

Mail theft becomes problem in Farmington

By Marie Chestney
staff writer

If you think mail is safe in a mailbox, think again.

The latest rip-off scheme to hit the suburbs involves mail stolen from apartment building mail slots, from mailboxes outside homes and even from corner collection boxes.

"It's the newest gimmick and it's going wild," said Livonia police Sgt. Jesse Bartlett. "We had at least eight cases since early December and there's not a day that goes by that I don't get a

call on it. We're dealing with loss amounts of \$5,000 right now."

U.S. postal inspector Al Gillum called it the "cash-back" or "split-deposit" scheme. He said it had been spreading from Detroit into the suburbs since September. Livonia, Westland, Farmington and Farmington Hills have been hit the hardest.

"Thieves are getting more sophisticated, smarter," Gillum said.

THE SCHEME goes something like this. Because it might be too cold to walk to a collection box, mail is left

near an apartment mail slot or in a home mailbox for the carrier to take. A thief goes from apartment complex to home mailbox, grabbing the mail and going through it. The thief puts into the mailbox letters to Aunt Mary and signed checks. Into the thief's notebook goes the person's name, charge account and checking account numbers.

Armed with these three pieces of information, the thief has three options. One is to go to the store named on the charge account and try to charge merchandise.

"You don't have to have a card to

charge," Gillum said. "My own wife did it. If someone asks for identification, they just walk away. They might try four or five times before making one purchase."

The second option is a little more complicated. The thief needs blank checks imprinted with a name, bank deposit slips and a bank to make it work.

The thief takes one of the blank checks and writes a check for, say \$300, to the person from whom he stole mail. He then prints that person's checking account number on a bank de-

posit slip and makes the deposit slip out for \$150. He forges a signature on the check, deposits \$150 into the account named on the deposit slip and gets \$150 back from the teller. The thief has thus made an easy \$150.

"THE THIEF's only interest is getting your name and account numbers," Gillum said. "They then go to smaller, branch banks and watch for an inexperienced teller. Tellers are not apt to ask for identification because any time you deposit money into your account it looks legitimate. It doesn't make sense

to deposit money in someone else's account. If they tried to get all \$300 back, it wouldn't work."

The thief can continue the scheme until either the owner of the blank checks reports the checks missing or someone reports his mail missing or stolen.

The blank checks, sent by printing companies, are also stolen from mailboxes or from trays near mail slots, Gillum said.

Gillum said the scheme works because people, especially the elderly, are "too trusting."

New Tiger chief hopes for the best

Continued from Page 1

MONAGHAN SAID that he was put off the first time he approached Tiger President Jim Campbell about the possibility of buying the team. "I was told that everybody and his brother wanted

to buy the team, and that it wasn't for sale," Monaghan said.

But after several meetings with owner John E. Fetzer, the possibility seemed a little brighter.

"I told Fetzer at one meeting, 'If you decide to sell the Tigers, you set the

price and I'll meet it,'" Monaghan said. Monaghan said he feels his stock with Fetzer went up because of their mutual friendship with Michigan football coach Bo Schembechler, one of the directors of the team.

A dome for the venerable, Detroit-owned Tiger Stadium, a proposal supported by Mayor Coleman Young, is "a pipe dream," according to Monaghan. "With the economy the way it is in Detroit, I don't think it's likely," he said.

NO PIPE dream is Monaghan's proposed new headquarters in a 30-story tower, which will be modeled after a 1935 Frank Lloyd Wright design for a 56-story apartment building which was never built.

Location for the tower is uncertain, but Monaghan, who calls himself "the all-time Frank Lloyd Wright fan," said he would like to build on a 300-acre parcel of land at U.S. 23 and Plymouth Road near Ann Arbor.

But if zoning changes there can't be achieved, the headquarters could be part of the proposed Strohs River Place development in downtown Detroit.

"If I can't have it in Ann Arbor, I'll go to Detroit," Monaghan said.

Questioned on business ethics, Monaghan gave the following advice:

"In business, you can be the screwor or the screwee. Always be the screwor. Never be the screwee."

Monaghan was invited to OCC by business administration teacher Harvey Bronstein. Many in the audience were students in Bronstein's principles and practices of business class.

"Guest speakers are really good for the students," said Bronstein, who last December convinced former Gov. George Romney to speak to the class. The speakers motivate the students and tell them how it is in the real world."

Nuclear medicine

Continued from Page 3

an hour of checking a patient's blood pressure and count and taking a chance of operating to be sure it's a ruptured spleen, the patient can be wheeled into nuclear medicine and determine whether its ruptured within 10 minutes, Nowitzke said.

"It helps give an answer sooner," she said.

Nonetheless, while nuclear medicine procedures in 1983 topped the 11,000 mark at Eastern, compared to only 2,500 in 1968, the diagnostic tool has not replaced other more traditional tests.

Instead, all diagnostic tools, whether simple blood tests and X-rays, or a nuclear scan of the brain, "are used in combination. We work hand in hand,"

Nowitzke said. Combining all possible diagnostic tests, a patient's "doctor is getting a total picture of what is going on."

Although "It's an expensive diagnostic tool, it's cost efficient," Morse said, simply because of the amount of information it can provide relatively quickly.

