

How to help guard against rape

By Kim Kemske
special writer

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Every year about 90,000 forcible rapes are reported to police across the country. Rape, however, is a crime that is seriously under-reported. It's estimated that almost 40 percent of all rapes and attempted rapes are not reported to law enforcement agencies.

Whether you're driving, walking or at home, you can do many things to increase your personal safety. Here are some suggestions:

- Avoid traveling alone. Take a friend, relative or even a big dog along. Develop a buddy system.
- When walking or jogging, try to stay in well-lighted areas. Better yet, go out only during daylight hours. Avoid taking shortcuts through unfamiliar areas.
- Stay within range of other people where they can see and hear you.
- When walking, try to stay on sidewalks and keep away from bushes, trees and dog tags.
- Always walk purposefully and confidently, staying aware of your surroundings.
- ALWAYS CARRY enough change with you for one or two phone calls and keep important phone numbers close at hand.
- Carry a whistle or sound alarm

to blow in case you are attacked or harassed. The police department does not recommend the use of Mace or chemical sprays for self-protection. The risk is that any such weapon could be used against you by your attacker.

• Carry car or house keys in your hand so the door can be opened immediately without fumbling in your purse.

• LIST ONLY your first initial and last name on a mailbox or door, or in the telephone book.

lie Department offers free home security surveys.

- WHEN DRIVING, always keep doors locked and windows rolled at least halfway up. Make it a habit to check the back seat of your car every time you get in.
- Always keep your car in good repair and make sure you have enough gas to get to your destination.
- Park your car in a well-lighted location, and when possible, have someone escort you to your car after dark.
- If your car breaks down, activate your emergency flashers, raise your hood, tie a white flag on the antenna or door, and remain inside the car with doors locked until the police arrive.
- IF YOU believe you are being followed, do not drive home. You don't want to show the person following you where you live.

Instead, go to a well-lit business or a police station and sound your horn, flash your lights, draw at-

attention to yourself so that anyone following you will be unlikely to approach you.

Call police and provide them with the license plate number and make of the car, and, if possible, a description of the person following you.

• If someone in an unmarked vehicle motions you to pull over, keep driving unless there are lights, sirens or other indicators that it is a police vehicle. If pulled over by someone in an unmarked vehicle, you have the right to ask for identification.

• If you are involved in a minor car accident, especially at night, do not leave your car. Instead tell the other driver, through your car window, that you will meet him or her at the local police department where you both can file a police report.

• ALWAYS REPORT suspicious activities, people or vehicles to the police as quickly as possible. If it looks suspicious to you, it is probably worth checking.

Trust your intuition and act on it. If you feel uneasy with a person, or that you are in danger, get away in any way you can. Awareness and precaution are your best defense against rape.

Kim Kemske is a crime prevention technician with the Farmington Hills Police Department.

police/fire calls

Listed below are some of the Farmington-area police incidents, fire calls and court cases reported during the past week:

INVESTIGATION CONTINUES

Farmington Hills police are continuing their investigation into the death of a 30-year-old Livonia woman whose decomposed body was found Feb. 7 in a vacant lot on Goldsmith, north of Eight Mile, between Halsted and Gill roads.

"She was not killed there," said Farmington Hills police Chief William Dwyer said. "The facts given by the medical examiner indicate the victim was killed in a different location and later taken to that field."

The woman was later identified as Kristine M. Alberti who had been reported missing Dec. 21 by her father, Ronald Bekkala of Livonia.

The woman was found by a Goldsmith resident as he was on his way to work. He flagged down another resident who also was on his way to work. The two remained at the site until police arrived.

"The investigation is progressing at a very good pace," Dwyer added.

USER ACCOUNTABILITY

As of Tuesday, Feb. 19, 246 people have been arrested since October 1989 when the Farmington Hills Police Department's user accountability program began.

The program turns the spotlight on drug users. In the past, when police found someone with drugs, a ticket was issued and the drugs were confiscated. Now, people arrested in possession with any amount of drugs are taken into the station, fingerprinted and photographed.

Forfeiture proceedings, allowed under state and federal law, are initiated when people are arrested for possessing any type of illegal drug, other than marijuana.

