

police/fire calls

Listed are some of the Farmington-area police and fire calls received during the past week:

○ PURSE SNATCHINGS

Two men thought to be in their early 20s robbed two women of their purses in separate incidents Jan. 30, according to Farmington Hills police reports.

At 2:40 p.m., a man reached into a car and grabbed a Southfield woman's purse after she pulled into the Quik Pik parking lot, 29405 12 Mile. He ran up behind the car on the passenger side and threw a piece of cassette tape wrapped in a paper bag through the window, striking her on the shoulder. After grabbing the purse from the car seat, he jumped a brick wall leading to the Gateway Apartments parking lot, where he got into a car. The purse was recovered in Southfield. Less than \$2 was taken.

At 11:30 p.m., a man took a Farmington Hills woman's purse as she got out of her car after pulling into a garage on Ashley. He ran from the bushes and pulled the purse from her arm, pushing her back. He then ran across the yard and south along Ashley, where he apparently got into a car. The purse and its contents were valued at \$150.

○ POLICE CHASE

A 23-year-old Northville man who allegedly led police officers on a high-speed car chase that ended in Lyon Township.

At 1:35 a.m. Tuesday, Farmington Hills Officer Larry Bird saw the driver of an eastbound car ignore a red light at Eight Mile and Orchard Lake Road. When Bird made a U-turn, the driver also turned around, again disregarding the red light and headed west at speed past Farmington Road, where the driver again ignored a red light, and into Novi, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

Michigan State Police troopers Bob Garcia and Gerald Hietala joined the chase at Eight Mile and Beck. Seven miles to the west, at Eight Mile and Tower, the fleeing car left the road and became stuck in snow. That's when the driver was arrested and ticketed for allegedly operating under the influence of liquor, Garcia said.

○ BUILDING FIRE

Sparks from an electric saw ignited the overhang of a downtown Farmington building Tuesday. Damage was reported to be minimal.

Electricians from Premium Electric of Royal Oak were working to install recessed lighting on the Real Estate One building at 23366 Farmington Road about 4 p.m. when sparks caught the overhang on fire, according to a Farmington Department of Public Safety report.

A second fire at the same location

was reported at 4:30 p.m. — also caused by sparks from the workers' equipment. The building, the former Godmar Pharmacy that was recently renovated — was occupied during the fire.

○ TRUCK FIRE

A farmington public works truck was destroyed by fire Friday, causing a loss of one third of the city's snow removal force, according to city manager Robert Deadman.

Writing in the 1980 Ford truck apparently ignited about 11:30 a.m., after transmission fluid dripped on the exhaust manifold as the truck was traveling near Birchwood and Flinders. The salt-filled truck received "severe damage to the motor and cab." No one was injured, according to a Farmington Department of Public Safety report.

The truck, valued at \$12,000, would cost about \$40,000 to repair, according to estimates given by Deadman Monday.

The city council gave city administrators emergency authority to spend up to \$30,000 to buy a new chassis for the truck and get it back on the road for the remainder of the snow removal and salting season.

Until the third truck is repaired, the city is relying on a 1970 truck and a 1980 truck for snow removal needs, Deadman said.

○ LARCENY BY TRICK

A reported con artist tricked a cashier out of \$19 at the Clark gas station, 24205 Orchard Lake, at 2 p.m. Jan. 31.

According to a Farmington Hills police report:

When a woman asked for two \$20 bills in exchange for eight \$5 bills, the cashier said she only had one \$20 bill. Another man then gave the woman a \$20 bill for four \$5 bills. The cashier then put a \$20 bill on the counter in front of the woman, who handed the clerk four \$5 bills. As the cashier turned to put the \$5 bill in the cash register, she saw the woman reach into her pocket. The woman then told the cashier she was given a \$1 bill instead of a \$20 bill. The woman then was given four \$5 bills in return for the \$1 bill. Another Clark employee recognized the woman as a suspect in similar con games at other Detroit-area gas stations.

○ SUSPECT HABBED

A Farmington Hills police officer apprehended a man believed responsible for breaking into a car parked at El Nibble Nook, 27725 Elight Mile, Livonia, at 8:50 p.m. Jan. 30.

Officer Michael Farley was on patrol when he saw a man act suspiciously in the El Nibble Nook parking lot, then run toward Elight Mile. When a witness told Farley the man had tried to break into a car, Farley followed the man, first in his patrol car, then on foot. Farley apprehended the suspect in the Bradford Inn parking lot. The man was turned over to Livonia police.

○ TEENS TICKETED

Two Farmington Hills teenagers — one 19, the other 18 — were ticketed after officers, investigating a suspicious car along Elmgrave at 9:45 p.m. Feb. 1, saw two suspected marijuana cigarettes in the ashtray and found other suspected narcotics paraphernalia elsewhere in the car, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

Employee allegedly robs fellow worker

Armed with a description of the robber and his direction of travel, a Farmington Department of Safety officer nabbed a man who allegedly threatened a fellow Pizza Hut employee with a club and took his night deposit bag Feb. 1.

