

Rental truck stolen, found virtually empty

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ALTHOUGH HER costume jewelry was taken, her more valuable jewelry — packed in a tote bag — was in her daughter's apartment at the time of the theft. A neighbor of the couple's daughter and son-in-law — Janis and David Boor, who live on Country Way in Country Ridge Apartments in Northwestern Farmington Hills, told police she heard a truck starting about 4:30 a.m. Monday. But police can't be certain that was the Ryder truck.

"We put a teletype out of what was in the truck but unless someone comes across a warehouse

full of stolen furniture, there's not a whole lot that can be done," Rochford said.

Rochford urges anyone who may have seen any suspicious activity at Country Ridge Apartments late Sunday or early Monday to call the police: 474-6181.

"We need some leads to work on," he said. "We need some tips — if anyone knows where the property might be or who took it."

Even with leads, it may be hard to recover property without identifiable characteristics, such as a serial number on a television set. "Much of what was taken was furniture," Rochford said.

Purse snatching reports increase

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was valued at more than \$1,000. The thieves left in a dark, older model car.

On Dec. 4, two men tried to steal a woman's car from her driveway, but were foiled when they couldn't find the ignition key. They did take the woman's purse from the car seat.

The Purdue Street woman pulled into her driveway at 7:35 p.m. and got out to open the garage door.

That's when two men who had stopped their car in front of the house ran up and got inside her car. When they couldn't find the ignition key, they grabbed her purse, ran back to their light-colored car, an Oldsmobile Silra, and left. The men

were described as in their 20s.

A YOUNG person thought to be about 17 snatched a purse from the kitchen counter after entering a house on Beacon Square through a garage door at 5:45 p.m. Dec. 5. After pulling into the garage, the resident entered the attached house but left open the outside garage door. The thief opened the door to the house, lunged for the purse and left in a dark older model car.

In the latest residential incident Dec. 6, a couple who lives on Westwood stopped home about 9 p.m. and parked their car in the garage, leaving the garage door open. When they re-entered the car a few minutes later, they noticed two purses had been

taken from the car.

On Dec. 8, two young men thought to be in their 20s snatched purses from two cars parked outside Kinney Shoes, 22300 Middlebelt, at 3:10 p.m. while two elderly women — one from Farmington Hills, the other from Livonia — dusted snow from one of the cars. The men then ran to a waiting car.

If you notice a car following you into your subdivision and acting suspiciously, don't stop at your house. "Proceed to a public area and call the police. Don't create an opportunity to be assaulted or robbed," Nebus said. "We may be able to spot the car, identify the occupants and determine what their business in the area is."

SINCE MOST of the thefts occurred after dark, Nebus suggests assuring your house has adequate outside lighting to act as a deterrent. He also suggests locking your garage door as well as the entry door to your house after arriving home. "And don't leave valuables inside your car, even if it's locked."

Be extra cautious about someone knocking on your door or ringing your bell minutes after you arrive home, he added.

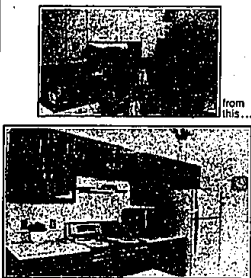
Similar purse snatchings have been reported in recent weeks in other area communities, including Livonia, Franklin and Southfield. "It's a new trend that's not just happening here," Nebus said.

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