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THE WEEK AHEAD

MONDAY

Last call: Today at the close of business hours is the last opportunity to register to vote in the Nov. 3 general election. Contact your city of Farmington or city of Farmington Hills clerks for information.

Agenda: The Farmington City Council will meet at 8 p.m. at city hall, 23600 Liberty.

TUESDAY

Meet: The Farmington Public Schools board will meet at 7:30 p.m. at the Lewis Schulman Administrative Center, 32500 Shiawassee.

WEDNESDAY

Forum: Stop by a candidate forum at 7 p.m. in Farmington Hills City Hall. It's hosted by the Council of Homeowners Associations of Farmington Hills.

INDEX

■ Farmington Business Scene	A4
■ Classified Index	E6
Real Estate	E1
Crossword	E7
Jobs	H1
Home & Service	J3
Automotive	J3
Taste	B1
Arts & Leisure	C1
Malls	C4
Sports & Recreation	D1

Forum set for Oct. 8

Farmington/Farmington Hills Multicultural/Multiracial Community Council will host a public forum discussion at 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 8, at the Farmington Training Center, 33000 Thomas St. in downtown Farmington.

MULTICULTURAL

The forum is intended to promote and sustain a healthy, diverse community. The council invites area residents of all ethnic, racial and religious backgrounds who are new to the community to attend the first of two important public forum discussions.

Representatives of the city governments, school district, and religious congregations will attend to hear comments and concerns from new community residents. The council, dedicated to promoting awareness and acceptance of diversity in the community, will hold a follow-up public forum regarding this topic at 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 12. That forum will also be held at

Please see FORUM, A4



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BREKLER

In court: Paula Marie Kuchciak, 33, waits in 44th District Court in Royal Oak with Farmington Hills Detective Craig Hurt. Kuchciak faces charges in connection with trying to hire someone to murder an ex-boyfriend, the father of one of her children.

Murder for hire Hills woman faces felony charges

BY RICHARD PEARL
STAFF WRITER

Neighbors don't seem surprised by a Farmington Hills woman charged with trying to hire someone to kill the father of their son so she could collect \$5 million in insurance.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, they told of violent arguments between Paula Marie Kuchciak and her current boyfriend that spilled out of the white frame house at the end of Albion Street and of cars "zooming up and down ... at 90 miles per hour."

Kuchciak, 33, who has a history of criminal assault charges, was arraigned Thursday in Royal Oak's 44th District Court for solicitation

to commit murder after she allegedly tried to hire a hitman to kill Michael D'Annibelle, 35, a Commerce Township businessman.

Arrested by Farmington Hills police after she tried to hire an undercover operative to do the job, she is being held in the Oakland County jail in lieu of a \$250,000 bond. A preliminary hearing will be Oct. 9.

Judge Daniel Sawicki entered a not-guilty plea for her.

"Albion's been a disaster" since Kuchciak moved in about a year ago, said one neighbor, who would give his name only as "Jim."

"They were always fussin' and fightin'," he said of Kuchciak and her current boyfriend, who isn't the

FARMINGTON HILLS

intended victim.

"Shield got p... off at him and throw all of his clothes in the creek" that runs near the south side of the house. "They'd be out in the street screaming at each other."

Said another: "We pretty much did not get involved with them. What few contacts we had with them, we knew we didn't want anything to do with them."

"They did have a lot of problems

Please see MURDER, A6

Police hit streets in undercover stings:

Zero tickets issued in Farmington

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

When the clean-shaven customer walked into Luigi's Trattoria Tuesday night and ordered himself a beer, it was "obvious" to the waitress that he shouldn't be served alcohol, said Dominic Belcastro, co-owner of the downtown Farmington restaurant.

"He was too clean-cut," said Belcastro. The customer also didn't order any food, which virtually all Luigi's patrons do - with or without beer or wine.

It remains to be seen whether or not the man's appearance and approach tipped off employees at 19 Farmington businesses that serve or sell alcoholic beverages. But, for the second consecutive year, the Farmington Public Safety Department's annual alcohol "sting" yielded zero violations, said Cmdr. Maria Patti.

Belcastro lauded the department for conducting the sting because it reminds business owners and employees that the serving of alcohol to minors is not tolerated in Farmington.

"It's great that they do that," Belcastro said Wednesday. "It helps businesses to stay aware."

As for the success of the so-called decoy, Belcastro chuckled and said "maybe it was bad acting."

Belcastro, and other area businesses, received letters over the past month giving them fair warning about an impending alcohol sting. The department also conducts a tobacco sting every year, as does the city of Farmington.

Please see LIQUOR, A5

Hills police nab some for selling tobacco to minors

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

The teenager walked into the Grand River-Drake Rite Aid Friday morning. Within minutes, she came back out with a package of Marlboro Lights in her hand.

"I feel so bad, she's somebody's grandma," said the teen customer, a 15-year-old girl. She was one of three decoys used by the Farmington Hills Police Department during a sting of 62 businesses where tobacco products are sold. Through the tobacco sting - the second this year in Farmington Hills - police find out where teens under age 18 are buying cigarettes and other tobacco products.

In March, about one-third of businesses were caught selling

Please see SMOKE, A5



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BREKLER

No sale: In the top photo, the decoy couldn't buy cigarettes because the clerk at Jonna's asked for identification. The decoy had none. Above, one of the decoys holds evidence of a buy from another store.



Decoy: The first stop is the Rite-Aid Pharmacy where the decoy successfully bought a pack of cigarettes.



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