

## POLICE CALLS

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

## COCAINE BUSTS

Two men were charged with possession with intent to deliver cocaine after a traffic stop by Farmington Hills Police Aug. 5.

Police pulled over a car that was varying speed on M5 near Drake Road. Police said the driver, 21, of Howell, appeared nervous as police approached his car window.

The officer asked him to explain what was in the plastic bag in his right front pocket. The man said, "It's cocaine." A further search of the car revealed suspected crack cocaine in a bag between a seat and console. Police arrested the driver and a 42-year-old passenger, who lives in Farmington Hills.

On Aug. 4, Farmington Hills police arrested a 41-year-old Detroit man for possession of crack cocaine after a traffic stop

at Grand River at Tulane. Police reported the man was pulled over, for making erratic lane changes.

After police approached his 2002 Olds 88, the man was asked to get out of the car and remove his shoes. Police found a clear plastic bag with suspected crack cocaine between the man's toes.

## CITGO BREAK-IN

Police were called at 5:22 a.m. Aug. 5 by Livonia Police after

they heard a burglar alarm at Citgo, 29024 Grand River.

The front plate glass door had been smashed. Missing from the store were \$200 in wrist watches and seven cartons of cigarettes. A witness told police he spotted a vehicle in the area at 5 a.m., which could have been driven by the thieves.

## TRUCK STOLEN

A Kansas man, 34, told police his 2001 Dodge Ram pickup truck was stolen from the Polo

Club Apartments on Aug. 5.

The man told police the pickup had been locked.

## CD PLAYERS TAKEN

A man walked into the Walgreen's drug store at 27750 Grand River Aug. 6 and walked out with three CD players that he didn't pay for.

According to the Farmington Hills Police incident report, the man entered the store just after midnight, walked to the CD player display and chose three

players.

The man then walked toward the front of the store and a clerk walked behind a cash register to ring up an apparent sale. But the man walked past the clerk and out the door, and continued on foot toward St. Francis Street.

The CD players were valued at \$170. Two were made by RCA and one by Sony.

## Hills resident knows universal language

By CARA PLOWMAN  
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Aaron Brown hasn't been studying Esperanto long, but the Farmington Hills resident's knowledge of the language has already earned him a trip to San Francisco and a role in a film series.

A language developed in Eastern Europe more than 100 years ago, Esperanto was created as an easy to learn, international communication device.

Brown, 27, started teaching himself three years ago when he heard about Esperanto from a friend who speaks the language. Recently, he was presented with an opportunity to attend an advanced Esperanto workshop in San Francisco for free.

## Video stardom

During the two-week stay, Brown was cast to play a young shepherd in an instructional video series.

The 15-video series, titled "Passport To The Whole World," progressively teaches viewers the language by using a technique called immersion. Instead of teaching viewers in English and translating into Esperanto, the actors in the half-hour plots speak only in Esperanto and use association to teach.

"Rather than explaining words in English, people are doing stuff while speaking Esperanto. It's very silly. (Characters) get in really unreal situations. It doesn't really try to be a slice of life," he explained.

Brown's role, Bardo the shepherd/musician, was developed for the last three videos in the series, which will be available soon through the national Esperanto organization.

Bardo falls in love with a pretty girl, played by Jennifer Bonfield, who eventually breaks his heart. The acting experience wasn't Brown's first time in front of a camera, but he said it did improve his skills. "It was tiring sometimes, but I was kind of surprised how well I memorized dialogue in a second language."

## Movies to music

Being a guitarist and singer was an advantage as well. Brown worked with Paul Gubbins, who wrote the film series, and was given three poems to convert into songs for the movies. Brown scored music and sang.



Attending classes in the morning at the University of San Francisco and filming in a studio during the afternoons didn't leave much down-time to explore the city. Brown said they did get to cross the Golden Gate bridge and also visit Sausalito for a day of sight-seeing and shopping.

Brown has learned more about the language in the past few years. He's also learned about Esperanto's roots, purpose and background from books he's read and people he's met. Brown talked about the inventor of Esperanto, Ludovik Zamenhof of Poland, and related the function of the language.

Zamenhof combined English, Russian, German, Greek, French and other European languages, simplified the alphabet, left out many of the confusing grammar rules and ended up with Esperanto, Brown said. It is believed that Zamenhof created the language as a means for fighting countries with different native languages to communicate. "He wanted to create a language a guy on the street could learn."

Today, 2 million or so people still speak the language all over the world. Brown said that its use is concentrated in Asia and Europe. "You can find Esperantists on every continent."

For information on Esperanto organizations or to order the video series, visit [www.Esperanto-USA.org](http://www.Esperanto-USA.org)

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