

DRIVER THROWS VICTIM AFTER HIT AND RUN

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Shawn Brown had one thing going for him **after** being **hit** by a compact car moving at about 40 m.p.h. in Highland Park.

He was still alive.

But the **driver** of the car reached out his window and tried to yank the 11-year-old off his hood as the boy struggled to hold on and the **driver** sped down southbound Hamilton Avenue near West McNichols, police said Sunday.

When that failed, he swerved for nearly three blocks until Shawn, with his foot caught in the front bumper, was thrown backward onto the road. The child was dragged briefly, to North Street.

Shawn's neck broke in the process, police said.

Shawn was taken to Henry Ford Hospital, where he died at 3:48 p.m. Saturday, about an hour **after** the incident, said Officer Ronald Parham, a Highland Park traffic investigator.

One witness described the **driver** as a black male, bald, in his early 20s, and wearing a red jogging suit. Another witness, who followed the suspect's car until he lost it at Livernois near Puritan, described the vehicle as a maroon Chevrolet Chevette or Plymouth Omni with a broken right headlight.

The car apparently sped out of a gasoline station at Hamilton and McNichols before hitting Shawn as he stepped off a curb at Portage, a witness told police.

Station attendants said they did not remember seeing a car that matched the description.

Parham said police are seeking to charge the **driver** with murder during a **hit and run**.

"We want to do all we can to get this guy," Parham said. "We feel very strongly about this."

Shawn, a sixth-grader at Liberty Elementary, was returning to his home in the 100 block of Portage **after** buying candy at North Park Party Store.

Shawn's mother, Lula Fitzpatrick, a nurse at Botsford General Hospital in Farmington Hills, said she had just called Shawn from work 20 minutes before he was **hit**. "I asked him, 'What are you doing?' and he said, 'Nothing; watching television.' This is what I do every day to check up on them," she said.

Fitzpatrick said Shawn had permission from a baby-sitter to go to the store. His three brothers, Delano, 12; Jacquvalon, 14, and Martell, 7, remained at home.

"It wasn't long **after** it happened that they told me," Fitzpatrick said. "When I got to the hospital, my son was dead."

Shawn was a spirited child, Fitzpatrick said. He was always the first out of bed each morning. "When he heard my feet moving, he'd be the first one I'd see," she said.

He loved all sports, particularly football, but rarely played because he was small for his age. Shawn was looking forward to joining Boy Scout Troop 15 in Highland Park with his older brothers.

Fitzpatrick said her son's death left her family and neighbors bitter. She said two of her brothers scoured the neighborhood asking questions for possible leads to Shawn's killer.

"It hurts because the guy didn't try to see about him," Fitzpatrick said. "He **hit** him so hard that his body went up and landed on the hood. There are a lot of children in this neighborhood and people know each child. They know when something is wrong."

CUTLINE:

Lula Fitzpatrick sits in the living room of her Highland Park home. Her son, Shawn Brown, 11, was killed Saturday in a **hit - and- run** .

Shawn Brown

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