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Police convince gunman to surrender

By David Wallace
C & G Staff Writer

FARMINGTON HILLS — After a welfare check at the Muirwood Apartments escalated to a dangerous situation April 26, police convinced a distraught 36-year-old resident to come out and get help.

The incident began just before 5 p.m. at the apartment complex at Drake and Grand River. Relatives reportedly contacted police after the man threatened in a note to harm himself. Police went to the man's apartment to check on him.

"Our officers made initial contact with the resident, and while they were in the apartment, they heard a shotgun rack," said Farmington Hills Deputy Police Chief Patrick Comini. Comini said that police had "very little dialogue" with the man upon first contact with him.

Police left the apartment and set up a perimeter. Comini said an Oakland County Sheriff's Office tactical team responded, and police officers evacuated the other residents of the apartment building for their safety. Because the barricaded gunman scene required many resources and a lot of time, Farmington Public Safety officers and West Bloomfield police officers helped respond to calls for service in Farmington Hills during the approximately six-hour standoff.

"It took some time for us to establish communication after we had secured the perimeter," said Comini. Time generally is on the police's side.

"Patience is usually a very good thing for us in situations like this," said Comini.

At about 11 p.m., the man came out of the apartment.

"He was transported to the hospital for some assistance," said Comini.


"Currently, there's no criminal charges being sought," he said.

After police had the man secured, they recovered a shotgun. The man's stressors stemmed from family and work situations, according to Comini.

No one suffered injury in the incident.

"It was very successful," said Comini.

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