

## Rash of burglaries sparks task force

One adult and two youths were arrested and charged with attempted burglary Monday, the day Farmington Hills initiated a task force with four nearby communities to crack down on residential break-ins.

Two days later, a burglary suspect was arrested in Farmington.

In the past two weeks, 15 houses in Farmington Hills and eight in Farmington have been broken into. At least three of the break-ins were similar in Farmington Hills and at least six were similar in Farmington, investigators said.

Thieves frequently picked up VCRs and jewelry, which investigators believe were fenced. Money also was commonly taken.

Most of the thefts have occurred between 6 p.m. and midnight, said Lt. Richard Murphy of the Farmington Hills Police Department.

The task force also includes detectives from Southfield, West Bloomfield and Beverly Hills in addition to Farmington Hills and Farmington.

All have experienced similar types of break-ins," Murphy said, although he wouldn't elaborate.

MONDAY NIGHT, Farmington Hills undercover officers and detectives arrested a 27-year-old man and two teenagers shortly after an attempted break-in at a house in the northwest part of the city. The suspects are from Detroit, Murphy said.

"All of a sudden, the house was hit and we were there, doing surveillance in the area," Murphy said.

Murphy said he would not release the suspects' names because of the ongoing investigation.

The adult was arraigned Tuesday before Magistrate James Brady of Farmington Hills. He stood mute to one count of attempted breaking and entering, punishable upon conviction by up to five years in prison. Bond was set at \$10,000 pending a preliminary examination in 47th District Court.

Oakland County Probate Court Juvenile Division petitions will be filed against the teenagers, both minors, Murphy said.

Wednesday morning, Livonia, Farmington and Farmington Hills officers arrested a burglary suspect in Chatham Hills subdivision in Farmington. A warrant will be sought, said Farmington Department of Public Safety deputy director Gary Goss.

GOSS SAID his department "will do anything we have to rectify the situation and solve these break-ins."

Murphy urges homeowners to keep house lights on and outside doors locked at night. He also urges them to report any suspicious people or cars in their neighborhood.

"Reports of suspicious vehicles are particularly helpful," he said.



When firefighters arrived, flames were leaping from the main living area.

## Probe continues in weekend house fire

Fire investigators and insurance adjusters Monday surveyed the house on Herndonwood Drive that sustained at least \$200,000 in structural and content damage in a Jan. 16 blaze.

"Neighbors have been terrific in offering their help," said Ronald

Simpson, who, along with his wife and two young children, moved last fall to their three-story house overlooking a wooded stream in Pebblecreek Estates, near 12 Mile and Inkster.

The fire may have originated in the kitchen because of a cooking accident, said Deputy Chief Peter

Baldwin of the Farmington Hills Fire Department.

He said the homeowner reported discovering the fire after cooking oil was left unattended on the stove for a short time about 2 p.m.

It took 40 firefighters about an hour to control the flames, which were leaping from the main living

area when they arrived.

Heavy flames and smoke, as well as a wide expanse created by a cathedral ceiling, challenged firefighters. Damage was extensive in the living area, Baldwin said.

One firefighter was treated for a knee injury.

## police/fire calls

Listed below are some of the Farmington-area police, fire and court cases filed during the past week.

### WEAPONS VIOLATIONS

Farmington Department of Public Safety officers seized weapons in three separate incidents Jan. 16, according to department reports:

- A 4-inch-long, double-edge knife was confiscated from an 18-year-old Livonia man during a traffic stop on Pointe at Valley View.

- A loaded, 22-caliber revolver was confiscated from a 69-year-old man from Macon, Ga., during a loitering incident at Auto Works, 22078 Farmington.

- A 5-inch-long, double-edged knife and a replica of a 45-caliber gun were confiscated from a 20-year-old Farmington man during a traffic stop on Farmington Road near Chesley.

### TICKETS ISSUED

- A 19-year-old Farmington Hills man was ticketed for knowingly allowing minors to drink at a house party under his control at the Botsford Terrace Apartments at 1045 p.m. Jan. 15, and not trying to stop it. Six minors, ages 17-20, were ticketed for possessing alcohol. Officers initially responded to a loud party and disorderly conduct complaint,

according to a Farmington Hills police report.

### THEFTS REPORTED

A 1987 AMC Jeep valued at \$13,500 was reported stolen from Stark & Co., 30301 Northwestern Highway, Jan. 13. It was recovered in Detroit.

Jewelry valued at \$1,000 was reported stolen from an apartment on Ravine Blvd. Jan. 13.

A 1986 Oldsmobile valued at \$16,000 was reported stolen from Kendallwood Apartments Jan. 13-14.

A video recorder and camera valued at \$1,660 were reported stolen from a house on Eldred Jan. 14.

A radar detector valued at \$245 was reported stolen from a car parked at Clancy's Bar & Grill, 32350 Eight Mile, Jan. 14-15.

Jewelry valued at \$2,000 was reported stolen from a house on Glenmuir Jan. 15.

A VCR and skis valued at \$600 were reported stolen from a house on Oak Point Jan. 15.

A color TV, a sterling silver set, silver dollars and jewelry valued at \$2,876 were reported stolen from a house on Gilchrist Jan. 15.

A 1983 AMC Jeep valued at \$3,000 was reported stolen from Rainbow Square at Middlebelt and 12 Mile Jan. 15-16.

## military news

Tapping the military news pipeline:

- **HE'S PROMOTED**

Kevin Martin of Farmington Hills was promoted to sergeant in the Air Force.

The new non-commissioned officer completed training in management, leadership, human relations and non-commissioned officer responsibilities before being awarded this status.

Martin is a personnel specialist at Shaw Air Force Base, S.C., with the 363rd Combat Support Group.

He received an associate's degree in 1981 from Oakland Community College, Farmington Hills.

### ARRIVES FOR DUTY

Army Pvt. Jeffery Stitzel of Farmington Hills has arrived for

duty at Fort Myer, Va. Stitzel, an infantryman, is a 1987 graduate of Farmington High School.

- **COMPLETE COURSE**

Army National Guard Spec. 4 Michael McCoy of Farmington has

completed the UH-1 helicopter repair course at the U.S. Army Aviation School, Ft. Rucker, Ala.

The course is designed to provide enlisted personnel with a working

knowledge in organizational, direct and general support maintenance on the UH-1 helicopter. Personnel are trained in the duties of crew chief and record keeper.

McCoy is a 1984 graduate of Farmington High School.

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