

POLICE AND FIRE NEWS

The following reports were filed with the Farmington Hills Police Department this week:

TIREAT

On Tuesday, an employee of Boys and Girls Republic spoke to a man who first said he wanted to know how to become a therapist, then told a boy in the lobby he was there to help from the Lord and could save people because he had weapons.

Described as approximately 50 years old, 6-foot-3-inches with gray hair, the man was wearing a gray T-shirt and blue and gray flannel coat. He left the area in a blue Ford Fiesta.

NARCOTICS USE/POSSESSION

After stopping a 1996 Chevrolet for running a stop sign at

Greening and 12 Mile Road Tuesday night, a Hills officer noticed the strong odor of intoxicants as he approached the car. The 24-year-old driver, a Farmington Hills resident, admitted he had been drinking that night and also said he had marijuana in his wallet. The officer confiscated a gram of suspected marijuana and a pipe. The driver's preliminary breath test indicated a blood alcohol level more than three times the legal limit.

Late Wednesday morning, officers were called to help paramedics attend to a 40-year-old Hills man who complained of trouble breathing. Marijuana cigarettes had been left in plain sight on a bedroom dresser and in the living room. Because they

found no medical emergency, the paramedics left. Officers booked the man and jailed him at the Hills Police Department.

THEFT

Employees arrived at Paulstra Company on Country Club Drive early Wednesday morning to find a window had been broken with a landscaping rock and two laptop computers stolen. The loss was estimated at approximately \$7,300. The building's motion detectors weren't set off during the robbery.

ASSAULT AND BATTERY

A 17-year-old Redford man asked police to come with him Tuesday morning as he returned items to his former employer on Nine Mile Road. The man said he had argued with his employ-

er, and when the conflict escalated, the employer hit him on the head, then fired him. When the employee went out to his truck to unload some equipment, the employer followed, grabbed him by the throat and choked him. Witnesses confirmed the outside attack.

ACCIDENT

Police ticketed a 22-year-old Farmington Hills man for careless driving Wednesday afternoon, after his 1991 Honda Civic struck a 1995 GMC pick-up in the alley behind Kroger grocery store on 12 Mile Road. The man told officers he had pulled to the right of the alley to avoid a passing car, but a witness said the Honda was moving fast when the driver apparently lost control

and skidded into a pile of steel studs. The driver hit the pick-up while backing away from the studs, the witness said.

FRAUD/WARRANT ARREST

Hills police arrested a 24-year-old Compuware employee on an outstanding warrant from Redford, after the company alleged the Detroit woman was involved in a fraudulent check cashing scheme. The woman notified police after a \$2,044.76 payroll check issued to a former employee was cashed by an unknown person at a bank in Detroit, on May 8.

The suspect's "sign on," secured by a password, was used to activate that check, as well as to create payroll accounts for other fictitious employees. No checks had been drawn for those names, according to Compuware staff.

When questioned, the woman said she knew nothing about the other accounts and said someone must have stolen her password to get into the system. According to the police report, the employee was suspended pending further investigation.

DOMESTIC ASSAULT

Police arrested a 13-year-old Hills boy and charged him with domestic violence, after the teen attacked his mother, leaving large bruises on her arm. His mother said her son kicked and slapped her, threw objects and broke a vacuum cleaner with a kitchen chair after she took away a compact disc she didn't want him to listen to.

When asked, the boy said he lost control because he was upset that his mother wouldn't let him do things he wanted to do. The boy was booked and held at the Hills Police Department for sev-

eral hours until his father picked him up.

CREDIT CARD FRAUD

The father of a 36-year-old Bloomfield Hills man said his son fraudulently used his credit card to cover a \$6,075 shortfall on a car leased from Bob Saks' car dealership in Farmington Hills. The money represented the difference in the outstanding balance on a lease contract and the value of the Toyota, as determined by the dealership. In a sworn affidavit, the father said he was out of the country, and his son didn't have the authority to use the card.

