

Comerica serial bandit strikes again

BY PAUL R. PACE
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills Police are asking for the public's help in catching a serial bank bandit who appears to favor Comerica offices in the area.

Police say the man struck again around 4 p.m. Monday, threatening use of a gun on a teller and taking cash from the Farmington Hills Comerica Bank inside the Kroger supermarket at 12 Mile and Halsted.

Police Chief William Dwyer said he believes the suspect is

the same person who robbed the Farmington Hills Comerica Bank at Eight Mile and Farmington Road on July 8, and may be responsible for two other area robberies since May.

Police say the unidentified suspect approached a teller window demanding money and made reference to a handgun tucked in his waistband. The teller was ordered to fill up the man's brown envelope with large bills. After that was completed, the escaped on foot.

The suspect is a clean-shaven, white male, around 35-40 years old, 5-foot, 7-inch tall with a medium build. The man was last seen wearing a dark baseball style hat with white letters on the front, dark sunglasses and dark short sleeve polo or golf shirt.

Dwyer said the suspect in Monday's robbery used the same method in this month's earlier robbery as well as the one at the Livonia Comerica, 36700 Five Mile, on June 12 and the Livonia Standard Federal, 34000 Seven Mile, on

May 28.

The man was seen leaving in a new, red Ford Taurus after the Livonia Comerica robbery.

The Farmington Hills Police Department is offering a \$2,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the responsible person.

Anyone with information is asked to call the Farmington Hills Police Department's Command Center at (248) 473-9695.

ppace@ec.homecomm.net | (248) 477-5450



KATY BAIKORFF / OBSERVER

Dalia Rubenstein, 3, of West Bloomfield walked alongside of the Barbara Hatch School of Dance float with her family during the Farmington Area Founders Festival Botsford Parade, held Saturday, July 20.

FOUNDER'S FESTIVAL AWARD WINNERS

PARADE AWARDS

The Founder's Cup trophy, a new honor in the 2002 Farmington Founders Festival float contest, went to Colonial Car Wash and Colonial Oil Exchange in Farmington. Judges said the company won the award for their use of materials, message and overall effect while incorporating originality and inventiveness.

2002 Float, Organizational
1st place: Farmington Hills Church of Christ
2nd place: Harvest Ministries
3rd place: Farmington Historical Society

2002 Float, Commercial
1st place: Benchmark Outfitters
2nd place: Metrobank
3rd place: Farmington Hills Recreation Division

2002 Community Based Performance
1st place: Farmington

Martial Arts
2nd place: Farmington Rockets
3rd place: Farmington High School Cheer Team

The Farmington Chamber of Commerce 2002 Fantasy Raffle ticket winners were:

- Grand Prize Winner: \$30,000, Mike Baulisowich, Bloomfield Hills
- 2nd Prize: \$1,000, Thom Leson, Farmington Hills
- 3rd Prize: \$500, Nelson Engel, Farmington Hills
- 4th Prize: \$500, Frank Stajka, Livonia
- 5th Prize: \$500, Matthew Berzins, Farmington Hills
- 6th Prize: \$250, Jim Chwat, Canton
- 7th Prize: \$250, Mary Hatch, Farmington
- 8th Prize: \$250, Gary Barbieri, Farmington Hills
- 9th Prize: \$150, Bradley Goldberg, Farmington Hills
- 10th Prize: \$150, Brenda King, King's Garage, Farmington

BY HEATHER NEEDHAM
STAFF WRITER

A group of high school cheerleaders gathering for breakfast in their jammies may be penalized for hazing under the athletic code of conduct being discussed and revised by the Farmington Board of Education.

Cracking down on hazing by athletes is just one of the proposed revisions to the code, which has not changed since 1993, said Brian Swinehart, athletic director.

"Hazing is a big concern," Swinehart said, adding that many rituals, though not physically harmful to students, may embarrass them or cause men-

'We felt strongly that you need to address this issue.

athletes need to be held to a little higher standard.'

Brian Swinehart
Athletic director

tal anguish.

He cited the pajama-clad cheerleaders eating breakfast in a restaurant as one example of a potentially embarrassing hazing ritual.

Hazing is classified in the revised code as a level II violation and carries a penalty rang-

ing from suspension to dismissal from the squad, following a conference between the player's coach, parents, and school personnel.

It is defined in the code as: "...Any willful act done by a student, whether individually or in concert with others, towards another student for the purpose of humiliating, physical abuse or threats of abuse, social or other ostracism, shame or disgrace."

One of the athletic code's goals is to police student behaviors both on and off the playing fields.

Athletes violating the code could face penalties ranging from squad suspension to dis-

missal from the squad, depending on the violation.

"We felt strongly that you need to address this issue," Swinehart said. "Athletes need to be held to a little higher standard."

Trustee Priscilla Brouillette agreed with that philosophy. "What message does it send to other students if athletes are allowed to get away with things that they cannot get away with," she said.

Trustee Pam Christian said that policing hazing may be difficult.

"Some of the behaviors may be part of tradition," she said.

hneedham@ec.homecomm.net
(248) 477-5450

Chamber launches third generation Web site

The Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber has launched its third generation Web site.

The chamber's new virtual headquarters incorporates recent advancements that have been made in web technology. Utilization of FLASH technology, virtual networking forums, and database technology has been used to create a highly interactive experience for their members.

Chamber members can now take advantage of online networking opportunities, offer member-to-member discounts, and participate in an interactive referral program. The site allows each member to update their descriptions, listings and discounts, and maintain a corporate events calendar. Serving over 800 member businesses, the chamber addresses issues of concern to

local businesses and offers opportunities for members to interact with key leaders in the business community. Members enjoy discounts from other member businesses, advertising opportunities and networking events.

Visit the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber website at www.fhchamber.com. The Farmington/

Farmington Hills Chamber site is powered by BusinessDirectorySolutions - a product developed by the Nicasyla Enterprises' software development team. Nicasyla Enterprises, Inc. is also the developer of the WhyECommerce customizable e-commerce platform and the WhyMarketOnline email management engine. Visit Nicasyla's website at www.nicasyla.com.

MILFORD Memories
summer festival

August 9th, 10th and 11th

Over 250 Artists

Continuous Entertainment

Children's Activities

Food, Fun and More

Fifth Third Bank

GM

Comcast

cingular

For More Information:
Huron Valley Chamber of Commerce
248.685.7129 • www.milfordmemories.com
huronvcc@tlr.com

WANTED: 11TH GRADERS

You've always known she was headed for Lawrence Tech...
Who thought it would be in 11th grade?

- Earn college credits in high school;
- Career preparation fully tuned to the real world;
- Strong academic programs honed with the talents of practitioners in the field;
- Projects that engage students directly with business and industry;
- Faculty current with professional practice in the areas they teach;
- Small classes that promote strong student interaction and team building skills
- A unique academic and experiential "mix" that gives students a real world advantage

Tuition is free, but space is limited

OPEN HOUSE
Monday, August 5, 9 A.M.
Room M216

ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY

Call 248-204-3980
for more information

Advanced Technology Academy is located in the Buell Management Building on the campus of Lawrence Technological University at 10 Mile and Northwestern Hwy. Regular office hours are 8 a.m. - 12 Noon, M-F