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WINNERS OF STATE AND NATIONAL AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

Car smashes into downtown pub

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Somehow, no one was injured when a vehicle veered off Grand River, onto the sidewalk and into the front of Cowley's pub in downtown Farmington Friday morning.

Police said a 33-year-old Farmington Hills woman was stopped in westbound traffic, east of Farmington Road at about 11:35 a.m., when she attempted to go around a vehicle that was turning left onto Farmington Road. According to police, the woman panicked when she thought a vehicle in the lane she pulled into was going to hit her and she accidentally accelerated instead of hitting the brakes.

Witnesses told police the vehicle went onto the side-

walk before smashing into the doors of Cowley's and narrowly missing a pedestrian on the sidewalk.

Maureen Cowley, general manager of John Cowley & Sons pub, said the damage to the front of the building is minimal.

"It's all cosmetic," she said. "There was nothing structural."

The front doors will likely have to be replaced, she said, along with the blue facing around the doors.

Cowley, who was at home at the time of the crash, said she's amazed the damage wasn't worse.

"No trees or lamp posts were hit — everything is intact, except for our building," she said.

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