

Garages: a frequent target of thieves

The following column is the fifth in a series written for the Farmington Observer by Chris Cogar, a technician with the Farmington Hills Police Department's Crime Prevention Unit.

Garages, with their many valuable stored items, can be tempting targets for a thief. Due to their location and limited use, this area of your residence is more vulnerable to intruders, and, oftentimes, the least secure portion of your home.



Chris Cogar

During the past three months in Farmington Hills, more than one out of every three burglaries occurred through the garage. More importantly, in over 50 percent of these incidents, the thief gained entrance by means of an open or unlocked garage door.

For that reason, it is important that you keep your garage doors closed and locked. Also, keep in mind that an open garage, without a vehicle inside, sends a clear message that the residents are away from the home. There are a number of precautions you can take to secure your garage and protect any valuable portable items stored inside.

The following suggestions can help you reduce your garage's security weaknesses:

• PROTECT OVERHEAD DOORS

'Keep in mind that an open garage, without a vehicle inside, sends a clear message that the residents are away from the home.'

Chris Cogar, specialist, crime prevention

— The combination handle lock, which operates the two latches on the overhead door, is oftentimes insufficient security. Increase protection by drilling a hole through the track, on each side of the door, as close to the roller as possible. This enables the insertion of a large bolt, or heavy-duty padlock, to obstruct the roller and prevent the door from being lifted open. Glass inserts and thin masonry, or wood, door panels can be reinforced with metal or wood braces mounted on the inside of the garage door.

• **SECURE SERVICE DOORS** — All entry doors should be of metal or solid wood construction. If you have a door with wood panels, or glass inserts, protect these portions from being broken or forced out in the same manner you would to reinforce your overhead garage door. Both outside and inside service doors require a quality dead-bolt lock. Because an attached garage can provide excellent cover for burglars to work undetected, while they are gaining entrance into your house, extra security measures should be taken.

crime watch

en to reduce the possibility of forced entry through the inside service door. A strong door and lock will be of little value, however, if the door frame is weak, so be sure to check and repair all frames if warping or deterioration is evident.

• **SAFEGUARD WINDOWS** — Permanently secure all windows that you don't really need to open. To protect glass, install an unbreakable polycarbonate panel, or a decorative metal grill, on the inside of the window frame. Security film, which adheres to and reinforces the glass, is another alternative. To reduce temptation, eliminate visibility into the garage by installing curtains, sealing windows with plywood, or by painting the glass to block the view from the outside.

• **SECURE VALUABLES** — If you store skis, golf clubs, bicycles, snowblowers or other valuable portable items in your garage, each should be individually secured. Should you have a workshop in your garage, consider removing the more valuable tools to a safer spot in your home. Be sure to safeguard all other tools to a safer spot in your home. Also, with electricity in many attached garages, some thieves have found the use of the homeowner's power tools to be very accessible and quite helpful. To discourage theft, mark all tools and valuable items with an identifying number (i.e., your driver's license number and abbreviation for the state).

• **MAINTAIN ELECTRIC OPENERS** — Electric garage door

openers furnish added security as long as they are adjusted properly. If the door does not close securely, it could be forced open. Should you plan to leave your home for an extended period of time, be sure to disconnect the power to the unit. This will prevent accidental activation from passing auto transmitters, airplanes or electrical storms.

ALTHOUGH NO one would intentionally invite a burglar into their home, one of the major reasons there are so many burglaries is because the average citizen makes it profitable and easy for the thief.

Refrain from hiding an extra key in a secret location in your garage for many thieves have learned right where to look.

Good lighting should be used to discourage unwanted prowlers. If your garage is separate from the house, be sure to illuminate the path between the two structures. Install light switches in the garage and inside the home so that lights can be controlled from either location.

All trees and bushes should be kept trimmed to provide a clear view and deny the burglar the opportunity to work undetected.

Since the majority of burglaries pick their targets at random and, in most cases, whenever the opportunity presents itself, the key to protecting your garage and its contents is to minimize temptation by reducing as many security weaknesses as you can.

Experts agree, the best form of protection is crime prevention.

