

Woman found in squalor, admitted to nursing home

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An elderly woman's refusal to give up living on her own is why authorities believed she lived in squalor.

Police and emergency personnel went to the 82-year-old woman's apartment in Farmington Manor after she fell out of her wheelchair.

Along with a medical emergen-

cy, officers found another emergency involving the woman's living conditions. The apartment where the woman lived by herself was covered in human waste, rotten food and personal belongings.

Police also discovered \$30,764 cash and gold jewelry concealed in soiled clothing.

She was taken to Botsford Hospital where social workers spoke with her. She's expected to be moved into a nursing home.

"I told my supervisor it was like a case of child neglect," said Sandy Rochford, Hills police detective, "except it involved an older adult."

The woman's daughter told police she visited regularly to help her mother with medication. Her mom wouldn't let her pick up or move stuff in the apartment, she said.

The daughter admitted she was unable to clean the apartment because of working both

full-time and part-time job.

Adult protective services in Walled Lake received a complaint about the woman's situation a year ago. However, the agency lost track of her after she was evicted from Green Hills Apartments and left no forwarding address, police said.

"They were pretty glad to hear from us," said Chuck Nebus, Hills police assistant chief.

"The woman had sewn money into clothing and a bag. She also

had a substantial amount of cash on her.

Some seniors, fearful of banks, go to great lengths to hoard and hide money, Nebus said. He cited a similar case in Farmington Hills where an elderly person lived in squalor but had a substantial amount of money stashed away.

"That seems to be a common theme in some of these cases," Nebus said. "They won't let anyone help them."

HILLS POLICE

Police, though, expect this case to have a happy ending.

"According to social workers, she felt it was time to move into an assisted living facility or a nursing home, that she could no longer care for herself," Rochford said. "She has her faculties. She just didn't want to give up her independence."

Sever from page A1

troverary.

Sever said he found recent reports in the Farmington Observer and Detroit Free Press "distasteful."

"When I read things and see things, I have been willing to let them go by and swallow my pride in the best interest of the community," Sever said. "When my mother calls me ... and says 'I'm worried about you. What's going on? Did you do something wrong?' I've got to be here."

"I feel there has been an injustice done to me and I don't know who's at fault."

With his mother and family in the audience, Sever recited his role in many city accomplishments. Chief among them: the city's purchase of the Mercy Center and acquiring property for Woodland Hills and Founders Sports parks.

He also said he went door-to-door to push police and library taxes at the expense of his own race.

In doing that, Sever said he's been criticized but he didn't let it deter him.

"Before it is said and done in this community and as I move to county commissioner, I'm going to continue to do the same kind of thing," Sever said. "I'm going to continue to take beatings for this community."

Sever said he began to seriously consider consultant work after his primary win against Ben Marks in the commission race. Win or lose, he decided he wasn't going to seek re-election to the city council.

The city sent out requests for bids to developers on the Eleven Pines project, which were due Tuesday morning.

Sever reiterated that his involvement was only designed to help deliver a better project.

"For one, those competing who thought I might be involved would ante up," he said. "Instead of speculating and trying to make a fast buck on this project,

they would know someone out there was willing to make a serious bid.

"Would I even think about making a proposal if it wasn't a good one?"

Sever contacted City Attorney John Donohue, who informed him there was no conflict of interest.

Phoenix did pay him for "the 100 hours I put in, not for what I knew as a city council member," Sever said. "I was paid for the work I did, and it was good."

"Unfortunately, I misread some things."

Councilwoman Nancy Bates stood by her colleague, reading a letter of support that termed the criticism as "unfair" and "undeserved." Council members gave Sever a standing ovation after he spoke.

"Remember the old joke if you're in politics and you want a friend, get a dog. Last week, I bought one," Bates said. "I hope Terry Sever has a dog."

City council seat open; apply by Nov. 30

Don't forget, if you are interested in seeking an appointment to the Farmington Hills City Council, you have until 4:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 30 to file your letter of interest at the city manager's office.

The appointee will fill the remaining term left vacant by the election of longtime councilman Terry Sever - who resigned early - to the Oakland County Commission.

Anyone interested in applying for the post should consider that: Candidates will be interviewed at the Dec. 7 council meeting; and,

Applicants will have at least five minutes for opening statements followed by council questions.

That night, the council could vote and select a person to serve out the rest of the Sever's unexpired term, which ends in

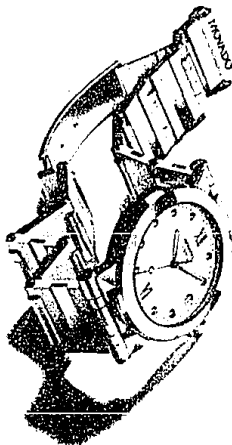
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November 1999.

After two ballots, candidates who don't receive any votes will be dropped from consideration. However, if there is a deadlock, all candidates will then be reconsidered.



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