While nuclear medicine is a diagnostic tool, it is also used as a screening device to make sure problems aren't occurring. A good example, Nowitzke said, is a patient who returns about once a year to be tested for the possibilities of breast cancer.

Nuclear medicine procedures may also be used therapeutically, Nowitzke said. Although Botsford does not do that currently, the process can be used to destroy something, such as a tumor.

VALUABLE COUPON

50% Off

On ALL Drycleaning

3 locations to serve you

22185 Coolidge
at 9 Mile, Oak Park

23043 Beech
at 9 Mile, Livonia
31555 W. 10 Mile
at Orchard Lake, Farmington

Arnold Cleaners

Coupon Must Be Presented With Order - Expires 2-18-84

February Specials

Zotos Foam Perms
Reg. \$46 \$27 complete

PERMS \$16.95 all week

OFF ANY \$25 or more PERM \$16.95

TINTS \$16.95

HAIRSETS \$18

PRECISION HAIRCUTS \$9

Senior Citizen Sets Mon., Tues. 7-11

Ann's Hair Design
29249 Rayburn • Livonia
(5 Mile & Middlebelt area - around corner from 7-11)
Sat. 9-5 Open Every Evening
422-9592

Something To Think About

BOB ROCK DIRECTOR

PREPLANNING MAKES SENSE

It would not be surprising during the lifetime of a married couple. In that way, the survivor will be saved the task of making a judgement with respect to these matters at the height of his or her bereavement.

Such costs, as well as the cost of burial or cremation -- and usually the cost for arranging for perpetual care of the plot -- are considered proper estate expenses and should be billed to the estate.

THAYER-ROCK FUNERAL HOME
33603 Grand River
Farmington 474-4131

For Parents Who Care About Quality

A FREE Portrait of your child!

Our way is better...and affordable

- Scheduled Appointments
- No Waiting In Line
- Higher Quality
- Color, lighting, etc.
- Up to 12 Poses Taken
- You Choose the Poses and the Package Best For You
- Special Prices From \$24.95

Because we want you to try us, your first 4x5 framed portrait is **FREE**!

LaMoore Photography
7 Mile • Farmington
474-8530

*Limited to first 25 customers only

the Body Center

West 8 Mile Road
Just West of Grand River
477-1660

COMING SOON **HOTTUBS**

HEALTH CLUBS, INC. presents:

NOW OPEN IN FARMINGTON HILLS FOR A NEW YOU IN 1984

- SUPERVISED NAUTILUS For Training, Conditioning, Injury Rehabilitation
- SUNTANNING
- MASSEUR/MASSEUSE
- HEALTH/JUICE BAR
- LIFECYCLES
- ★ COED 7 DAYS A WEEK

GRAND OPENING SPECIAL 2 YEARS
For the Price of 1

2 PEOPLE
For 1 Year
Special Ends 2/12/84
Call for FREE Workout

BERGSTROM'S BARGAINS

Showroom and Sales **GROUNDHOG SALE**

25429 W. Five Mile
Redford Twp.
522-1350

Sale Ends Feb. 12, 1984

CARRIER FURNACE

Scratches Dents Overstock

SALE

from **\$279.95**

LIMITED QUANTITIES

VALLEY KITCHEN FAUCET

5 year warranty

\$31.95

Reg. 46.75

ameri-therm

THERMALLY ACTIVATED VINYL DAMPER

3" T300	49.95	31.95
4" T400	59.95	41.95
5" T500	69.95	51.95
6" T600	79.95	61.95

A.O. SMITH WATER HEATER

Super Energy Saver!
New "Subchamber"

\$299.95

Reg. 380.00

40 Gallon PGCS 40

PAYS FOR ITSELF IN UNDER 5 YEARS

WHITE VANITY

16" x 19" WITH TOP

Reg. 89.95

#VLP-188

\$34.95

THREE VALVE TUB/SHOWER

Reg. 69.95

\$49.95

Honeywell CHRONOTHERM FUEL SAVER THERMOSTAT

Reg. 79.95

\$59.95

#101 Heating

Plumbshop SINK

30" x 22" DOUBLE BOWL

Reg. 45.95

\$26.95

#PS-5233

KOHLER LAKEFIELD KITCHEN SINK

Reg. 195.40

\$144.95

Colors \$194.95

Reg. 246.78

White Wood TOILET SEAT

Reg. 9.95

\$5.95

seat not included

AMERICAN STANDARD PLEBE TOILET

Reg. 84.40

\$54.95

AMERICAN STANDARD CHINA LAVATORY

Reg. 97.20

\$72.95

AQUALYN 17" x 20"

NOW IN PROGRESS

FINAL WINTER CLEARANCE

1/2 OFF

ALL WINTER FASHIONS FOR MEN & WOMEN

SWEATERS • CO-ORDINATES SLACKS • BLAZERS • TOPS SHIRTS • SKIRTS • BLOUSES SLEEPWEAR • MEN'S COATS & MORE!

KLEIN'S OF LIVONIA

57205 W. SIX MILE
AT NEWBURGH ROAD
MON-FRI 10-6 SAT. 10-6
591-8244

ALL 1/2 OFF SALES FINAL

NEWBURGH PLAZA