As of Feb. 19, 119 vehicles were seized and 28 forfeiture proceedings were initiated. More than \$18,000 cash, 10 vehicles, two cellular phones, 10 beepers and eight watches are subject to forfeiture, police Chief William Dwyer said.

In this time period, marijuana plants, methadone, syringes, rolling papers, heroin, cocaine, valium, Xanax, hashish, pipes and snorting straws have been seized.

Most of the arrests were made during routine traffic stops. Det. Patrick Monti said. Drug paraphernalia by far outdistances the reasons for the arrests, followed by possession of

marijuana and cocaine, Monti said. The city's version of the Phoenix, Ariz. program began October 1989 with the assignment of Monti to the program.

CAR FIRE

About \$300 damage resulted when a car parked at St. Vincent-Sarah Fisher Center, 27400 12 Mile, caught fire about 7:15 a.m. Feb. 22, according to a Farmington Hills fire report.

When firefighters arrived at the scene the car's engine compartment was on fire as well as the dashboard. The cause of the fire was undetermined. No one was injured.

THEFTS REPORTED

Approximately \$600 cash was reported stolen from a unit at the Hunters Ridge Condominiums, Partridge Lane, Feb. 14-20.

A VCR valued at \$300 was reported stolen from Recognition Equipment, Inc., 31700 Middlebelt, Feb. 5-6.

A 1990 Oldsmobile Delta valued at \$20,000 was reported stolen from the Strawberry Lane Apartments, 2746 Strawberry, Feb. 21-22.

An AM/FM cassette radio, speakers, amplifier and equalizer valued at \$1,204 were reported stolen from a 1979 Dodge on Bunker Hill, Feb. 22-23.

An AM/FM cassette radio and radar detector valued at \$565 were reported stolen from a car on Bridle Path, Feb. 23-24.

A radar detector and Nintendo cartridge valued at \$235 were reported stolen from a car on Hunt Club, Feb. 23-24.

A 1988 Chevrolet valued at \$12,000 was reported stolen from Farmington Manor Apartments, 30150 Nine Mile, Feb. 23-24.

An AM/FM CD radio and speakers valued at \$900 were reported stolen from a unit on Jefferson Court in Independence Green Apartments, Grand River and Halsted, Feb. 23-24.

A raccoon fur coat valued at \$1,500 was reported stolen from Buddy's Pizza, 31646 Northwestern Highway, Feb. 24.

DAMAGE REPORTED

Damage was estimated at \$200 when someone shot out a couple windows on a 1988 Chevrolet parked on Bunker Hill, Feb. 23-24.

Damage was estimated at \$600 when someone tried to pop out the door locks on a car at the Strawberry Lane Apartments, on Middlebelt, just south of 12 Mile, Feb. 23-24.

Area students to compete in Science Olympiad

More than 450 middle and high school pupils from throughout Oakland County are expected to compete in the Science Olympiad Saturday at Lawrence Technological University, where they will have the chance to flex their mental muscle.

Twenty-three games will pit teams of 15 students against a myri-

ad of intellectual obstacles they must work together to overcome. The groups will analyze chemicals, write computer programs, read maps and use a mousetrap to propel a toy car while vying for the Oakland County regional championship.

The daylong Olympiad aims to

stimulate student interest in science. It has proved quite successful in the past, the organizers of the event said.

"The schools that take part incorporate a lot of the material from the Olympiad back into their classrooms," said Dr. Patricia Barnes, di-

rector of the competition. "There are a lot of good activities from the Olympiad, and it's all based on what the students should be learning."

The games will run 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Most events will be in Lawrence Tech's science and management buildings.

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- 4-11 PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE - Photographic exhibit sponsored by the United Way and The American Society of Magazine Photographers.
- 5-8 THE GREAT AMERICAN LOCK IT UP! - 5 p.m. Help the American Cancer Society "arrest cancer" - Laurel Park Place Office Building.
- 21-30 EASTER BUNNY PHOTOS - Visit with the Easter Bunny daily in the Grand Court (call for hours).
- 23-24 MICHIGAN ORCHID SOCIETY SHOW - PISTONS, FIRE, THROW CONTEST - 11 a.m. - Kids 7-12 can win lots of great prizes including the chance to shoot at the Palace.

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