

# Windows vulnerable to house break-ins

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

Next to doors, windows is the most vulnerable point of access into a home. Many individuals incorrectly assume that if the glass is intact and the window closed and locked, burglar will not be able to enter.

Unfortunately, while doors can be protected when bolted or braced, windows are still very susceptible to illegal entry, and it is not unusual for thieves to concentrate their efforts on a window if they can not break open a door.

Generally, most burglars will avoid breaking glass so as not to attract attention. For this reason, the

best way to protect windows is to deny burglars the advantage of quiet entry by securing the moveable portion of the unit.

**IMPROVEMENT** ON security in double hung, casement, and louvered windows can be accomplished in the following manner:

• Double hung, or "sash" windows, have panes of glass framed in wood or aluminum which slide open vertically and independently. The standard latches on the majority of these windows are not sufficient to prevent easy entry. A burglar needs only to insert a screw driver or knife blade between the upper and lower sash to rotate the sash lock open or pry loose the fastening screws. Both methods are easily accomplished



## crime watch

providing quick access into the house without breaking the glass. This type of window can be secured inexpensively with the "pinning" technique. With the window closed, drill a hole where the two sashes overlap (being careful not to drill completely through the outside sash) and insert a hardened steel pin, eyebolt or carriage bolt. The hole should be drilled at a slightly downward angle to prevent the thief from vibrating the pin out of the hole. Each bolt should fit loosely enough in the hole so that they are easy to insert and remove in case of an emergency or fire. Also, you may wish to consider drilling a second hole a little higher in the upper sash which would permit you to secure your windows and al-

low for ventilation at the same time.

• Casement windows have panes of glass framed in wood or metal which swing out from the house by means of a crank mechanism. If you have not deteriorated, these windows are the most secure of all types of windows to open. Check to see that the hardware works properly and the latches engage securely. Never leave these windows partially open during your absences since they can be forced open wider. The greatest risk is glass breakage where the safety hazards they create. Also, you may wish to consider drilling a second hole a little higher in the upper sash which would permit you to secure your windows and al-

low for ventilation at the same time.

• Louvered windows offer the least security. If it is not possible to replace these windows with a better type, they can be secured with grill-work or gratings attached to the inside of the window frame. Epoxy the edges of each pane of glass where they touch the casing will prevent easy removal of the glass from the outside.

be sure to keep the key concealed nearby in case of an emergency exit is necessary.

If an intruder is willing to forgo quiet entry by breaking the glass out of a window, none of these locking devices will help much. You can replace or reinforce the glass on windows, such as those located in or near your door, with a break-resistant polycarbonate sheet. Your best bet is to secure your windows by incorporating the suggestions above, to increase your lighting to deter intruders and to participate actively in a neighborhood watch program.

Individualized Security Surveys are also available free of charge to all residents of Farmington Hills. Appointments may be arranged by calling the Farmington Hills Police Department's Crime Prevention Section, 474-6181, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

# Residents find opportunity in cable television

Lark Samouelian is executive director of the Southwestern Oakland Connection.

By Lark Samouelian  
special writer

"We have been on only two television shoots, yet have our procedures down to a science."

Dee Caffoway and Michele Millman are residents of Novi and Farmington Hills who met in the television workshops out at Metrovison.

Michele was interested in performing arts and had found that community television helps provide opportunity in what is otherwise a very full field.

## Surplus food is offered

Surplus commodity food will be given out from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, June 24 in St. Alexander Church, 27853 Shiawassee, Farmington Hills.

The food, distributed through the Oakland Livingston Human Services Agency, includes cheese, butter and dry milk. It will be made available every other month.

Eligible Oakland County residents should bring the following information to register for the 1985-86 Surplus Commodity Food Program year: Social Security card, proof of income for the past 90 days and personal identification. The program runs from October 1985 to September 1986.

PEOPLE WHO have received commodities in the past should turn their old USDA Surplus Com-

Dee is on the public relations committee at Sara Fisher Home and therefore looks forward to adding strength to their building video series.



## cable connection

Was their a need to courage, first time out? You bet there was. They felt a lot of anxiety, especially setting up cameras in the theater. They had not anticipated so many questions of attendees. Dee emphasized that they were concerned more for the safety of the equipment than even whether the video footage came out perfect. Dee and Michele expressed that the experience has been exhilarating offering them the opportunity to think on their feet, become more resourceful and impulsive.

We congratulate such energetic enthusiasm. A note to crew members: If you are community access channel 12 brochure are out and are perfect to carry on a shoot to give to those curious.

Metrovision of Oakland Coun-

modity Food Registration Card at the time they register.

Seniors who regularly attend a senior center should contact that center for pickup dates and times. Homebound seniors should contact the senior center nearest their home to assure homebound delivery. Non-homebound seniors should call 624-5520.

Registration does not guarantee receipt of commodity food each time. Distribution is on a first-come, first-serve basis.

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1654 W. 10 Mile, Novi 348-1820  
\*\*\*\*\*

Forum. Repeat at 6 p.m.

Repeat at 1 p.m. — Designs on Sprint. Repeat at 2 p.m. — The Good Neighbors of St. Clair County. Repeat at 6 p.m. 2:30 p.m. — Community Upbeat. Repeat at 8:30 p.m.  
3 p.m. — Duel of Knowledge. Repeat at 9 p.m.  
3:30 p.m. — Horizons. Repeat at 9:30 p.m.

Thursday, June 19

12 noon — Perceptions. Repeat at 6 p.m.  
12:30 p.m. — Madonna Magazine. Repeat at 6:30 p.m.  
1 p.m. — Focus. Repeat at 7 p.m.  
1:30 p.m. — Viewpoint. Repeat at 7:30 p.m.  
2 p.m. — Oakland County Parks and Rec. Repeat at 8 p.m.  
2:30 p.m. — Community Upbeat. Repeat at 8:30 p.m.  
3 p.m. — BMX Bike Racing. Repeat at 9 p.m.  
3:30 p.m. — Art in Review. Repeat at 9:30 p.m.  
4 p.m. — Oakland County Con-

Wednesday, June 18

12 noon — Cooking with Class. Repeat at 6 p.m.  
12:35 p.m. — Serendipity. Repeat at 6:35 p.m.  
1:05 p.m. — American Youth Hostel Summer Program. Repeat at 7:05 p.m.  
1:35 p.m. — Seniors Painting. Repeat at 7:35 p.m.

Friday, June 20

12 noon — Farmington Hills Budget Hearing. Repeat at 8 p.m.  
4 p.m. — Producer of the Month.

• Viewer's Choice 4-10 p.m.  
Please call before Friday to schedule repeats of our favorite show.  
553-7303.

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