



Letters to Santa

All boys and girls, naughty or nice, know Santa Claus will soon be checking his Christmas list -- and checking it twice. That means Farmington and Farmington Hills youngsters need to get their letters to the Jolly Old Elf written and headed to the North Pole.

Once again this year, the Farmington Observer is asking youngsters to send us their letter to Santa along with their school photo to appear in the Sunday, Dec. 23, edition. To make sure we have time to forward the letters to the North Pole, get the letters to us no later than Monday, Dec. 17. Send your letters to Santa, care of the Farmington Observer, 33411 Grand River, Farmington, MI 48335.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Farmington Hills City Council: Presentations by the Farmington Hills Police Department's K-9 unit, Boys State Representatives and the Goodfellows will kick off the 7:30 p.m. meeting in council chambers. Also on the agenda are enactment of two zoning ordinances and the monthly legislative report. The meeting is open to the public and broadcast on Channel 8. City Hall is at the corner of 11 Mile and Orchard Lake Roads.

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containing

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Attempted abduction reported



Police are looking for an 18-20 year old African-American man in connection with an attempted abduction outside Windemere Apartments earlier this week. The victim, who screamed for help, escaped unharmed.

BY KEVIN BROWN
STAFF WRITER
kbrown@homecomm.net

The attempted abduction Dec. 4 of a woman outside the Windemere Apartments on Halsted north of Grand River has sparked warnings to residents and more police patrols in the area.

The woman, 26, told Farmington Hills police she was grabbed by a man as she walked to her car at 6:45 a.m. The man was described as 18-20, African-American, 5 feet 10 inches to 6 feet tall and 200 pounds. He was last seen wearing a blue-hooded sweatshirt. The woman told police she first spotted

the attacker five minutes earlier on a mountain bike. Saying he seemed suspicious, she delayed walking to her car until she thought he had gone.

But the victim told police that after she began walking, the man approached her from the rear, put his hand around her neck and told her not to scream.

She did, and the suspect put his hand over her mouth, police said. The woman broke free and ran to her apartment. She said the man ran toward Halsted.

Police believe the suspect was caught

on videotape made earlier at 3:30 a.m., asking for change at an area gas station before leaving on a mountain bike.

Hills Police Chief William Dwyer is asking anyone with information on the attempted abduction to call police at (248) 473-9695.

Area residents who see the suspect or anyone suspicious should call police at 911.

The department's Crime Prevention Section has been notifying residents in Windemere about the attack.

Police said they weren't able to determine the color of the mountain bike.

Father's new life cut short

Kevin J. Perry had just moved into a new house with his four children when an alcohol-related crash took his life this week. Now family members want to carry on the dream he had for his daughter and sons.

BY JONI HUBBED
STAFF WRITER
jhubb@homecomm.net

Kevin J. Perry would have celebrated his 40th birthday Tuesday.

Instead, that will be the day after his funeral, a day for his family to start rebuilding their lives and those of his four children, ages 19, 16, 7 and 5. Kevin was killed in an accident in Westland late Wednesday, when a car driven by a 26-year-old woman who had allegedly been drinking hit his motorcycle.

"It was a beautiful night," Kevin's older sister Lori said Friday. "He had a friend who lived in Belleville, and he thought that would be a beautiful ride. Mom said she begged him not to go."

After struggling for years, Kevin had just begun to put his life together. He worked two jobs, as maintenance man for Chatham Hills Apartments in Farmington Hills and in his own business, Perry Painting. A devoted father, he would often take painting jobs that allowed him to work after the children were in bed.

A month ago, he put enough money together to buy a house in Livonia. After living in a crowded apartment,

Police say a 26-year-old Livonia woman had a blood alcohol level of .14 when her car hit Kevin Perry's cycle. Story, A2

Please see PERRY, A2

Goodfellow



Christmas cheer: Goodfellows volunteer Aldo Vagnozzi picks up another box of donations dropped off at the Farmington Observer office. The Observer is collecting toys, canned and boxed foods and cash for the Goodfellows annual holiday drive, whose goal is to ensure every child has a good Christmas. Donations will be accepted at 33411 Grand River until Dec. 12.

STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRESLER

Bright lights, both cities



Flying the colors: When you're driving around Farmington, don't miss this patriotic display on Moore, east of Gill Road. If it seems to you the holiday lights are shining a little brighter this year, you're not alone. See column, A3

STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRESLER

Watch out for credit card scams

BY KEVIN BROWN
STAFF WRITER
kbrown@homecomm.net

A Farmington Hills couple victimized by a credit card scam has come forward to urge the public to be wary of callers asking for card numbers.

"It was stupid. I'm aware of scams and I didn't catch on to it," said a Hills woman, 69, who declined to be named.

"I don't really need to put it in the paper that we caught them," she said, following the arrest of a thief who used the woman's credit card numbers to buy restaurant gift certificates. "I don't want retribution."

Her story opened Dec. 4 when she got a phone call from a woman claiming to be from Equifax credit. "She said someone had attempted to use credit cards to purchase three first-class tickets to Pennsylvania. I said it wasn't me; I'm right here. She said two attempts were made, one with Visa

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