

POLICE AND FIRE NEWS

The following are police and fire incidents that occurred in Farmington and Farmington Hills during the past week.

SUSPICIOUS PERSON

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In Farmington Hills:
An off-duty officer who was withdrawing cash from an ATM at Michigan National Bank became suspicious when a man suddenly appeared and began looking around around 11 p.m. Feb. 25. The man disappeared for a few moments and then reappeared behind a wall with his hands in his pockets. The officer turned around and drew his weapon and ordered the man to freeze. The man ran off.

THEFT

In Farmington Hills:
Someone stole a \$1,300 air compressor from a 1997 Chevy S-10 pickup truck on Rensselaer

the night of Feb. 25-26.

A thief stole a \$27,000 1998 Mobart chipper from a M&R Tree Service on Howard Street between Feb. 23-28.

LAPTOPS RECOVERED

In Farmington Hills:
Police arrested two men, ages 35 and 24, after three laptop computers worth \$18,000 were stolen from Silicon Graphics on 12 Mile Feb. 25. The pair, who are flooring employees, were seen on videotape stealing the laptops. Police found the computers as well as a bag of marijuana and a crack pipe on one of the men.

DRUNKEN DRIVING

In Farmington Hills:

Police arrested a Belleville man, 28, for drunken driving on westbound Grand River at 10:40 p.m. Feb. 26. Police stopped the 1988 Dodge Dynasty for running a stop sign. The driver had a blood alcohol level of .12 percent. It is illegal to drive with a blood alcohol level of .10 percent.

Police arrested a Farmington woman, 38, for drunken driving on westbound Grand River and Middlebelt at 7:55 p.m. Feb. 27. Police stopped the 1980 Ford Fairmont for swerving on the road. The driver had a blood alcohol level of .20 percent.

Police arrested a Westland man, 62, who was slumped over

the wheel of a 1987 Ford Escort on westbound Eight Mile at 2:30 a.m. Feb. 28. The driver, whom officers awoke, had a blood alcohol level of .21 percent.

Police also arrested a Roseville woman, 42, for driving with a blood alcohol level of .11 percent on 13 Mile and Mullane at 3 a.m. Feb. 28. A Farmington Hills man, 25, was arrested for driving while intoxicated on Shiloh and Middlebelt at 3:50 a.m. Feb. 28. He had a blood alcohol level of .21 percent.

MARIJUANA FOUND

In Farmington Hills:
Police arrested a Farmington Hills woman, 26, after finding 9

grams of marijuana in her purse Feb. 27. Police questioned the woman, who was a passenger in a car parked outside 7-Eleven on Middlebelt and Nine Mile. Police took the driver, a Hills man, 36, into custody on several outstanding warrants.

BREAK-INS

In Farmington Hills:

Someone stole an AM/FM cassette and CD player after breaking the window on 1999 Chrysler Towne & Country parked at Snethkamp Chrysler on Grand River and Nine Mile Feb. 28, causing \$1,200 damage.

SHOPLIFTING

In Farmington Hills:

Police arrested a Detroit woman, 41, for stealing two bottles of perfume - with her 15-year-old daughter in tow - at Loehman's on Orchard Lake and 14 Mile Feb. 28.

INTRUDER

In Farmington Hills:

A 19-year-old woman said she was attacked by a man who ripped her T-shirt while trying to rape her in her Albion Street home shortly after 3 a.m. Feb. 26. The victim told police she was sleeping when her dog started to bark. When she went to let the dog out, an unknown man grabbed her from behind and forced her on the floor where he ripped her T-shirt. A physician at Botsford said cuts on the woman's arms and neck appeared to have been made with a cutting instrument while the T-shirt also appeared to have been slashed rather than torn.

BURGLARY

In Farmington Hills:

Police arrested a 17-year-old North Farmington High student after she broke into a Saratoga Farms Condominium residence around 3:45 a.m. Feb. 26. After kicking in a basement window, the girl went to a bedroom where the homeowner's 23-year-old daughter slept and wanted to know the whereabouts of her brother. The woman got out of bed and the girl fell to the floor. Police arrived and took the girl into custody. After being taken to Botsford Hospital where her stomach was pumped, the girl refused to give her name and had to be later identified by a North Farmington High assistant principal. She had a blood alcohol level of .19 percent. Another Saratoga residence was damaged after someone tried to break in the same night.

BUSINESS BURGLARIES

In Farmington Hills:

Someone stole 38 cartons of cigarettes after smashing the front door window at Dandy Oil on Middlebelt Feb. 26.

Drug bill is sponsored

Michigan families on welfare who need help breaking the cycle of drug addiction got help from the state House vote to establish drug testing and treatment programs for welfare recipients.

House Majority Floor Leader Andrew Raczowski is co-sponsoring House Bills 4090-91, which create pilot programs in three counties. Welfare applicants with children are tested for illegal drugs and referred to health officials for treatment if they test positive. "Anyone in the throes of drug addiction has an extremely difficult time providing proper care to their children, let alone getting off welfare rolls," said Raczowski, R-Farmington Hills. "While taxpayers feed the drug habits of recipients, it is the children that invariably suffer."

Drug and alcohol abuse causes seven out of 10 cases of child abuse or neglect, according to a national study. It also found that one in every four welfare recipients abuses alcohol and drugs.

"For the sake of Michigan children, we must not sit idly by until a problem develops before dealing with the aftermath of drug addiction," Raczowski said. "Let's get some of our most vulnerable residents help before it's too late."

Raczowski said the legislation is part of Michigan's overall effort to reform welfare in a way that empowers people.

The welfare drug-testing bills now go to the Senate for consideration.

"Children deserve parents who are drug free and taxpayers need to know their hard-earned money isn't going to buy drugs," Raczowski said.

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