

POLICE CALLS

Hanukkah from page A1

The following are police and fire items reported in the Farmington and Farmington Hills area during the past week.

COUNTERFEIT MONEY In Farmington Hills: A counterfeit \$10 and \$5 bill were used to purchase \$15 in merchandise Monday at the Sam's Club Warehouse, 24800 Haggerty. There are no suspects.

MAIL TAMPERING In Farmington: A 64-year-old resident in the 23000 block of Longacre reported that someone, between 4-11:30 p.m. last Saturday, Dec. 20, rifled through mail after it was delivered. Ten Christmas cards were discovered open, but bills were untouched. The resident said he thought the cards were opened because suspects might have thought they contained money.

LARCENY FROM BUILDING In Farmington Hills: Some \$411 in cash and currency and \$1,459.28 in checks were reported stolen from a safe at the Medical Dental Pharmacy at Orchard Lake and 10 Mile Road between Monday and Tuesday. The safe was reportedly locked.

AUTO THEFT In Farmington Hills: A 75-year-old Southfield woman said her 1989 white Lincoln Town Car was stolen from the Target store lot at 30020 Grand River while she was shopping between 2:45 and 3:15 p.m. Tuesday. The woman had the keys with her.

DRUG ARREST In Farmington Hills: Two 17 year olds, one from Farmington, the other from Farmington Hills, were charged with possession of marijuana after police stopped their vehicle on St. Francis near Eight Mile Rd. for having a headlight out at 6:16 pm. Tuesday.

DRUNKEN DRIVING In Farmington Hills: A 19-year-old Farmington Hills man was charged with driving while intoxicated after he struck the rear of another vehicle on Middlebelt south of Nine Mile Road about 6 pm. Tuesday. His blood-alcohol level measured .16 percent.

In Farmington: A public safety officer noticed a motorist speeding and driving erratically on westbound Grand River about 1:15 a.m. last Saturday, Dec. 20. He subsequently stopped the driver at Farmington and saw the driver was apparently intoxicated. The driver, a 21-year-old Okemos man, failed roadside field tests and had .115 percent blood alcohol level. A passenger, who was also intoxicated, was transported to a nearby restaurant, the destination the pair said they were going to when stopped.

CARELESS DRIVING In Farmington Hills: A South Carolina semi-truck driver was ticketed for careless driving after his tractor-trailer ran partly off Haggerty Road south of Ten Mile and got stuck, blocking traffic for about two hours Wednesday morning. The rear wheels of the trailer got stuck in a ditch on the west side of Haggerty and it took a third and larger wrecker to remove the truck after two smaller units failed. The truck was en route to a delivery at Little Caesars headquarters nearby.

EMBEZZLEMENT In Farmington Hills: An employee at Nino Salvaggio's, 32908 Middlebelt, was fired after he was caught on videotape putting a case of 12 bottles of Moet champagne into a shopping cart while cleaning around 3 a.m. Dec. 21 and then apparently pushing the cart out of the store about 4:30 a.m. An inventory later that morning verified a case of the champagne was missing. Management had been experiencing a steady loss of champagne, police were told. Several displays in the way blocked actual videotaping of cart actually leaving the store, but employee did not stop prior to exiting. The suspect, from Highland Park, said the man in video wasn't him. Suspect terminated from job Dec. 24.

In Farmington: A 38-year-old Detroit woman and employee of the Kmart store at 37175 Grand River was caught Tuesday night undercharging several items at the cash register. Items included a laptop computer, Casio men's watch and set of pots and pans. The total amount she undercharged was about \$240. The woman, who was charged in the case, had only begun working there in early November.

I thank God for JARC," Joe said. "It gives my wife and I the opportunity to pay back JARC for all they have done for us. And over the years, something wonderful happened.

"They decided to read the story of Hanukkah to the ladies," Berry said. "Eventually, the other homes heard about it."

This year residents from the Katzman and Laker homes in West Bloomfield and residents from the Pierce Home in Southfield joined the celebration.

In JARC homes, residents are exposed to Jewish customs since many have not lived in the Jewish community before moving into JARC homes, Berry said.

