

Hills officer suspended with pay pending investigation

A Farmington Hills police officer has been suspended with pay pending an internal investigation as a result of a domestic assault case involving his former fiancée.

The officer, Gary Brandemihl, 45, has been accused of domestic assault in Westland's 18th District Court. On July 22, he entered a no contest plea under advisement to the misdemeanor

charge before District Court Judge Gail McKnight, a court officer said. With a no contest plea under advisement, a person does not admit guilt.

A pre-sentencing hearing is set for 8:30 a.m. Thursday, July 30, with sentencing at 8:30 a.m. Sept. 4. If Brandemihl completes the recommended probation, the case could be dismissed, a court officer said.

Brandemihl's attorney was unavailable for comment.

Farmington Hills police will investigate the matter internally to decide whether conduct unbecoming an officer will result, Chief Bill Dwyer said. If any charges result, a trial board would be set up.

Hills police want to talk with the victim as part of the internal

investigation, Dwyer said.

"Under the no contest plea, that does not mean he cannot be a police officer," Dwyer said. "He is not pleading guilty. So there is no criminal record to attach to it."

Dwyer added, "He will be treated like any other person who is somehow involved in a domestic violence complaint."

The victim, Dorothy Stover, 39, said she had been living with Brandemihl for two years in Westland. The two were engaged. The incident took place June 15, Stover said.

He's been ordered not to have contact with the victim, who is seeking help from domestic violence support agency First Step.

Dwyer said the woman's complaint is an "embarrassment" to

all of the officers in the department. "It is not indicative of the other 116 officers who are doing an excellent job in all aspects of police work," he said.

"... I think the public should understand that in any professional organization there is always a possibility of a person having problems," Dwyer continued.

Crash from page A1

Orchard Lake/12 Mile has 105,000 vehicles traveling through daily, which makes it the second busiest intersection in Oakland County. Telegraph/12 Mile ranks No. 1 with 138,000 vehicles. The Southfield intersection also had 161 accidents last year.

That makes sense since it has more traffic, DeCorte said. SEMCOG statistics take into account accidents within 160 feet

of the intersection; TIA's measures 200 feet.

As a result, TIA recorded 88 accidents at Orchard Lake/12 Mile. Of those crashes, one resulted in a serious injury and another a person was injured but could walk.

In 16 cases, people complained of being hurt but didn't require medical attention. The rest were property damage accidents. No one died in any of the 88 crashes.

"Intersections in themselves are not dangerous," DeCorte said. "They're not dangerous until we have drivers driving through them."

Aside from drivers' miscalculations, other factors contribute to the Orchard Lake/12 Mile's accident rate, DeCorte said.

The intersection features an unusual number of left-turns and business entrances. The proximity to I-696 doesn't help, either.

"It's not a plain, old vanilla intersection," DeCorte said.

Neither is 14 Mile/Orchard Lake, which didn't make SEMCOG's Top-10 but only had two fewer accidents than Orchard

Lake/12 Mile.

The intersection that borders West Bloomfield had 86 crashes last year despite having a smaller traffic volume — 65,800 vehicles a day.

However, Orchard Lake/14 Mile is near Northwestern Highway.

Whatever way the statistic read, the best advice has been No. 1 on the list for a long time, experts said.

"We find that people have so much more to do in their cars nowadays," DeCorte said. "What we ask people not to do is drink and drive. We also ask them to be courteous to those around them and to wear seat belts."

Library from page A1

such as parks and libraries that make it better to live there and probably attract more people."

Strasser emphasized that the ice arena bond is paid by revenues generated by those who choose to spend their money for recreational activities such as hockey and figure skating. The only time the Farmington Hills general budget would be tapped into is if the arena weren't making money.

But he doesn't think the library has the same kind of potential to generate enough revenue to become self-sufficient.

The ice arena-library comparison is one that Strasser couldn't accept.

"How far do you take that concept?" Strasser asked. "Do you take that concept to police (service), too? At what point do you say 'This is for the greater good of the community'?"

Marbles from page A1

presented a newborn sparrow, which she named St. Paul because he was found at St. Paul Lutheran Church. "I go to that church," a child shouted to Cornell.

She talked to kids about what animals are about, how they must be treated and how to care for them. "You cannot keep wild animals as pets," said Cornell, who is licensed through the state

and federal governments.

While Marbles dominated the attention of anyone close enough to get a hug around his fluffy middle, Mickey and Minnie equally fascinated the kids, who asked how chipmunks live.

"They have a really neat housing system," Cornell said, referring to their underground palace that consists of separate rooms for various activities, including

sleeping and eating.

Mickey and Minnie came to Cornell after their mother and another newborn sibling were killed when a family had their old deck — where the chipmunks were living — removed. Cornell feeds Mickey and Minnie every three hours.

Cornell also explained how she could tell that St. Paul the sparrow, whose eyes were not yet open, was a boy. "He has white on his breast," Cornell said.

She also told the kids and

mothers, who were equally adept with animal questions, that sparrows do not eat worms, only seeds.

Of course, Marbles was just as curious about Mickey and Minnie and St. Paul, as were the kids. "He's going through puppyhood," Cornell said, as she urged the anxious kids to be "gentle, real gentle," as they sought some love from the collie, who arrived at the library with his own set of toys, including stuffed animals and squeak toys.

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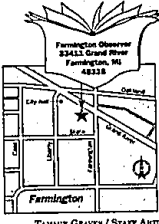
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DECIDING TO ADD A MEDICINE

You have rheumatoid arthritis, and your joints continue to ache despite anti-inflammatory medication. At this point your doctor likely will suggest that you add another drug to your treatment regimen.

The choice of when to begin, and what additional drug to use, is in part, your decision. You must be involved, as drug regimens can become complicated and always require compliance. If you feel uneasy with the timing and choice of drug then you will not cooperate to the extent needed to allow the new therapy to succeed.

First, how do you know a change is needed? It is when pain persists, and fatigue never leaves. Other indications are an extension of swelling to joints not previously involved, early morning and end of sleep because of joint aching, and worsening of your arthritis such that the stiffness you feel in the morning continues for two or three hours.

Second, how do you know what medicine to add? This decision requires cooperation between you and your physician. He needs to give you choices and information on the effects and side effects of several drugs of choice. You need to review the material he provides, obtain more from your library or through the Internet if you feel the need, discuss the alternatives with family and friends, and return to your doctor with the questions in hand.

Then the dialogue between you and your doctor will clarify concerns and indicate most appropriate additional drug for you.

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