THEFT BY FRAUD/TRICKERY

A dapper, well-groomed man in his 30s made off with \$150 in cash after tricking an employee at a business on Orchard Lake Road into giving the money to him. On Tuesday night, he approached a cashier asking for change. When she began counting it out, he asked for different denominations, but wanted his \$100 back. She became confused and gave him change for what she thought was a hundred dollar bill.

At the end of her shift, the employee found her cash register was \$150 short. The suspect returned to try the same trick on Wednesday, but a different cashier realized what he was up to, and the man fled in a Lincoln Town Car.

LARCENY

While a 19-year-old Troy man was exercising at Powerhouse Gym late Wednesday night, thieves took his khaki slacks, wallet, keys, credit cards and identification, as well as \$60 in cash from an unsecured locker.

THE 28TH ANNUAL St. Mary's Orchard Lake POLISH COUNTRY FAIR

Memorial Day Weekend---May 26, 27, 28 & 29

Midway Rides, Vegas Tent, Polish Food, Beer & Wine
ENTERTAINMENT DAILY

FRI. Bobby Lewis & the Cracker Jack Band
SAT. The Fantastics
SUN. Moose & Da Sharks
Plus Dancing, Magic and More!

ALSO PERFORMING THROUGHOUT THE FAIR:
GRANDPA CRACHET

ADULTS \$10.00, CHILDREN \$5.00
TICKETS \$1.00 ADVANCE TO \$3.00!!!

FAIR HOURS: Friday: 6 p.m.-11:30 p.m. Saturday: 12 p.m.-11:30 p.m. Sunday: 12 p.m.-11:30 p.m. Monday: 12 p.m.-10:30 p.m.

Special from page A1

right," said Maxfield, adding that the Lansing lawmakers who serve the district (state Rep. Andrew Raczowski and state Sen. Bill Bullard) have been receptive and "willing to listen."

Raczowski can be reached at (517) 373-1793. Bullard's office telephone number is (517) 373-1758, or toll-free at (888) 736-2855.

Frank Reid, school board vice president, reported to the full board and public that state legislators are apparently starting to pay closer attention to the funding problem.

"Interested legislators, upon hearing the real dimension of the issue, were quite surprised," said Reid, recalling an earlier meeting in Lansing he attended as the Farmington school board Legislative liaison. "They were unaware of the magnitude of the problems we're encountering."

That meeting, Maxfield said, was initiated by Farmington Hills Republican Raczowski, who serves the 37th House District.

Possible solutions

Reid said taking a proactive stance was delved into, with suggestions including addressing special education financial needs sooner than later; creating a "blue ribbon" panel to study the issue; and promoting "straightforward funding of the financial commitments made."

The latter continues to be a major thorn for public school districts, Reid estimated that the federal government's 6-to-8 percent funding of special education falls far below its 40 percent funding commitment.

Similarly, Michigan is providing only about 7 percent funding for special education, much less than the 28 percent level established at the time of the Headlee Amendment in the 1970s.

Farmington - which received more than \$9 million in that settlement but which later joined a second Durant lawsuit in 1998 - was one of 84 local and intermediate districts that took part in the original suit, filed in 1980

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Frank Reid
—School board trustee

and named for Donald Durant, then president of Fitzgerald schools. The litigation was filed because, districts contended, the state violated the Headlee Amendment.

During a Farmington school board discussion of the district's 2000-01 budget, Reid suggested that a chart be put together in the budget document to show residents and taxpayers "the contributions that are supposed to be made by the federal and state government and here's the chunk of money that we have to pay (out of) our general fund. That's a piece that's substantial, ongoing."

School officials are understandably concerned about future battles between groups of their constituents should the underfunding of special education continue.

At some point, tough decisions about which programs to keep or cut might need to be made if those dollars don't start coming in, officials contend.

The board also participated in a discussion about next year's budget. It is estimated that \$6.8 million from the fund surplus will need to be used to balance the \$130.9 million budget.

But most of the projected excess expenditures are for "one-time only" capital projects, including the implementation of a closed-lunch campus at Farmington, Harrison and North High schools.



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