

More sex crime victims feared

Platte County and Platte City law enforcement officials are searching for clues to locate possible additional victims of a man charged with sexually assaulting a 17-year-old boy.

As first reported at plattecountycitizen.com, Platte City police arrested 55-year-old Robin “Scott” Roggenbuck, of Platte City, Feb. 13 after a 17-year-old Platte City resident accused him of sexual assault and possessing pornographic material of underage boys. Police searched Roggenbuck’s residence in the 400 block of Studio Drive in Platte City and recovered a computer believed to contain the pornographic material.

The Platte County Sheriff’s Department Cyber Crimes Task Force performed an image scan of the computer’s hard drive and found numerous pornographic images. Police also recovered large amounts of alcohol and other items at Roggenbuck’s apartment.

According to court documents, the victim told police Feb. 11 he had been sexually assaulted by Roggenbuck several times, beginning in November 2007. The victim met Roggenbuck while working at the Platte City Pizza Hut, and stayed with him because he was homeless.

The victim alleged he had seen several other young or teenage boys at the apartment, and said Roggenbuck kept large quantities of alcohol in the apartment so he “could ‘have his way’ with the boys.” He said he had witnessed these others inappropriately touched as well, and saw pornographic images on the defendant’s computer containing photos of approximately 10-year-old males.

“We believe this defendant may have sexually assaulted other boys who have not yet reported the abuse,” said Platte County Prosecutor Eric Zahnd. “We are asking parents whose children may have been victimized by Mr. Roggenbuck to contact police.”

Platte City Chief of Police Richard Sayles said the case is still under investigation, and the 17-year-old victim would soon undergo a forensic interview before the police moved on to interview other possible victims.

“The original victim has been very consistent, very detailed — everything he said was there was there — so I expect the interview to go well,” Sayles said.

Roggenbuck has been so far charged with one count of possession of child pornography and one count of deviate sexual assault. He is being held at the Detention Center on \$30,000 bond. Judge Lee Hull set bond on stipulation should he be released he have no contact with anyone under the age of 17. Roggenbuck faces up to seven years in prison if convicted of deviate sexual assault. He faces up to four years in prison for possession of child pornography.

Roggenbuck is a registered sex offender, though the original offenses occurred in Washington where he completed a 10-month sex offender treatment program during incarceration. When he was discharged, he was still considered at high risk for repeat offenses.

Parkville Board OKs two TIF ordinances

The Parkville Board of Aldermen took steps to move forward with a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) project during its Feb. 19 meeting that will bring another retail development within its borders.

The Board heard from representatives and counsel of Tuf Flight Industries, Inc. who presented their case for why a group of ordinances should be approved by the City of Parkville for a 45,360-square foot retail center at Hwy. 45 and Bell Road near Parkville Commons. After the presentation, the Board approved two ordinances, then tabled another for further review.

According to the developer's plans, the Parkville Market Place development is slated for a six-acre plot of land that the City considers blighted and therefore not subject to prior growth and development by private enterprise, and which would "not reasonably be anticipated to be developed without the adoption of tax increment financing and the redevelopment plan."

The presentation outlined several reasons the City should approve the TIF plan, including the elimination of blighting factors, improvements to Bell Road and Hwy. 45, the reduction of retail sales leakage from Parkville, increased tax revenues to tax districts, the promotion of infill development and the creation of employment opportunities. Pat Kelly of Tuf Flight has also signed an affidavit stating the project would not proceed without the TIF.

The estimated increase in annual taxes was estimated at \$160,876 for the City of Parkville (and over \$5 million during the duration of the TIF project) and \$133,091 (over \$4.3 million over the length of the project) for Platte County, with schools and other entities to get their share as well. The total cost of the project was estimated at \$9,330,880 — of which more than \$5 million will be privately funded.

According to Patricia Jensen, who spoke on behalf of Tuf Flight, the plan presented was a "complete developer risk plan" with all the risk taken by Tuf Flight and with many potential benefits to the City of Parkville, Platte County and other entities. She said the developers want the project to have "an old-town feel with high quality architecture," and that considerations have been made for a traffic signal to be installed by the Missouri Department of Transportation and to fill in gaps in current retail offerings, such as fast food restaurants.

Mayor Kathy Dusenbery said consideration of Parkville's other businesses was a priority.

"We don't want to take away from the downtown area, which is our crown jewel," Dusenbery said. "That would defeat the purpose of the whole project."

Representatives of Tuf Flight responded by saying that the development is being planned to support and compliment downtown and Parkville Commons, and that care would be taken to pursue businesses which would be direct competitors.

After discussion, the Board approved an ordinance for the execution of a funding agreement, which covers the cost of the application fee, and an ordinance designating a portion of the City as a redevelopment area, approving the Parkville Market Place TIF redevelopment plan and designating Tuf Industries as the developer.

After a request from Public Works Director Dan Koch, another ordinance authorizing and directing the execution of a redevelopment plan was tabled for further review and discussion until the March 4 Board meeting.

Platte City aldermen looks at list of 34 applicants

With the Feb. 29 deadline for receiving city administrator applications fast approaching, Platte City's board of Aldermen met Tuesday night to take stock in the applications received so far.

In closed session, the Board whittled the 34 total applications down to four that merited further interest. The Board then assigned aldermen Aaron Jung, Ken Brown, Todd Sloan and Andy Stanton one applicant each to conduct a phone interview with. Reports from those interviews will then be submitted to the Board at next Tuesday's meeting.

Jung said it's possible the next city administrator could come from the list of four. He also said the City may decide to extend the deadline and try to generate more applications.

“The individuals we identified all had experience in various areas,” he said. One had experience as a city administrator in two other states, and one had experience in managing large groups of people.”

Jung also said the Board wanted to hear a presentation from Robert J. Saunders Organization Consultants, a Liberty company that specializes in helping municipalities identifying and then hiring potential employees. Saunders’ bid of \$10,400 for the service was one of four bids solicited. Another, \$10,300 from People Wise, which is owned by Platte City area man Kevin Robinson, was considered.

“The Board felt at this time that Mr. Saunders had more experience in recruiting and hiring city administrators,” Jung said.

While Saunders bid was similar in price to People Wise, there were a few differences. Saunders’ bid did not include any advertising or background check expenses, while People Wise’s did.

Jung said that the Board may decided to enlist Saunders’s services — or that of another company — or it may go with candidates already identified by the Board.

In other business relating to the search for a new city administrator, the Board decided to postpone finalizing an interview panel, which would be comprised of City residents and business owners and would participate in the hiring process.

A list of names compiled so far includes Platte County Presiding Commissioner Betty Knight, Chamber/EDC Executive Director Karen Wagoner and residents/businessmen Ron Pine, Olin Miller and Brad Clark.