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3 York hospital chiefs are exercising some caution in celebrating emergency funding news.

ARTS & CULTURE CALENDAR

EVENT: Comic Tommy Chong in performance
WHEN: Saturday, Sept. 16. Tickets \$30.
WHERE: Comedywood, Thornhill, 761-0543.



12 Some people will deep fry the strangest things... including Mars bars.

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Driver charged in high-speed fatal crash

York police lay manslaughter charge

BY KATHLEEN GRIFFIN
 Staff Writer

Manslaughter charges were laid Thursday against a Scarborough man in connection with a fatal crash that killed a 29-year-old Newmarket woman in May.

Andrea Pike, mother of two, was killed after her car was T-boned as she tried to make a left out of a Woodbine Avenue plaza May 30.

Petro Pak To Lam, 26, was the driver of the purple Honda that struck Pike's vehicle. He suffered two broken legs and a broken neck in the collision and was released from a convalescent hospital Wednesday.

York Regional Police were waiting for him.

Lam is charged with manslaughter, criminal negligence causing death and dangerous driving causing death in the 2:10 p.m. collision at Riviera Drive.

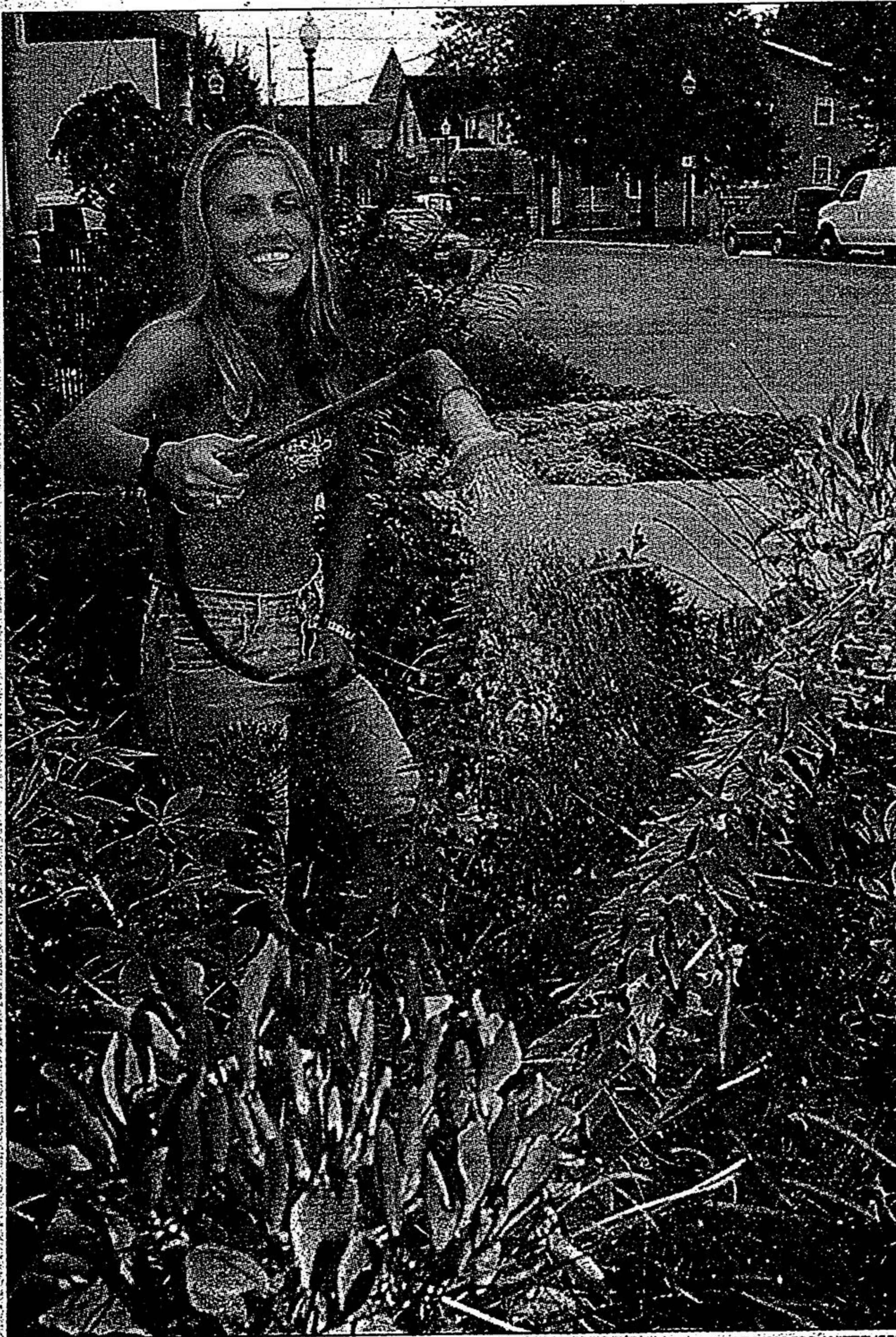
Witnesses to the crash told the Economist and Sun/Stouffville Tribune the vehicle that hit Pike was speeding well in excess of 130 km/h.

Reuben Bonerath watched the horrifying collision unfold before his eyes.

"I knew it was going to happen," he told The Tribune at the time. "It looked like an explo-

See VEHICLES, page 5.

Summer employment that bloomed



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Anna Kujaristi is loathe to say goodbye to her beautiful flowers on Main Street, Stouffville, after taking care of them all summer as part of her job with the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville's parks department. She's returning to the University of Western Ontario to study geography and bids farewell to the Main Street regulars.

Low-cost housing a priority: report

496 people live on York's streets, task force finds

BY PATRICK CASEY
 Staff Writer

At least half of the 251,000 new housing units needed to handle York Region's population boom over the next 25 years should be in affordable housing projects, a homelessness task force report states.

A study last year found 496 people were living on York Region's streets. For the last 12 months, the task force has analysed the extent and nature of homelessness across the region, working toward developing a long-term strategy to address the growing crisis.

With rising demands on local shelters and food banks, affordable housing topped a list of 26 recommendations the committee released at its final meeting last Wednesday, pointing out rental opportunities are dwindling as demand increases.

No social housing projects have been built since 1995, and only 0.1 per cent of all new dwellings built over the last two years were rental properties. At the same time, rental vacancy rates are at 0.7 per cent, well below the three-per cent target ratio.

Meanwhile, York Region's average house price of nearly \$266,000 is substantially higher than the Greater Toronto average of \$228,000. With the region's population set to increase by 78 per cent to almost 1.3 million people by 2026, the plight of the homeless will only get worse.

"The report sets the table for the opportu-

See MIX, page 5.

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