



Farmington Hills detectives David Loe, Brian DeGrando and Pat Monti check out approximately \$20,000 in computers confiscated from what is believed to be a computer fraud ring operating from Farmington Hills and Canton.

Computer fraud ring is cracked by cop stakeout

Continued from Page 1

They had a fraudulent order that led to Farmington Hills.

Police got in touch with Federal Express in Novi where packages were expected to arrive. Detectives Monti, Tim Swanson and David Loe conducted surveillance of the area. They saw three men in three cars arrive to pick up packages from the computer company, Monti said.

Detectives followed the men to a Farmington Hills apartment where a fourth man was waiting. "At that time we confronted the occupants of the apartment. And they agreed to cooperate with us," Monti said.

Police surveillance continued to Meijer Thrifty Acres at Eight Mile and Haggerty roads, Northville Township, where the Canton man — considered to be the brains behind the operation — retrieved the packages, Nebus said.

"It was a ring of people with the man in Canton as the main actor. He placed the orders and the others delivered the packages to him."

Police recovered packages, valued at approximately \$20,000, ordered by the ring. Forfeiture proceedings are expected to be initiated on equipment owned by one of the men in the ring. The other packages of computers will be returned to the companies from which they were ordered, Monti said.

"We determined all the packages we picked up were fraudulent," Monti added. "When they would go to Federal Express they would sign the name of the person (whose credit card numbers they used) for the packages."

Farmington Hills police, Secret Service officers and the Michigan State Police searched the Canton man's house Thursday.

"The Canton man placed the orders and advised a Farmington Hills man to go to Federal Express in Novi and pick up the packages," Monti said. "It is our belief they were selling the computers."

The ring would make use of what is called a "bulletin board," which is computer information available throughout the country. While using the bulletin board is not illegal, the information ring members used is, Monti said.

"The detectives did an outstanding job," Nebus said. "From the time the information came in, these guys really had to scramble. I credit them with doing an excellent job on surveillance."

Nebus also credited Federal Express. "We really depend on them a lot. They're good folks to work with."

around Farmington

- All announcements for this column must be mailed to **Around Farmington, Farmington Observer**, 2189 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336.
- Deadline for Around Farmington is noon Monday for the Thursday publication and noon Tuesday for the Monday publication.** Requests for announcements will not be taken over the telephone.
- CONTRARIAN INVESTING**
 Tuesday, Feb. 4 or Feb. 11: Low interest rates, high stock prices. Learn how to invest with less risk exposure, using contrary economic principals. Speaker Steven Zimberg, economist and certified financial planner 7-9 p.m. in The Community Center, 24705 Farmington Road 7-9 p.m. Cost is \$15. For more information, call the center at 477-8404.
 - FOCUS ON LIVING**
 Tuesday, Feb. 4: A Focus on Living with cancer meeting at 7 p.m. in Providence Hospital, 16001 W. Nine Mile Road, Southfield. For additional information, call The American Cancer Society at 557-5353.
 - TAX-AIDE PROGRAM**
 Mondays, Feb. 3, 10, 17, and 14: AARP tax-aide program for Senior Citizens 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Farmington Hills Senior Center, Mercy Center, 28600 W. 11 Mile Road, Gate 4, for people 60 and older sponsored by American Association of Retired Persons (AARP).
 - QUIT SMOKING**
 Tuesday, Feb. 4: Learn how to quit smoking at the Northville University of Michigan Health Center from 7:30 p.m. sponsored by MedSport and the UM Health Center located at 650 Griswold in Northville. For more information or to register call Sharon at 998-7411.
 - HOOKEO ON LEARNING**
 Tuesday, Feb. 4: Parents and teachers learn how you can make the positive difference in education. Turn on to using the right side of the brain. Catherine Schneider is the instructor. 2 sessions 7-9 p.m. in the Community Center, 24705 Farmington Road. Cost is \$24. For more information call the center at 477-8404.
 - VALENTINE STORY HOUR**
 Tuesday, Feb. 4: Randy Luxton presents "Must-kids," from 7-8 p.m. for ages 3 and up in the Farmington Branch Library, 2350 Liberty Street. No registration is required.
 - VALENTINE STORY HOUR**
 Wednesday, Feb. 5: Handy Luxton presents "must-kids" from 7-8 p.m. for ages 3 and up in the Farmington Hills Library, 23737 12 Mile. No registration is required.
 - FARMINGTON MUSICAL PROGRAM**
 Wednesday, Feb. 5: The Farmington Musicals holds its Program in the Farmington Hills Library, on 12 Mile. Featured is Stanley Hollingsworth, Oakland University professor, composer and musician at 12:30 p.m. Open to the public. Donation \$1.50.
 - PARENTING CLASS**
 Beginning Wednesday, Feb. 5: North Point Mental Health Associates offers a parenting class led by Dr. Cindy Marriott. The classes will be 6-7 p.m. Wednesdays they will last for 10 weeks and will be limited to the first 10 to enroll. Each class costs \$20. The classes will be held at 28535 Orchard Lake Road, Suite 301, Farmington Hills. For more information, call 489-1550.

