

# Police, fire officials announce alerts, tips

The following information is provided by the Farmington Department of Public Safety, which incorporates both fire and police protection for residents of the city of Farmington. Residents or businesspeople with questions, concerns or additional information should contact the department at 473-7262.

## BAD CHECK ALERT

The real Robert Widmeyer, 17, had his wallet stolen in mid-October containing his drivers license and credit card.

The thief, using "starter checks," has typed Widmeyer's name on the face of the check and has used the stolen license and credit card as identification in presenting the checks, said Commander Chuck Lee.

So far, three downtown Farmington businesses have been approached by the thief.

The subject is white, between 22-25, about 6 feet tall, has a mustache and weighs about 155 pounds. He is said to be clean-cut and polite, and may be driving a newer model, square-shaped car that is dark in color.

Commander Lee warns businesses to be aware of the situation and to take extra precautions when accepting "starter checks."

## WINDOWS SHOT OUT

Since Nov. 9, 12 downtown-area



businesses have had their front windows shot out, causing more than \$5,500 in damage. Nine of these incidents took place over a weekend, with two on a Monday and one on a Wednesday.

In all cases, some type of projectile is used to break or shatter the windows; ball-bearings were used in nine incidents and were found inside the businesses.

Damage is expected to increase unless the culprits are stopped, said Commander Chuck Lee.

Those responsible are using wrist rockets, or sling-shots, and have used quarter-, half- and 3/8-inch ball bearings. There are reportedly three young adults or teenagers participating.

## FIRE TIPS

Farmington Fire Marshal Joe Schornack has offered several tips related to fall and winter fire safety:

- no outside burning of any kind is allowed. This includes leaf burning and bonfires.

- residents with fireplaces should have chimneys cleaned regularly, and burn only hardwoods such as oak and maple. Avoid burning pine; it will cause a build-up in chimneys.

- keep children from playing in leaf piles near street curbs for safety reasons.

- keep a clean-burning furnace by changing filters and having the unit checked by a reputable service company.

- if you smell gas, call the public safety department. They will notify the utility company.

- with winter coming, help the fire department by keeping snow cleared from around your fire hydrant if there is one in your yard.



## New police officers

Farmington Hills' newest police officers are (front) Shelly Solak (left) and Thomas Shvak and (rear) Sandy Schrage (left) and Alan Patterson. The former police cadets graduated Nov. 18 from the Oakland Police Academy after 12 weeks of training. The new officers will now start the second phase of their 18-month training program. They'll be teamed with a certified police trainer for the next four months so that their readiness to perform their duties can be evaluated independently.

## Extra food to be given to residents

Surplus commodity food will be given out from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 8, at St. Alexander's Church, 27835 Shilawasee, Farmington Hills.

The food, distributed through the Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency, includes butter, cornmeal and flour. It will be available every other month.

Eligible Oakland County residents who did not register in September for the 1988-89 Surplus Commodity Food Program, may register the day of distribution. They must bring proof of total household income for the last 90 days, social security card, and some type of ID with them in order to register for the commodities.

Senior citizens (persons 60 and over) who attend a senior center to pick up their commodities should contact the center for pickup date and time. Also, homebound seniors should contact their nearest senior center to register for homebound delivery.

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

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