With soft music playing in the background and a Yamulka on his head, Joe read the story of Hanukkah Tuesday night, taking time to explain each part.

He told listeners how the Syrians attempted to make the Jews worship Greek idols.

"What they were trying to do was take away the religion from the Jews which kept them strong for so many years," Joe said.

The Jewish people defeated the Syrians, but their temple in Jerusalem was desecrated. So the Jews cleaned the temple and reconstructed the altar, lighting an oil lamp to rededicate it.

Although there was only enough oil to last one day, that oil lasted 8 days and nights, according to the Hanukkah story.

"That's why we light the candles," Joe said. "We should celebrate this miracle every year." Metzger told the Shammias and lit the first candle following the reading. For each day of Hanukkah, which began Wednesday, Dec. 26, another candle on the Menorah is lit. Gifts are exchanged each of the 8 days and on the eighth day 8 gifts are exchanged.

The residents also enjoyed some traditional Hanukkah foods including potato latkes and Paczki, both of which are fried in oil.

"It's just to reinforce the Jewish part of the holiday, just for enjoyment," Elaine said.

"It just keeps the Jewish tradition alive," Joe said. "When our



Guiding light: Resident Denise Deskal lights another candle on the Menorah with the help of Joe Metzger during the Hanukkah celebration at JARC House in Farmington Hills attended by residents and family alike.

kids were small, we celebrated

■ 'That's why we light the candles. We should celebrate this miracle every year.'

Joe Metzger - family member

"We get plenty of presents and I'm just very happy."

"All of my life, I did not have religious beliefs in my home but now that I am with JARC, I go to the temple every week," Deskal said. "This is my favorite holiday."

"It's a happy holiday," said Barbara Hertberg, another Milan Home resident who said she was looking forward to seeing her fiancée during the holiday. "A miracle took place and the light burned for 8 days."

"It's exciting for me because for people who have had never had this, this is an opportunity for them to have a piece of the Jewish history," Berry said.

the holiday. It seemed like a natural outreach."

And it's something the residents look forward to every year.

"It's like the best of the holidays and every year we have a good good time," said Milan Home resident Denise Deskal.



Gathering: Everyone circles around Metzger as he explains Hanukkah.

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"However, if they haven't, we certainly would encourage them to call us instead of getting behind the wheel."

"I can't imagine not being able to find someone to drink with on drinking." "Our job is to make sure everyone gets home. Without the rides, people will have a tendency to try and drive their own cars when drinking."

ABC Cab in Livonia, which also covers Farmington Hills, has been part of Project Lifeline for 10 years.

Transport in Livonia, has been with Project Lifeline since day one.

"I work New Year's Eve myself to make certain everything is safe," said Peterson. "Our job is to make sure everyone gets home. Without the rides, people will have a tendency to try and drive their own cars when drinking."

ABC Cab in Livonia, which also covers Farmington Hills, has been part of Project Lifeline for 10 years.

"I think the program is great," said Val Duarard, office manager. "We get about 35 MADD calls during that evening."

Both cab operators say they don't have many problems with those who have had too much to drink.

"We're kind of used to drunks and how to handle them," said Duarard. "However, we've had no problems during all these years."

Peterson notes "most drinkers are

happy-go-lucky and don't cause any problems. One time a woman did take off all her clothes and throw them out the window. We ended up in Farmington Hills, before finding out she lived in Canton."

A recently released poll by EPIC/MR of Lansing shows about 8 percent of Michigan adults will drive at least once after drinking during the holiday season.

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Christmas and New Year's holidays," said Tracy Gies, Farmington director of Public Safety. "If you're on the road drunk and get caught, you're coming with us. We'll try to help if you call us, but if you get behind the wheel..."

The message is the same from John Santomauro, director of Public Safety for Canton Township.

"We have zero tolerance if you are caught drinking," said Santomauro. "You will be arrested and ticketed for drunk driving. We believe it's a very serious offense and treat it that way. We feel the public has been educated and the tone has been set."

While law enforcement officials are stern, most are quick to point out it's for the public's well-being, even those who drink.

