

# Woman charged with using stolen credit card

**By Jill Hockman**  
STAFF WRITER

A woman accused of trying to use a stolen credit card to get a cash advance at a Farmington bank last month was arraigned Monday in Oakland County Circuit Court.

Federal authorities are also investigating the case.

Edith Vitalie, 25, was arraigned before Circuit Court Judge John J. McDonald on a charge of stealing and retaining without consent a financial transaction device.

A pretrial hearing on the case was set for 10:30 a.m. on Dec. 4. Vitalie is being held in the Oakland County Jail in lieu of a \$100,000 cash bond.

Special Agent Donald Husted of the U.S. Secret Service's Detroit Field Office said the investigation is continuing against Vitalie, a Nigerian woman who is in the United States on an expired visa.

Since Vitalie's Oct. 24 arrest, the Secret Service has been investigating whether she is linked to a national credit card rip-off operation, but no charges have been filed against her in that connection.

Farmington police arrested Vitalie after receiving 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. Bank officials denied the transaction.

Police said the credit card belonged to someone in Indiana. The woman was using a fake driver's license bearing the same name as the credit card, they said.

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

Vitalie was arrested by Farmington police after she was spotted in a car matching the description given by bank employees. Bank officials later identified her as the woman who tried to use the fraudulent card, police said.

If convicted of the local charge, Vitalie faces a maximum sentence of four years in prison and a \$2,000 fine. But a federal charge of unauthorized use of an access device carries a stiffer penalty: a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison and a fine two times the amount obtained, according to Husted.

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

**THEFTS**  
Two 25-inch color TVs were stolen from rooms at the Holiday Inn on 10 Mile in Farmington Hills Nov. 11-15.

Farmington Hills police arrested a Hills man, 37, for stealing a purse with \$182 in cash from a blue 1986 Olds Delta 89 parked at Botsford Hospital at 5:35 a.m. Nov. 17. Officers found the purse along with three rocks of cocaine and drug paraphernalia at the man's nearby house.

A \$1,750 Sony 8mm video camera was stolen from a white 1994 Olds mini van parked on Oak Hollow in Farmington Hills Nov. 15-16.

A \$3,500 computer was stolen from the Oakland Center of Wayne State University on 12 Mile in Farmington Hills between Oct. 1 and Nov. 11.

A \$475 flute was stolen from Harrison High School on 12 Mile in Farmington Hills Nov. 17.

The wheel covers (\$260) were stolen from a 1993 Buick Lasabre parked at CSC Health Services on 12 Mile in Farmington Hills Nov. 9.

A Hills woman, 32, told Farmington Hills police that an endorsed annuity check for \$1,591.81 was stolen from her apartments at the Covington Club

at a Section 36 residence in Farmington Hills at 8:30 p.m. Nov. 16.

A Hills girl, 13, told Farmington Hills police that a Hills boy, 10, shot her with a BB gun on Crescent Court in Farmington Hills at 2:20 a.m. Nov. 17.

**AUTO THEFT**  
A green 1990 Chevy Lumina van with a \$600 car phone was stolen from in front of the Meadow Party Store on Farmington in Farmington Hills Nov. 17.

**VANDALISM**  
Obscenities were scratched on a black 1986 Chevy Caprice parked at the Independence Green Apartments on McKinley in Farmington Hills Nov. 17 causing \$1,000 in damage.

**DRUNKEN DRIVING**  
Farmington Hills police arrested

at a Livonia man, 56, for driving a silver 1981 Chevy east on Grand River from Middlebelt in Farmington Hills at 9:30 p.m. Nov. 18 while drunk. Officers saw the car weaving. The man had a blood alcohol level of .11 percent. A level of .1 percent is considered too drunk to drive in Michigan.

Farmington Hills police arrested a Hills man, 48, for driving a red 1994 Chevy Camaro west on Nine Mile at Gill at 2:45 a.m. Nov. 19 while drunk. The car was weaving. The man had a blood alcohol level of .21 percent.

Farmington Hills police arrested a Hills man, 30, at 3:15 a.m. Nov. 19 for driving a white 1987 Plymouth on Freedom in Farmington Hills while drunk. The car was swerving at the time. The man refused to take a breath test.

See POLICE, 5A



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# "I thought I was in good shape, so why did I have a heart attack?"


I've always been an active, outdoors kind of guy. I played football in high school and while in the air force. And all the time that I was a coach, I felt pretty fit. After all, I didn't want high school kids showing me up.

After I retired from coaching, I guess I wasn't quite as active. When I felt a heaviness in my chest one day, I called 911. It's a good thing I did, because I found out that I was having a heart attack. At Botsford, I got the immediate attention I needed. The doctor was really on top of things.

The follow up care was fantastic. My doctor prescribed rehabilitation at Botsford. I was surprised at how much I loved rehab. The rehab staff monitored me, helped me to increase my endurance and stamina and taught me how I could avoid having another heart attack. My wife and I also talked to a dietitian and learned how we could improve our eating habits.

In retrospect, I should have kept in better shape. I don't anticipate ever having another heart attack — and I'm working hard not to.

**Reaching out to the people of our community.**  
28050 Grand River Avenue • Farmington Hills, MI 48336-5922  
For a risk assessment appointment call Kim, Clinical Nurse Manager, at (810) 471-6870. If you would like a physician referral, call Health Match at (810) 442-7900.



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