Arrested Sunday before District Judge Margaret Schaeffer of Farmington, Shannon-Christopher Ferguson, 19, of Detroit stood mute to one count of armed robbery. He was released on \$5,000 bond pending a preliminary examination in 47th District Court. Conviction could bring a penalty of up to life in prison.

According to a Farmington Hills police report:

Two Pizza Hut employees were approaching the night deposit box at Michigan National Bank, 32200 10 Mile, at 2:55 a.m. when a man appeared, swinging a broom handle.

One employee ran to a Taco Bell car police. As the other employee ran to the north, he dropped the night deposit bag.

The club-wielding man caught the second employee and struck him three times with the broom handle, breaking it in half. The man then retrieved the night deposit bag and ran toward the Holiday Inn.

Hearing a description of the thief and his direction of travel, Officer James Madigan of the Farmington Department of Safety "spotted" a car leaving the Holiday Inn lot without its headlights on and decided to follow it," said Sgt. Dennis Rochford of the Farmington Hills Police Department.

Madigan stopped the car at M-102 and Gill Road, where the second employee identified the driver, Ferguson, as his assailant and a night deposit bag as Pizza Hut's, Rochford said.

"The day before the robbery, Ferguson worked the day shift at Pizza Hut, getting off at 6 p.m., then worked the afternoon shift at the nearby Wendy's till closing," Rochford said.

○ KITCHEN FIRE

Damage was estimated at \$800 when a toaster that failed to turn off ignited paper toweling mounted above in the kitchen of a house on Arden Park Jan. 30. The homeowner extinguished the fire with a pitcher of water. Damage was confined to the kitchen, according to a Farmington Hills Fire Department report.

○ DAMAGE REPORTED

Damage was estimated at \$50 in the attempted break-in of a condominium at Woodcrest Condo Jan. 30.

Damage was estimated at \$450 when a car parked at Cordoba Apartments was vandalized Jan. 30-31.

Damage was estimated at \$150 when a car parked at Greenhill Apartments was vandalized Jan. 30-31.

Damage was estimated at \$200 when two tires on a car parked at Grand Tulane Motel, 29501 Grand River, were slashed Jan. 31.

Damage was estimated at \$100 when a car parked at Cordoba Apartments was vandalized Jan. 31.

Damage was estimated at \$120 when a car parked at Top Value Muffler & Brakes, 22412 Middlebelt, was vandalized between Jan. 31 and Feb. 1.

Damage was estimated at \$50 when a car parked at Gateway Apartments was vandalized between Jan. 31 and Feb. 1.

Damage was estimated at \$300 when a car parked at 12th Estate Condos was vandalized Feb. 1.

Damage was estimated at \$30 when the locks on three storage sheds at EZ Mini Storage, 24500 Sinclair Court, were cut Feb. 2.

○ THEFTS REPORTED

A booster, a tuner, an equalizer and speakers valued at \$800 were reported stolen from a car parked at Livonia Towing, 24701 Hathaway, between Dec. 11 and Jan. 6.

Jewelry valued at \$30,500 was reported stolen from an apartment at Mulwood Apartments between Dec. 31 and Jan. 29.

A pair of roller skates valued at \$450 were reported stolen from a house on Royal Jan. 29.

A purse and its contents, valued at \$150, were reported stolen from a car parked at Sarah Fisher Home, 27400 12 Mile, Jan. 29.

An in-dash radio and compact

discs valued at \$790 were reported stolen from a car parked in the student lot at North Farmington High School, 32900 13 Mile, Jan. 29.

A 1986 GMC Sierra Classic pickup truck valued at \$10,500 was reported stolen from Envy Inn, 38300 Grand River, Jan. 29-30. It was recovered at 1-275 and Michigan Avenue.

Two heaters valued at \$3,000 were reported stolen from an apartment building under construction at Cross Creek Apartments Jan. 30.

Cash, an AM-FM cassette radio, a wall telephone and a safe lid valued at \$320 were reported stolen from Pizza Hut, 38300 10 Mile, Jan. 30.

A radar detector valued at \$200 was reported stolen from a car parked at Greenhill Apartments Jan. 30.

A radar detector valued at \$250 was reported stolen from a car parked at Digger's, 30555 Grand River, Jan. 30.

A radar detector, a pair of leather gloves and cassette tapes valued at \$305 were reported stolen from Clancy's, 32350 Elight Mile, Jan. 30.

Four wire mesh covers valued at \$300 were reported stolen from Pfeister Co., 24320 Indoplex Circle, Jan. 30.

A garage door opener, valued at \$35 was reported stolen from a car parked in a driveway on Springfield Jan. 30-31.

A 1985 Ford GT valued at \$13,000 was reported stolen from Woodbine Apartments Jan. 30-31. It was recovered at Pontiac Trail and Elight Mile.

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