DENTURE WEARERS

Are you having trouble with your dentures?

Having made a special study of denture wearers and their problems for the last 18 years, I may be able to help you if you have any of the following problems: looseness, sore spots, poor lower ridge, even no lower ridge; "floating" lower denture, incorrect bite; inability to eat properly, teeth too short, or other unnatural appearance. Phone or write for your free copy of my published easy-to-understand articles on how you may be helped with your denture problems, without surgery. No charge for consultation, insurance, Visa and MasterCard accepted.



COMPLETE DENTISTRY FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS, INCLUDING CLEANING, FILLS, EXTRACTS, ROOT CANALS, PARTIAL DENTURES, CROWNS, BRIDGES AND COSMETIC BONDING TO BEAUTIFY YOUR SMILE.

MANUEL J. KANER, D.D.S.

29011 WEST SIX MILE (JUST W. OF MIDDLEBELT) • LIVONIA 281-4320

Fall Floor Show Sale

\$14.95 \$13.95 \$7.50

The spotlight is on the price tags. Because every square yard of Stevens' Gulistan carpet is on sale, even these star performers made from Anso I/V nylon to resist stains, soil, and static buildup.

But don't wait too long to take your pick of these elegant carpets. This show only has a two-week run. After that, the STEVENS price of admission will be going up. Gulistan Carpet.

CARPETS of Farmington
33001 Grand River • Farmington • 2 blocks East of Farmington Rd.
478-9714
OPEN: M, W 9 am-9 pm; T, Th, F, Sat. 9 am-5 pm
Sale Ends October 30, 1985

For the Two of You...
Join us for a
Celebration of the Heart

CELEBRATE SWEETEST DAY
FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY
OCTOBER 18, 19 & 20
Jolly Miller Restaurant
LOVING CUP DINNER

Juicy Jumbo Shrimp, Lightly Tempura Battered, ideally wed with a Choice Center Cut Filet Mignon; Our Chef's Choice of Select Vegetable, Steaming Hot Baked Potato and a full round from our Salad Table.

A glass of House Champagne and flaming Strawberry Shortcake.

Available Every Evening after 5:30
Reservations suggested \$14.95

Per Person excluding tax and gratuity



Northville Road at Five Mile
Plymouth 459-4500

The Jolly Miller

In Home Modernization... The Builder Can Make The Big Difference.



Quality Remodeling, Room Additions, Kitchens & Baths

Once you know who we are... you won't buy from anyone else!

How long has it been since you found someone who takes old-fashioned pride in his work? Who doesn't skimp and cut corners? Who gives you a full measure of honest value, and backs his work to the hilt? Who prices every job fairly, so that it doesn't cost you an arm and a leg?

In the home modernization field, especially, people will say that's an impossible dream. Today, Bob Stern is making it come true.

bob stern
BUILDING COMPANY

6190 Dunmore
West Bloomfield
855-3880
In Our 3rd Decade of Service

The University of Michigan-Dearborn

Saturday, October 19, 1985
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Campus Open House

Tours • Demonstrations • Lectures
Art Exhibits • Student Organizations and Activities • Sports and Recreational Activities (Fun Run at 8:30 a.m.)
Admissions and Career Information
Meet faculty, staff, and students • Public Invited • Free

For further information:
Campus located on Evergreen Road across from Fairlane Town Center
Dearborn, Michigan 48128-1491
(313) 593-5555

um

We're Sweet On You

LONG STEM ROSES \$9.95 DOZEN

With These Sweetest Day Specials

EXTRA LONG ROSES \$14.99 DOZ
SWEETHEART ROSES \$7.99 DOZ

10% OFF TERRARIUMS
Wide Selection \$4.99 DOZEN
BEAUTIFUL FRESH & SILK ARRANGEMENTS FROM \$8.99

WHILE SUPPLY LASTS

Flowers Wilt Anywhere • Daily Delivery Hours • Charge by Phone

Village Green
Florist and Garden Center

33239 8 Mile Rd. • (E. of Farmington Rd.)
LIVONIA
Mon.-Sat. 9-6 p.m., Sun. 9-5 476-4533