

Police urge caution after rash of thefts

BY CASEY HANS
STAFF WRITER

Farmington police are warning residents to be more aware of security measures, after valuables were stolen from a number of vehicles parked in the Alta Loma subdivision last week.

Eight such incidents were reported in Farmington during the overnight hours of May 20-21, netting thieves more than \$4,000 in valuables, said Farmington Department of Public Safety Commander Frank Hand.

Of the stolen items, reported:

- A portable phone and car vacuum valued at \$280 were reported stolen from a car parked on Oak

CRIME

land Street. On the same street, a resident reported: \$1,215 worth of clothing and a video camcorder were reported stolen.

On Whittaker, a car stereo and other miscellaneous goods valued at \$305 were taken from a car parked there.

A resident of Schulte reported 10 tennis rackets and two \$500 valued at \$1,250 taken from a car parked there. A wallet and keys were stolen, but later recovered.

On Cass Street, a cellular phone and several other items valued at \$275 were taken from a car.

Thieves tampered with another car on the street.

On Moore, tools, a camera and money worth \$980 were reported stolen from an open garage.

Of the eight thefts, seven of the cars were unlocked, two vehicles approached were in garages with doors wide open. Lee said people need to be aware that a thief will pick the easiest target.

About garage doors, he said: "Just don't leave them open. You're sort of advertising what you've got. They can see tools, cars, everything."

He advocates leaving outside lights on, especially near garage areas.

Residents should always report suspicious activity, even if they think it's probably nothing, Lee said. "One resident heard his dog barking at 2 a.m., but didn't investigate. If you get up in the middle of the night, take that extra step to look out the front window. See what's going on."

The Farmington Department of Public Safety is sending letters to people in the Alta Loma area, warning them about the rash of thefts. Lee said, however, it would be just as easy for a thief to move to the next subdivision, and that all Farmington residents should take precautions.

POLICE/FIRE CALLS

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

ARMED ROBBERY

A face mask, including one juvenile, was arrested over the week-end, following an armed robbery at 2400 Hill, 2925 Orchard Lake May 21.

According to Farmington Hills police, those arrested were 16, 17, and 18 years old and all of the same race. Confiscated in 90-car arrest was a loaded .25 caliber automatic pistol with six rounds. Also found was \$389.50 in bills and coins believed to have been taken in the robbery.

Following the reports, two officers entered the restaurant and arrested the three juveniles, one of whom had a knife and a small silver automatic pistol.

A car with an unlitting the description of the subjects was seen on 14th, 15th, and on Bond. The car was stopped on Orchard Lake May 22.

Police believe the subjects may also be responsible for an armed robbery at the same location the previous weekend.

ASSAULTS REPORTED

A 16-year-old Ohio boy received minor injuries May 23 after someone threw a piece of concrete through his car window and hit him in the head as he drove out of a Farmington Hills hotel parking lot. The incident occurred in the

14th parking lot, 38123 to 14th. According to Farmington Hills police report, the driver and a friend were confronted by a group of unknown teens who began yelling at them and kicking their van. As they drove away, someone threw the concrete through the rear window of the vehicle.

In unrelated incidents:

A 25-year-old Farmington Hills man was arrested for the parking lot of the McDonald's restaurant, 38109 to 14th May 22, after confronting another man who was urinating in the parking lot. The victim asked the man to stop. The subject then approached the victim and hit him in the jaw.

Two bicyclists reported a vehicle trying to run them over May 25, at about 7:25 p.m., on the corner of William Grace Blvd. and 14th. The vehicle was reportedly a six-speed truck.

CARS PAINTED

A number of cars painted with red paint was reported in Farmington Hills over the weekend.

Incidents were reported on Lynne, Skye Drive, Lombard, Wyck, and Hyattsville causing at least \$1,600 in damage. In one case, a car window was smashed and in another three mailboxes were knocked out of their posts.

THEFTS REPORTED

Tires and wheels valued at \$3,000 were reported stolen from a 1992 Cadillac on Broad Court, May 20, 21.

Tires and rims valued at \$1,150 were reported stolen from a 1988 Chevrolet on Farmington Square Condominiums on 12 Mile, May 20, 21.

A impound valued at \$500 was reported stolen from a unit in the Independence Green Apartments at Fairview and Grand River, May 15.

Jewelry valued at \$1,000 was reported stolen from a house on Parkway, May 7-20.

A 1986 Honda valued at \$5,400 was reported stolen from the 37000 block of Grand River May 23.

A microwave oven valued at \$150 was reported stolen from the basement located at Greenery Care Center, 34225 Grand River May 22.

A lawnmower valued at \$200 was reported stolen from a house on Truck May 22.

A 10-speed bicycle valued at \$125 was reported stolen from Springbrook May 23.

Speakers valued at \$400 were reported stolen from a car in the Mr. Sports parking lot, 30865 Orchard Lake May 23.

A 1992 Mustang valued at \$15,000 was reported stolen from the Old Orchard Theatre parking lot, 28123 Orchard Lake, May 23. A \$300 stereo was stolen from a car May 24 at the same location.

Speakers and other items valued at \$700 were stolen from a car on Purdie May 24-25.

Speakers valued at \$175 were reported stolen from a car parked at Mac & James, 31205 Orchard Lake, May 25. In a separate incident at the same location May 23, an in-car stereo system and 20 CDs plus other items valued at \$2,575 were taken.

DAMAGE REPORTED

The window of a car parked on Brookdale in Farmington was shot out May 23-24, causing some \$150 in damage.

Damage was estimated at \$200 when a car window was broken out May 22 on Kiltartan.

Two lawns on Rumblehill received more than \$100 in damage when a car was driven over them May 23.

Glue was put into two locks on the Kroger store at Middlebelt and 11 Mile, causing \$50 in damage May 22-23.

A car parked on Yorktown was scratched with a key May 22-23, causing \$300 in damage.

A total of \$33 in damage was reported to the east window of the Ash-Con company, 20788 Osiris May 23-24 during a break-in.

Damage was estimated at \$100 when a house on Stratton Hill Court was broken into May 23.

Damage was estimated at \$200 when a front door on Rockwell was damaged May 24.

The windshield of a car parked on Arden Park was smashed May 25 causing \$101 in damage.

A car parked on Independence Drive had a window smashed May 24-25, causing \$200 in damage and \$125 in tapes stolen.

Damage was estimated at \$200 when the passenger window of a car parked on Kirby was smashed May 24-25.

A mobile phone valued at \$1,000 was reported stolen from a car parked in the 28000 block of Orchard Lake May 25, and \$1,500 in damage done to the 3-week-old vehicle.

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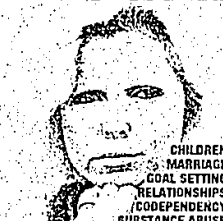
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