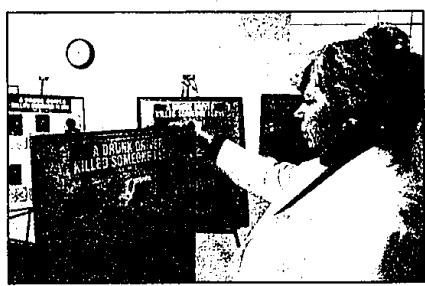
"This is the worst time of year to have a tragedy," said Gies. "The message is to drink responsibly. Turn the keys over to somebody else."

Spreading the word

"We have had great success in spreading the word about drinking and driving," said Michele Compton, chapter administrator for Mothers Against Drunk Driving in Oakland County. "People are starting to get the idea, but there is still a segment of the population that isn't getting it ... and it's very staggering and horrifying."

"Last year there were 656 alcohol-related traffic deaths in Michigan," said Carol Nalepka, who runs Wayne County's MADD. "The figures are getting lower, but they're still too high. A lot of the problems stem from repeat offenders, and they refuse to stop doing it."

In Wayne County, there were 68 alcohol-related deaths last year, while Oakland County recorded 29 fatalities involving drunk drivers.



Safety signs: Carol Nalepka of Wayne County MADD chapter scans posters urging caution during the holidays.

reach young kids before they reach the problem age. That's where the hope is."

Unfortunately, children are many times the victims of drunken drivers. "I find it frustrating, and I get annoyed, that drinking has to be a part of holiday parties," said Midge Klenke of Farmington Hills.

Klenke's frustrations come not only because she is a non-drinker, but the fact that she lost her 13-year-old son, David, as the result of a drunk driver.

David, and his younger brother, Stephen, were riding bicycles home from school in September 1995 when he was struck by a hit-and-run drunk driver at 10 Mile and Middlebelt.

"It's been very difficult, especially since we drive through that intersection on a daily basis," said Klenke. "And, I worry about the long-range effect on Stephen who was left there with his brother's body."

Christopher Smith Jr. eventually pleaded no contest to the charges against him, and was sentenced as a habitual criminal to six-30 years in prison.

police are doing a good job, but I'm not sure of the justice system," said Klenke, who is disappointed in the sentence.

"We've got to have stiff sentences for first time drunk driving offenders before they kill somebody. It should be a stiff penalty so it hurts, so they understand."

The criminal justice system appears to know it has been commanded by the public to be tough on drunken drivers.

Public pressure

"There has been a lot of public attention to drunk driving, so the courts are giving it more serious attention," said Judge Richard Hammer of 21st District Court in Garden City. "The courts have to take a firm stand, be tough minded."

"I believe we are getting tougher with the criminal sector," said Hammer. "We aren't accepting excuses anymore."

Traci Colangelo of Redford Township doesn't have to think long to remind her not to drink and drive.

Her sister's fiancée was killed by a drunk driver almost three years ago. I feel strongly about drunk drivers on the road because of her loss.

"My husband and I own a business, and we take our employees out for the holidays. However, we set limits on drinking so we and the restaurant don't become responsible ... and so they get home safely."

Some of the responsibility of curbing drunken driving has to come from both homeowners who give parties, and business establishments which serve alcohol.

Hosts of holiday parties need to be aware of what their guests are consuming.

"If you are hosting a party, you need to be fully aware of what guests are drinking," said Nancy Cain, public relations manager for AAA Michigan. "Calling a cab for guests who are too impaired, or finding guests a place for the night, is the responsibility of the party host."

Cain suggests you become a friend, more than just a host.

"Never force alcoholic drinks on anyone," said Cain.

Party hosts can also help by planning a proper menu.

"Serve protein-rich, starchy foods (like potatoes and sausages) which will help retard alcohol absorption," suggested Cain.

Those who are drinking aren't free from responsibility.

"Anyone who plans on drinking should make arrangements beforehand," said Cain. "That could be calling a cab, finding a place to sleep, or having a designated driver."

Of course, not every party needs alcohol to be fun and successful. In fact, for 19 years AAA Michigan has put out its "Great Festivals Party Guide", which this year has 21 non-alcoholic drink recipes that can be served at parties. The guide is free to anyone who steps at any AAA Michigan office.