obituaries

SYLVIA LORETTA TIEZZI
 Miss Tiezzi, 65, of Farmington died Jan. 26 in Providence Hospital, Southfield.
 Born in Detroit, Miss Tiezzi was a retired legal secretary.
 Survivors include sisters, Mona Palmer and Pauline Ryan; brother, Angelo Tiezzi.
 Services were private held at the Thayer-Rook Funeral Home, Farmington. Burial was in Grand Lawn Cemetery, Detroit.

EVELYN P. GODSHALK
 Mrs. Godshalk, 68, of Elkhart, Ind., formerly of Farmington, died January 27.
 Born in Detroit, Mrs. Godshalk was a retired sales clerk for Robertsons and co-owner of Godshalk Nurseries in Elkhart, Ind.
 Survivors include her sons, Joseph and Ernest Smith; daughter, Karen; step-sons, John and Stanley Godshalk; brother, Melvin Colburn; four grandchildren.
 Services were held Feb. 1 at Oakland Hills Memorial Gardens Chapel with the Rev. Kenneth Lister officiating. Burial was in Oakland Hill Cemetery, Novi. Arrangements were made by the Schrader Funeral Home, Plymouth.

MARIANNA LUTHER STAIRS
 Mrs. Stairs, 68, of Farmington Hills died January 28.
 Born in Dayton, Ohio, Mrs. Stairs was a homemaker. She was a member of Farmington Players, Farmington Musicals and active in Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church as Eucharistic Minister and member of funeral luncheon committee.
 She was past president of IHS & Dale Garden Club; life membership in Federated Garden Clubs of Michigan; master judge, landscape critic, garden consultant and member of the American Guild of Flower Arrangers Unit 50.
 Survivors include her husband, William; sons, Denis and W. Joseph; daughters, Margaret Reid and Mary Packard; one sister; eight grandchildren.
 Mass was celebrated Feb. 1 in Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church with the Rev. Monsignor Walter Hurley officiating. Cremation was in Oakland Hills Memorial Gardens Cemetery, Novi.

NORMAN JOHNSON
 Mr. Johnson, 88, died January 30 in West Bloomfield Convalescent Center.
 Born in Hidgeaway, Pa., Mr. Johnson came to Detroit in 1920 and worked for 40 years as a die engineer for the Chrysler Automotive Corp.
 Survivors include his wife, Viola of Farmington Hills; daughters, Joyce Peltio and Joan Bussa; brothers, LeRoy and Floyd; sister, Helen Lindman, three grandchildren.
 Services were at the Faith Covenant Church in Farmington Hills Memorials may be made to benefit Faith Covenant Church or the Portage Lake Bible Camp.
 Arrangements were made by the McCabe Funeral Home, Farmington Hills.

MANUELLE MAY GALLEY
 Mrs. Galley, 92, of Farmington Hills died January 30 in Botsford Hospital, Farmington Hills.
 Mrs. Galley was a homemaker.
 Surviving is her husband, Frederick.
 Services were Feb. 1 at the Heeney-Sunquist Funeral Home, Farmington, with the Rev. Fred Froman of First Baptist of Farmington Church officiating. Burial was in Grand Lawn Cemetery, Detroit.

AWWDK

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