

Robbery under investigation

BY JOHN HUBBARD
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Cooler heads prevailed and no one was hurt during an armed robbery at the Middlebelt/11 Mile Bank One Monday afternoon.

Farmington Hills Police Chief Bill Dwyer said a teller handed over an unknown number of bills that tripped an alarm, after a woman approached her with a note that said, "I have a gun. Put the money in the ... bag and nobody will get hurt."

That's just what happened: The robbery happened quickly and quietly.

"No other employees were aware of the hold-up," Dwyer said. "She did not speak but just presented the note."

The suspect, described as a black female in her mid-30s, 5'4" to 5'6" tall, with a thin build and medium complexion, ran off. She was wearing a black, hooded raincoat made of synthetic cloth and red leather gloves.

According to Dwyer, a technical glitch held up release of a video tape from the bank's security cameras. Local authorities are working with the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

POLICE AND FIRE CALLS

BY RICHARD PEARL
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A new law being proposed in Lansing would punish parents when their children misbehave, but city of Farmington police used an old one Wednesday which had the same effect.

They charged a Farmington Hills man with allowing his son to drive without a driver's license after the youth was caught speeding on a Farmington residential street.

Police said after catching the teenager going over 40 miles per hour in a 25 zone on Mayfield, they discovered he'd just turned 16 but had never gotten his operator's license. The teen was ticketed on both the speeding and no license counts.

Also in the car were two 16-year-old friends the youth said he had just picked up to take to a fast-food restaurant to celebrate his birthday.

When police confronted the father about allowing his unlicensed son to drive, they said the man shrugged and asked, "So?"

Farmington Police Commander Maria Putt said the law ticketing the responsible party in such cases "has been on the books, like, since forever."

DRUNK DRIVING
In Farmington: A Farmington man who recorded a .16 percent on the alcohol breath test early Wednesday morning was charged by police with driving under the influence and was locked up overnight. He was stopped around 1 a.m. on Grand River near Halsted after he was spotted weaving.

BABY CHOKING
In Farmington: The parents of a 15-month-old boy who was partially choking on a piece of candy arrived at their Shiloh home at about the same time as police/medical personnel Tuesday and got the candy out of the youngster's throat.

Airport offers helpful tips for holiday travel

Advance booking data provided by the airlines at Wayne County's Detroit Metropolitan Airport forecasts above average passenger loads from now 'til the end of the holiday season.

Travel days expected to be especially heavy are Thursday, Dec. 23; Sunday, Dec. 26; Monday, Dec. 27; Tuesday, Dec. 28; and Wednesday, Dec. 29; and on some airlines, Thursday, Dec. 30; Friday, Dec. 31 and Sunday, Jan. 2.

Airport officials recommend the following:

- Arrive at least two hours early for a domestic flight, three hours for an international flight.
- Call the airport's 24-hour parking hotline at (800) 642-1978 before you leave home.
- Wrapped gifts may be opened by security, so plan on wrapping gifts after you arrive at your destination.
- Curbside check-in is still allowed in front of the terminals. Have identification tags filled out, both on the inside and outside of your bags, before you arrive.
- For airport information, motorists can tune to 920 AM on their radio dial (within three miles of the airport).
- We had our smoothest Thanksgiving in several years thanks to numerous airport improvements, including new roadway and parking additions and more friendly, helpful, green-vested Customer Service Agents," said County Executive Edward McNamara.
- "Our customers helped a lot by giving themselves plenty of extra time and by being flexible and understanding in a growing and changing facility."

What's new

Since last fall, nearly 800 on-airport parking spaces have been added to Metro's long term lots. Passengers now have access to over 12,000 quick and convenient spaces located on the airport's property.

Passengers flying into or out of Metro on Spirit or Southwest Airlines this holiday will be using one of six brand new gates just completed for these two airlines. The \$10.8 million project was completed in November, and in addition to promoting competition, also helps increase passenger convenience and service on these two low fare carriers.

On Dec. 1, Wayne County opened a brand new consolidated airline passenger security checkpoint in the L.C. Smith Terminal. The airport consolidated the two security checkpoints at Concourse A & B, in the L.C. Smith Terminal, into one large security access area. Now passengers have twice the room and access to four security screening queues.

The \$1.6 million expansion improves service for passengers and visitors using American Airlines, America West, Comair, Continental, Delta, Southwest, Spirit, TWA, United Airlines and U.S. Airways.

International passengers traveling into Metro this holiday will be able to easily load and maneuver their luggage on brand new luggage carts — at no charge. Airport management stipulated in its new luggage cart contract with American Locker Group that carts in the U.S. Customs Hall (the arrivals area of the International Terminal) must be available free of charge for passengers. Some passengers were requesting this service due to not always having U.S. currency when entering the country.

A new Northwest Airlines contracted security company — Huntleigh Inc. — has been operating the passenger screening checkpoints in the J.M. Davey Terminal since March. Huntleigh employees were also required to participate in a customer service training program which focused on fulfilling job responsibilities in a safe and friendly manner.

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Hills resident to join planning commission

Farmington Hills resident Khalil Z. Atasi has been appointed to serve on the city's Planning Commission.

A resident of the community for 10 years, Atasi isn't new to Farmington Hills city government. He previously volunteered his engineering services, in the realm of technical review and support, for the widening of 12 Mile Road.

An Adjunct Professor of Environmental and Chemical Engineering at Wayne State University, Dr. Atasi holds a Ph. D. in Environmental Engineering and a Masters Degree in Sanitary Engineering from the University of Michigan. He is a registered professional engineer in Michigan, Ohio and Georgia.

He has been responsible for managing a wide variety of environmental engineering activities, having supervised contracts for wastewater and water supply treatments, hazardous and industrial wastes and environmental risk management.

In a letter announcing the appointment, Mayor Nancy Bates said, "The City is fortunate to have someone with your credentials and experience willing to commit to making our community an even better place to live, work and play."

New Year's Eve Party



28875 Franklin Rd. at Northwestern & 12 Mile in Southfield, MI 48034
(248) 358-3355 Fax (248) 358-3227

Tax from page A1

When municipalities ask for approval for bond issues, they'll have to include:

- The amount to be borrowed.
- The number of years for which the bonds could be outstanding.
- The purpose of the bond issue.
- An estimated tax rate needed to cover the cost of repayment.

In the case of revenue bonds, the legislation requires municipalities to state the specific source from which those revenues will be derived.

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