"Main Street Celebration'

# Feds investigate credit card fraud case

Agents with the U.S. Secret Service are investigating whether a woman accused of trying to use a stolen credit card to get a cash advance at a Farmington bank is part of a nationwide credit card seam. Edith Vitalie, 25, who told Farmington police that she lives in Detroit, is charged with stealing and retaining without consent a financial transaction device, according to Officer Dan Potter of the Farmington police.

District Court Judge Fred Harris during a preliminary exam

the rarmington ponce.

District Court Judge Fred
Herris during a preliminary exam
on Friday found enough evidence

## FARMINGTON

to send the case to Cakland County Circuit Court.
Vitalic is being held in the Oakland County Jall in lieu of a \$100,000 cash bond. If convicted, she faces a maximum sentence of four years in prison and a \$2,000 fine, Potter said.
Special Agent Donald Husted of the U.S. Secret Servier's Detroit Field Office sold his office is investigating whether Vitalic is part of a national credit card scam operation.
A federal charge of unauthorized use of an access device car-

ries a penalty of 10 years in prison and a fine of two times the amount obtained, Hustod said. Farmington police arrested Vi-talle on Oct. 24. Potter said police

talle on Oct. 24. Potter said police had received a call from an employee at the First Nationwide Bank on Orchard Lake Road who said a woman was trying to use a fraudulent credit card.

Potter said the woman was using a credit card that belonged to someone in Indiana. The woman was using a fake driver i license bearing the same name as the credit card, Potter said.

The credit card owner had ordered a new card, which was somehow stolen before it reached

the owner in the mail, Potter said.
Police followed Vitalie, who was spotted in a car matching the doctpition given by bank employees, to the parking lot of an apartment complex on Nine Mile Road, Potter said. She was arrested after bank officials identified her as the woman who tried to use the fraudulent card.
Potter said First Nationwide Bank officials had distributed a flyer to employees regarding a diper to employees.

Bonk officials had distributed a fiver to employees regarding a woman suspected of using stolen credit cards. Vitalie, who is originally from Nigeria, is in the United States on an expired vias, Potter said. Po-lice confuscated her passport.

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THOMAS KINKADE

Painter of Light "

# POLICE/FIRE CALLS

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

B FIRE DEPARTMENT BUNS

Farmington Hills firefighters made 05 runs during the week of Oct. 30 to Nov. 6 including 57 molical emergencies (60 percent), nice rescues and three fires. nine rescues an

B VANDALIZM
Two windows were broken at the Merrilak Building on 12 Mile in Farmington Hills causing 3200 in damage on Nov. 1.
The front door of a residence at the Independence Green Apartments on Adams in Farmington Hills was kicked in causing 3250 in damage Nov. 4. Police arrested a Hills man, 29.

Four tires were slashed (\$500) on a black 1938 Ford Tempo parked on Castlereigh in Farmington Hills Nov. 4-5.
Seven windows at D.E. Dunckel Middle School on 12 Mile in Fermington Hills had BB holes shot through them (\$1,000) between Sept. 1 and Nov. 6.

#### BREAK-INS

E BREAK-INS
The dash was damaged (\$50) on a beige 1989 Ford Escort parked on Whitlock in Farmington Hills and an AM/FM stereo (\$185) and \$135 in cash were stelen Nov. 2-3.
The driver's door lock was nunched (\$150) on a green 1995 Chevy Cavalier parked at H.A. Lumber on Grand River and Eight Mile in Farmington Hills

Nov. 6 and a \$425 CD player and five CDa (75) were stolen. The driver's door lock was punched (\$100) of a white 1995 Cheyy Caviller parked at Bota-ford Hospital on Grand River in Farmington Hills Nov. 6 and a \$500 AM/FM cassette stereo was stolen.

## stolen.

Three wire wheel covers worthy Three wire wheel covers worthy 5750 were stolen from a blue 1986 Buick Park Avenue parked at the Kmart atore on Orchard Lake in Farmington Hills Nov. 3.

A pair of \$89 gold earings, \$100 in cash and 50 CDs (\$750) were stolen from a residence at the Mujrwood Apartments on Conifer in Farmington Hills between Oct. 23 and Nov. 4.

Two wheels were stolen (\$200) from a green 1996 Dodge Caravan parked at Vladimir's on Grand River in Farmington Hills Nov. 4.

VISA

Speakers and other equipment (\$304.90) were stolen from a blue 1991 Ford Explorer parked on Tulane in Farmington Hills after the rear hatch window was smashed Nov. 5-6..

Nov. 5-6..
Three lap top computers
(\$4,500) were stolen from the
Wayne State University's Oak-land Center on 12 Mile in Farm-ington Hills Nov. 6.

B DRUMEN DRIVING
Parmington Hills police arrested a Berkley man, 20, for driving a
gray 1989 Olds 98 while south on
Bunker Hill north of 12 Mile at
4:00 a.m. No. 6 while drumk. The
car had \$800 in damage from an
accident. The driver had a blood
alcohol level of 1.3 percent. In
Michigan, a blood alcohol level of
1 la considered too drunk to drive

See POLICE, 6A



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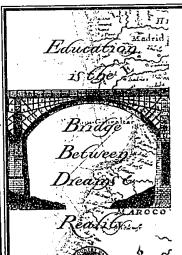
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