

Public safety: Filing of false police reports won't be tolerated

By TOM SMITH
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Filing false police reports with the Farmington Public Safety Department won't be tolerated and will result in punitive action, as two crime "victims" now are finding out, said Cmdr. Maria Putt.

"We feel there's a better use of our resources to investigate and put our efforts toward actual crime," said Putt last week when she provided updates on two such cases. "We're a small department. If we're working on this case we're neglecting another case."

One of the cases, originating in January 1998, involved the owner of Farmington Tobacco in the Uptown Plaza reporting an armed robbery of \$400 in cash and \$12,000 worth of cigarettes.

In July 1999, a 29-year-old Farmington resident told police four men physically assaulted her and kidnapped her from the parking lot outside the downtown branch of the Farmington Community Library.

According to Putt, both cases turned out to be bogus.

The tobacco store owner, Mohamed N. Mansour of Dearborn, pleaded no contest to a misdemeanor charge of hinder-

ing police officers in their investigation. Mansour faces sentencing in 47th District Court on Feb. 23. Farmington Tobacco eventually closed.

"He neither admits or denies responsibility," said Putt of the no-contest plea.

Meanwhile, Debra Ann Richardson, who has since moved out of Farmington, recently was arraigned in Oakland County Circuit Court on the felony charge of filing a false police report pertaining to the kidnapping claim. Richardson awaits a hearing before Oakland Circuit Judge Deborah Tyler on Monday, Feb. 28.

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—Farmington Public Safety commander

The maximum penalty upon conviction of filing a false police report is four years in prison and a \$2,000 fine, Putt said. Authori-

ties are not to be used to file a false police report.

down leads and interview witnesses in the case.

The false kidnapping report stemmed from an apparent attack on July 15, 1999. The woman (Richardson) said she was walking toward her car, parked between the library and public safety department, when four men attacked her.



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Mansour said he heard two other suspects enter the store, and then heard "what sounded like plastic garbage bags being opened and the sound of cartons of cigarettes being stuffed in the bags," according to the police report.

The police department worked the case until the end of October 1998, after which it was turned over to the city prosecutor.

"We were through with the investigation because he (Mansour) failed to cooperate with us," said Putt.

The Farmington Tobacco never reopened following the reported armed robbery.

Putt could not estimate the number of hours spent on the case, including the time it took to issue search warrants, track

Such false claims unnecessarily leave a lasting imprint on nearby residents and businesses because they might fear also being a crime victim and stay away from where the reported crime occurred, Putt emphasized.

MLK lessons span classrooms

Students of all ages will participate through artwork, drama and song at the first-ever district-wide Martin Luther King Jr. celebration, starting at 10 a.m. on Jan. 17 at Waller Lake Central High School.

The event will kick off with a multicultural potluck dinner and will be followed by artwork displays about King's message and a speech from Rev. Dr. Richard Akki from the Museum of African American History. The event will end with performances by students from schools around the district.

"Certainly, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s message is one of unity of all people and we're looking at this as a time for people of all backgrounds to celebrate," said Alec Bendav, Twin Beach Elementary principal and one of the event organizers. "Waller Lake has such a diverse community, it's a real important thing to do."

Learning activities will happen at every school during the next week. For example, at Leon Lake Elementary, Cindy Eclair's kindergarten class will read books and discuss Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech; Jill Bandy's first grade class will read books, discuss and complete a workbook; and Julie Schryver's class will read the poem, "Let Freedom Ring," and write poetry.

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These problems of impaired posture and uncertainty are the main reasons you sense the arthritis is going everywhere in your body. In this instance, your doctor understands a needed role. First he needs to find where the arthritis is and determine the appropriate treatment. His second responsibility is to explain to you what happened.

When your doctor addresses the concern, you may say or sense "I feel better already," although you haven't started therapy. The cloud of "doubt" is heavier than you believe, gaining understanding is the only way to remove it.

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