police.

Two men, including a Farmington resident, were ticketed for assault and battery after a fight at Farmington Plaza Apartments on Mooney Street in Farmington May 20. The two men scuffled in the parking lot after an argument, which started after one man was denied the right to see his children by his estranged wife. Her boyfriend asked the man to leave when the fight started. The father's right eye was swollen, and he had cuts on his lips, according to the police report.

FIRES

The Farmington Hills Fire Department extinguished a field fire May 21 at 29238 Middlebelt.

Council OKs firms, offers no guarantee

BY SUZ BUCK

STAFF WRITER

Plans for a proposed ice arena are sliding forward.

The Farmington Hills City Council passed a motion Monday night to execute an initial agreement for professional services for architect Siegal/Tuomala of Farmington Hills and Rudolph/Libbe/construction managers, an Ohio firm with an office in Canton Township, by a vote of 4-2.

Hills voters go to the polls Aug. 2 to decide whether they want to borrow up to \$4 million and issue general obligation limited tax bonds within the city charter tax limit, in one or more series for the purpose of erecting, furnishing, equipping and developing the site for a new multi-purpose ice arena that would be located at Founders Sports Park.

The architect and construction manager will just come up with preliminary plans, and there's no guarantee that they will be hired, said councilman Terry Sever. Their services, provided free, are worth about \$10,000.

"We're very conscious about not spending money before we receive approval from the voters," Sever said Tuesday.

Councilmembers Nancy Bates and Jon Grant opposed the motion. Both favored instead the Etkin Group of Farmington Hills which had been interviewed by a designated committee, but later rejected.

"I couldn't understand why they were sending out \$5.5 million to \$6 million," Bates said of a previous discussion. "All things being equal, I wanted to know why do you want to send the money out of Farmington Hills?"

At a previous meeting, Sever said that he has always pushed for local businesses on contract — all things being equal. "I personally don't think they are equal," he said.

Unions from page 1A

cil spokesman said the decision was made by a screening committee and the reasons are confidential. The council includes unions representing teachers, secretaries, custodians and bus drivers.

"We've just chosen not to endorse candidates," said Bill Brinker, chairman of the council's political action screening committee. "This is a decision made by our local committee."

The Farmington Coordinating Council has endorsed candidates in the past. Last year, it backed Bobbie Feldman and Helen Ditzhazy. Feldman was the top vote-getter. Ditzhazy failed in her reelection bid.

Both Feldman and Ditzhazy received \$737 in a campaign contribution from the PAC.

He added that the Ohio company had recent experience building ice arenas in Michigan and Ohio with excellent results.

Both Siegal/Tuomala and Rudolph/Libbe agreed to undertake preliminary professional services to the city with the exception being the artists' rendering, said city manager Bill Costick. "City council should be aware that I did convey to each firm the city's intent to pay for preliminary services," Costick said. "Each responded indicating they were willing to provide such services without assurance at this time that they would be the ultimate firm selected if full design and construction is authorized."

Grant reiterated his concern that although the architect's fees are covered by guidelines, the construction manager's aren't.

The committee studying the demographics of the community said that the expected market is large enough to support at least a two-surface, multi-purpose arena.

Council also discussed Aamar Development Corporation's proposal to build a four-surface rink.

City Attorney John Donohue referenced DNR restrictions on the sod farm.

"If it (a private ice arena) were profitable, it would have (already) been done here, said councilmember Terry Sever. "Aamar needs at least four surfaces to make money."

The city can break even by the fifth year and begin generating revenue by the 10th year, Sever said.

Time is of the essence if voters approve the bond in August, he added. "We need to open by August 1995 in order to sell ice time, otherwise those leagues that start Sept. 1 would go somewhere else," Sever said.

Ice time will probably be about \$130 an hour.

Serious crime down, but writing's on walls

Serious crime is down 11 percent in Farmington for the first three months of 1994 when compared to the same period last year. Misdemeanors — most notably vandalism — are up 22 percent.

The city has had several reports of property damage due to graffiti being spray painted on buildings. There were 37 reports of vandalism in the first three months of this year compared to 17 the same

period the previous year.

"All of our other indicators are down except for the vandalism," said Farmington Public Safety Director Gary Goss. "It seems to be a phenomenon."

The number is expected to increase in the April to June quarter. Between April 30-May 1, there were 23 incidents alone in the Farmington Meadows subdivision.

In the Meadows incidents, two

teens admitted doing the damage. Farmington police have filed petitions with Oakland County Probate Court asking that both be charged with malicious destruction of property.

The drop in serious crime is despite the city having its first reported murder since 1978. Jacqueline Ponke was killed Jan. 8 while she worked at a Farmington dentist office.

Her husband, Raymond Ponke,

is expected to stand trial on first-degree murder charges in her death.

Serious crime, also known as part one offenses, include murder, criminal sexual conduct, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, auto theft and arson.

However, there is an increase in the value of property stolen. That's attributable to four more vehicle thefts compared to the first three months last year.

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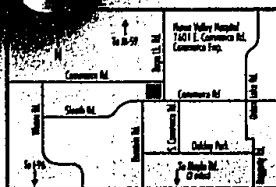
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