



Teed off

The driving range is now open at San Marino golf course near 11 Mile and Halsted roads in Farmington Hills. The city-owned course is being expanded from nine to 18 holes; construction and sale of condos planned around the course has already begun.

BRYAN MITCHELL / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

POLICE CALLS

Student suspended

An 18-year-old Harrison High School student was found to have brought an air handgun to the school on April 10. He admitted to taking a couple of shots at a stuffed animal and a balloon in the school's band room. No one was injured and two plastic bottles were found. The student is reportedly on indefinite suspension, until a hearing by school officials.

Motel room damage

At the Knights Inn on Grand River, police were called to a fight in one of the rooms around 11:30 p.m. Saturday. A 20-year-old Farmington Hills man was arrested; a table and window were broken and a hole was kicked into a wall.

Drunken driving

Police responded to a rollover accident on 10 Mile near Ridgeway around 2:50 a.m.

Sunday. The driver, a 20-year-old Farmington Hills woman, was not injured. She registered a .24 blood/alcohol level.

Police responded to a suspicious vehicle complaint on Red Clover and Farmington around 12:24 a.m. Monday. The driver, a 48-year-old Farmington Hills man, was questioned for possible intoxication.

Upon testing, the man complained of a possible heart attack and police found marijuana in his shoe. The man refused a breath test and was taken to the hospital. According to the police report, at one point he threw a container of his urine at one of the nurses. Hospital officials determined he did not have a heart attack.

Fall to pay

At the Shell gas station at 35700 12 Mile, a man pumped \$13 in gas into a white Honda and left without

paying around 11:14 a.m. Monday.

Patio set stolen

In the 28800 block of Nine Mile, a \$300 patio set was stolen from a front yard during the night of Oct. 12. A report was made on Monday.

Purse stolen

A couple visiting friends in the Summit Apartments complex between 8-9 p.m. Monday reported contents from their unlocked Lincoln Towncar had been taken. Stolen were a purse, cell phone and house keys.

Bike theft

In the 23030 block of Tuck, a \$250 bicycle left on a front porch was stolen during Saturday night.

Compiled by staff writer Paul R. Pace from reports on file from the Farmington Hills Police Department.

Survey finds strong opposition to importing Canadian trash

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER

A group of Wayne State University students have found strong support for banning or at least limiting importation of Canadian trash to Michigan landfills.

Five WSU students completed a project on importing Canadian waste as part of a technical communications class. On April 17, the students presented their findings to Professor Frances Rancey's class.

Steven Stone of Livonia presented the results of a survey of 327 people, including 156 from *Observer & Eccentric* readers, that found 79 percent opposed to importing Canadian waste, 79 percent favoring banning all Canadian waste and 68 percent favoring limiting foreign waste.

Part of the project was to approach a newspaper about the issue.

In addition to 80 individual responses received by the *Observer & Eccentric*, 28 fourth-grade students at Canton's Tonda Elementary School and 48 middle school students at Farmington's Dunkel Middle School filled out the questionnaire as a class project. The WSU students also had friends and other students fill out the questionnaire.

Many responses to the questionnaire contained side notes expressing outrage over the importing of Canadian trash.

A note by Tonda fourth-grade student Allie Guastella expresses some of the fervor. "Every day Toronto is bringing 190 trucks carrying 4,000 tons. They are beating up our roads with that kind of weight. They are only paying 20-30 dollars, which is not expensive for them. All we are getting out of this is the money. Maybe I'm just a fourth-grader, but if people would read my article it might make a difference. Our legislature should change the N.A.F.T.A. law so that each country and state keeps their own trash."

RESEARCH ISSUE

The five WSU students - Stone, David Bennefield of Sterling Heights, Dennis Hitchens of Lincoln Park, Ken Dunlap of Sterling Heights and Mike Nicolls of Lincoln Park - researched the subject, took the survey of public opinion and contacted legislators and the governor on the issue. They will present their findings to legislators and the governor as the final step in the project.

The five students took turns presenting their findings to the class. The students found that Michigan imported 3.8 million tons of trash last year and that 20 percent of all trash dumped in Michigan is foreign.

A major concern of those opposing importing trash from Canada and neighboring states is that Ontario, Indiana and Ohio do not have the same standards for waste disposal.

The bulk of Canadian waste is delivered to the Carlton Farms Landfill in Sumpter Township. According to the students' report, Sumpter Township received "realties" of \$2.2 million from Toronto last year, representing 63 percent of its annual budget. The students found that living near a landfill has been linked to health problems. They found a 33 percent increase in birth defects, an increased rate of leukemia, pancreatic, liver and prostate cancers and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. In addition there are marked increases in eye, nose and throat irritation. The students also reported that landfills have been shown to emit carcinogenic, toxic gases into the air and leaking of landfill toxins have been shown to contaminate groundwater systems.

Part of the students' project is to take the information they've acquired and advocate for change.

In 1992, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that Michigan cannot ban the importing of foreign

waste because it would violate the commerce clause of the U.S. Constitution, which gives authority over interstate commerce to the federal government and the North American Free Trade Agreement.

Rep. Paul Giegelheim, D-Clinton Township, has introduced two bills that would limit the kind of trash acceptable for importing to Michigan. House Bill 4098 would allow Michigan to reject trash from other states or Ontario that contain materials that Michigan doesn't allow in landfills such as motor oil and car batteries. House Bill 4099 would require Canada to separate and dispose of returnable bottles and cans. Under Michigan's deposit law, 97 percent of returnable bottles and cans are recycled in the state. Ontario doesn't have a deposit law.

Gov. Jennifer Granholm spoke Monday before a Don't Trash Michigan rally in Madison Heights in support of several measures to limit importation of Canadian trash.

In a letter dated April 4 to Stone, Granholm explained the problems faced for Michigan legislation in light of the court's rulings and said she is working the congressional delegation on getting more authority for state action.

She writes that Michigan can and will enforce current state laws that prohibit certain items of solid waste in landfills, such as motor oil and batteries.

"I have recently directed the DEQ (Department of Environmental Quality) to increase the frequency and intensity of their landfill inspections to assure the public that prohibited items are not entering Michigan's landfills," she writes. She also supports expanding the bottle/can deposit law to include more items such as juice and water bottles.

Stone said he appreciated the response from the governor and many other state officials, especially Giegelheim, with whom he had a long conversation.

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