

Hills cracking down on burglaries

Two Farmington Hills women allegedly broke into a house on Arden Park Drive in the 11 Mile-Middlebelt area and stole a videocassette recorder Tuesday night.

Their arrests were partly the result of the city's stepped-up patrols of neighborhoods experiencing more break-ins, Farmington Hills Police Chief William Dwyer said.

Arrested Thursday before District Judge Michael Hand of Farmington, Jacqueline Ann Goodson, 18, and Sheryl Lynn Lessor, 21, stood mute to single counts of breaking

and entering of an occupied dwelling. Conviction of the felony could bring a maximum penalty of 15 years in prison.

The women were released on \$5,000 personal bond pending a preliminary examination in 47th District Court.

AT 7:20 P.M. Tuesday, Farmington Hills patrol and surveillance officers responded to Arden Park Drive to investigate a suspicious car parked in front of a house. Shortly before 9 p.m., two women, one carrying a large object, appeared in front of the house. The women drove away in the car under surveillance, Dwyer said.

After stopping the car, officers determined the object the woman had been carrying was a VCR stolen from the house on Arden House Drive. "One of the women gave a full confession," Dwyer said.

The same house had been broken into a week earlier but the women are not charged with that breaking and entering (B&E), Dwyer said.

TO HELP quell an increase of break-ins during the past three weeks, Dwyer has altered deployment of officers and changed surveillance strategy.

"We're not only thoroughly briefing our patrol officers on areas where break-ins have increased, but we're also giving special attention to areas of potential B&Es," he said.

Burglaries or attempted burglaries at homes, garages and businesses in Farmington Hills generally total 14 a week. They totaled 28 the week of Nov. 11, 18 one week earlier and 20 the week before that. But it's

no cause for alarm, Dwyer said. "It's not unusual for any city to experience an increase in B&Es as we go from summer to fall to winter," Dwyer said. "That's due primarily to an increase in the hours of darkness."

IN THE last few weeks, Dwyer added, "We've also experienced an increase in multiple B&Es of apartments within the same complex."

Burglaries at homes, garages and businesses in Farmington Hills are down overall. When compared to the

same period in 1984, burglaries and attempted burglaries through the first 10 months of 1985 are off 16 percent (down 130 to 663).

"I don't want anybody to panic," Dwyer said. "B&Es are down overall. And they typically do go up this time of year."

"It's just that we're now looking toward prevention rather than reaction. We're trying to prevent B&Es from occurring. We want to do something about the short-term rise immediately so we keep B&Es down overall for the year."

New Little Caesar headquarters: step closer

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

Little Caesar International officials say it's too early to provide Farmington Hills officials with a definite plan for the proposed headquarters on 12 Mile and Drake roads.

"We are just beginning the initial site studies," said Dennis Eyo, Little Caesar corporate architect. "There is no provision yet in any master plan as such. We are not that far along."

But Eyo assured city officials that Little Caesar had not ruled out incorporating athletic fields or facilities into their planned corporate headquarters.

Comments about the pizza chain's plans came last week when the Farmington Hills City Council approved a request to rezone almost 39 acres on the southwest corner of Drake and 12 Mile from single-family residential to office research.

Council also approved resolutions in a continuing step-by-step process for Little Caesar's request for \$3.2 million in financing through the Farmington Hills Economic Development Corporation (EDC).

LITTLE CAESAR purchased the property from the Farmington Public Schools for \$3.5 million. The cash offer was one of four purchase proposals school officials received for the property.

School trustees' sale of the land has been of concern to Farmington-area residents, particularly soccer enthusiasts who have been using the property for the last seven years as headquarters of the Farmington Soccer Club.

During a presentation before school board trustees in mid-August, Little Caesar officials — architect Eyo and Charles Jones, corporate vice president — said recreational and sports facilities would be considered on the site.

Despite talk of sports facilities on the grounds of Little Caesar's new headquarters, school and city officials cannot force owner Michael Ilitch — who also owns the Detroit Red Wings hockey team — to follow through with stated intentions.

"We are all hoping that there are plans for the future for that site . . . that it is more than a glimmer," said Councilman Ben Marks about sports facilities. "I don't want to spend your money, but it would be a very nice gesture."

CITY PLANNER Claude Coates of Southfield-based Villan-Leman Planners, told council last week the property's new office-research zone does not necessarily prohibit Little Caesar from putting in recreational or sports facilities. "I guess it depends on what standpoint you are looking at. I don't see any basic conflict so long as the site is planned properly," Coates said.

Moving Little Caesar closer to receiving EDC financing, council last week adopted a resolution approving the pizza chain's project area and district — detailing company ownership, type and size of building, use and cost of project and amount requested in EDC bonds.

The EDC is a municipal corporation that provides a mechanism to allow a bond purchaser to enjoy tax exemption on interest earned in exchange for issuing a more-favorable lending rate to the developer.

The next step in the EDC financing process for Little Caesar involves creation of a project plan, said Robert McConnell, EDC chairman. The plan is required to "spell out exactly what's going to be involved" — as detailed as a site plan — and costs, he said.

The project plan must be specific because the size of the building and its location must fit within the project district approved by council, McConnell said.

Construction of the first phase is expected to begin in the mid-1986 with

completion targeted for the end of 1987. The first phase is expected to include 60,000-80,000 square feet at an estimated cost of more than \$8 million.

The building that will go up at the site should provide enough room for more than 350 employees, Jones said.

The new headquarters will house Ilitch's pizza company as well as offices for employees who work with Ilitch's interest in some Wendy's and Chuck E. Cheese restaurants.

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Holiday hours slated

City halls, banks and libraries will be closed Thursday in observance of Thanksgiving.

The U.S. Postal Service will provide no window service, post office box service or residential/business mail delivery Thursday. Normal holiday mail collections will be made. Special delivery and express mail service will be provided. Normal mail service will resume Friday.

Farmington and Farmington Hills city halls also will be closed Friday. Regular hours will resume Dec. 2.

The Farmington Observer and the Farmington Community Library will be closed Thursday only. Regular hours will resume Friday.

Some local banks may have special hours for the weekend. Call ahead.

Trash collection will not be affected in Farmington this week.

In Farmington Hills, people who normally put trash out on Thursday should do so on Friday. People who normally put trash out on Friday should put it out Saturday this week only.

correction

Monday's story about Beginning Alcohol and Addiction Basic Education Studies program (BABES) should have said that volunteers are trained by BABES with further, more-extensive training done for the Farmington vol-

unteers by the Farmington Area Advisory Council. Money to allow more volunteers to train with BABES is being sought by Farmington Families in Action, and isn't paid by FAAC, as originally reported.

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