

POLICE AND FIRE CALLS

The following are police and fire incidents that occurred in Farmington and Farmington Hills during the past week.

SUSPICIOUS MAN

In Farmington Hills: A 12-year-old girl told police a man driving a red pick-up truck appeared to be following her and then asked her name as she was walking home from East Middle School around 2:30 p.m. April 26. He continued to ask the girl if she was scared of him. She ran between houses and hid before going to a residence to call police.

DRUNKEN DRIVING

In Farmington Hills: Police arrested a Wallied Lake man, 36, for drunken driving on eastbound Grand River and Middlebelt around 7:30 p.m. April 26. Police stopped the 1988 Isuzu after a report of a reckless driver on eastbound M-6. The driver had a blood alcohol level of .10 percent.

Police arrested a Clinton Township girl, 19, under the zero tolerance law for driving with a blood alcohol level of .08 percent April 28.

BREAK-INS

In Farmington Hills: Someone punched the lock and stole a cellular phone from a 1993 Chevrolet van parked at Woodmont Trailer Park on Inkster between April 27-30, causing \$100 damage.

VANDALISM

In Farmington Hills: Someone shot out eight windows using a BB or pellet gun at a home under construction on Mission Lane the night of April 27-28, causing more than \$1,000 damage. Windows were shot out of a construction trailer on Wintergreen and Halsted April 28, causing \$400 damage.

EMBEZZLEMENT

In Farmington Hills: Police were called to Staples on Orchard Lake after a manager found three notebook palm-sized computers in an employee's coat April 26. The employee denied knowing the machines were in his jacket and claimed he was set up. Police found a signature on one of the computers that matched the employee's on a job application. The employee reported \$30 stolen from his coat pocket.

BURGLARY

In Farmington Hills: Burglars took computer speakers and a watch after getting through an unlocked window at a Woodcrest residence April 27.

THEFT

In Farmington Hills: Someone stole a \$360 barbecue grill off a patio on Wertham Court between April 24-28.

A bow and ski boots were stolen from a storage area at Gateway Apartments between April 24-28.

A \$2,600 set of golf clubs were

stolen from a 1996 Plymouth Voyager parked on West 12 Mile April 27.

DISORDERLY MAN

In Farmington Hills: Police arrested a Hills man, 39, for threatening to stab a worker and using racial slurs towards employees at Uncle Ed's Oil Shoppe on Middlebelt and 10 Mile April 28. The man, who had been drinking, refused to leave the business after being asked to leave several times. An employee, who is black, said the man used racial epithets and said he was going to stab him. Police reports said the man worked at 7-Eleven nearby. Officers didn't find any weapons on the man, who started swearing and arguing with them as he was taken into custody.

SHOPLIFTING

In Farmington Hills: Police arrested a Southfield man, 25, after a man tried to leave Kohl's on Grand River without paying for \$100 worth of clothing April 28.

AUTO THEFT

In Farmington Hills: A 1991 Plymouth Acclaim was stolen from Botsford Terrace Apartments the night of April 26-27.

INDECENT EXPOSURE

In Farmington Hills: A woman told police a man dropped his shorts and exposed himself to her while she was

driving south on Inkster near Shawneese around 10:30 a.m. April 29. The flasher is described as a white male between 30-35 and dark collar length hair. He was wearing a white and gray striped shirt and shorts.

MAN CHASED

In Farmington Hills: A Waste Management employee said he was on his route when a conversation van swerved toward him in the fair lane on Inkster near Arden Park around 12:30 p.m. April 29. The people inside gave the man an obscene gesture before pulling off where two men jumped out and began chasing the worker. He started to run north when a second car pulled in front of him and three men also got out with weapons. He managed to go to a Branchester Street residence and phone police. The men reportedly went into his truck and threw the keys into the grass. The worker, who was not injured or hit, was taken to 7-Eleven on 10 Mile and Middlebelt to phone his work place.

FIRE

In Farmington Hills: Firefighters responded to a reported fire at Ram's Horn restaurant on Orchard Lake at 6 a.m. April 30. The fire suppression system doused flames from the stove, but firefighters found materials smoldering under the cooking surface and sprayed the area with light water.

Smith from page A1

learned of the respect and admiration that the Farmington community had for Smith.

"He's an idea man with a gift of making that idea a reality," Power said. Power cited Smith for his educational coverage and sensitivity he showed in his approach to stories on a Wayne State University professor at a Farmington Hills resident — who was slain in his classroom.

Joanne Maliszewski, editor of the Farmington Observer, nominated Smith. "He puts his heart and soul into every story, whether it's a big story or a little story," Maliszewski said. Smith also pays attention to detail and double checks his information, Maliszewski said.

Maliszewski commended Smith for his stories on block scheduling in Farmington schools. "It's so complicated, but he went through it with such great pains," Maliszewski said. "He talked with parents and students about it."

"That's his M.O. He takes what's happening and puts it

into a human sense."

A 1974 graduate of Clarenceville High School, Smith received his journalism degree from Wayne State University in 1979. Smith has worked for the Observer & Eccentric since February 1980. Before Smith began covering Farmington in July 1997, he covered the communities of Southfield and West Bloomfield.

Smith thanked Maliszewski for her nomination, and showed appreciation for his co-workers.

"I've been here 13 years and a lot of people have helped me get here," Smith said. "We had five nominees, but it easily could have been 55. It's a great honor."

Smith added that the award shows that "hard work is rewarded."

"It means a lot to me that my peers have selected me for this honor."

Smith's book, "Miracle Birth Stories of Very Premature Babies," was officially released Friday.

Observer reporter to sign copies of new book May 8

Farmington Observer reporter Tim Smith will sign copies of his new book at 2 p.m. Saturday, May 8, at Books Abound in downtown Farmington.

"Miracle Birth Stories of Very Premature Babies — Little Thumbs Up!" delves into the emotional roller coaster families face when their babies are born many weeks ahead of schedule. In addition to a chapter about

Smith's micro-preemie daughter, Elizabeth, now age 4, the book includes the story of a Farmington Hills family, Lora and Kevin Volpe and their daughter, Andrea.

Devin Scillian, news anchor at WDIV-TV and father of preemie twins, wrote the book's preface. Books Abound is located, on Grand River, next to the Farmington Civic Theatre.

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