

Brazen bandit hits Hills Fairfield Inn

After telling customers in the lobby of the Fairfield Inn by Marriott to be quiet, a man armed with a 12-gauge shotgun on Friday jumped over the desk and made off with \$200.

The robbery occurred at 5:30 p.m. Farmington Hills Police Chief William Dwyer said. "It was very brazen to go in there and that time and it was fortunate no one got hurt."

Farmington Hills Police said the man was last seen on foot, heading in the direction of a nearby Subway restaurant.

Police patrol officers drove to the Fairfield Inn, 27777 Stansbury Boulevard, on a call that an armed robbery was in progress.

Witnesses told police they saw a man walk

through the front door of the hotel carrying a 12-gauge shotgun in a brown case. After jumping over the counter with the shotgun, he told a clerk, 21, to give him money from a place cash was kept.

After taking the money, the shotgun-toting thief left the hotel.

In the incident report, a Georgia man who witnessed the robbery described to police how he directed his family to a safe area as the incident played out.

The thief was described as a light-skinned African American man, 5 feet 10 inches, 175-180 pounds, wearing a black ski mask and a long beige coat.



Cited: Christine Mienke, Tara Clayton, David H. Trombley (attorney), Herman and Susan Mienke got together recently to talk about the Treehouse citations.

Farmington tickets Treehouse

By SUE BUCK
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The City of Farmington and The Tree House for Earth's Children on Mooney Avenue continue their legal entanglement, which began earlier this year with the business' creation of an urban garden.

The city wrote up four violations Thursday:

- failure to obtain site plan approval for the planting area
- parking lot not maintained
- Mooney Street right of way not maintained
- no approval for outdoor seating.

"We just want them to do what we want," said John Donohue, an attorney who represents the city.

The court date for the civil infraction is Aug. 2 before Judge Fred Harris in 47th District Court.

Fines are at the discretion of the court, but Donohue said each count could carry a \$150 fine.

Susan Meinke, who acts as the family spokeswoman, said she didn't know about the July 19 ticket until the day after it was issued. The family had a booth at the Farmington Area Founders Festival last weekend.

When Susan Meinke returned to the store to wait for a produce delivery, she spotted the ticket. The store is owned by Christine, Susan's daughter.

"I had a long crying session, but now I'm getting mad," Susan Meinke said.

She believes the property is properly maintained. The right of way is mowed once

a week. The family "put picnic tables up four years ago and the wrought iron table set about one year ago. She wonders why the city is focusing

on the outdoor seating now. An original ticket cited Christine Meinke for improperly used cement cinder blocks and ordered her to court May 22. Though visiting Judge John Dillon gave both parties 60 days to resolve their differences, neither contacted the other.

"We haven't heard from David Trombley (the Meinke's attorney) since that date," Donohue said Tuesday.

Trombley couldn't be reached for comment.

Donohue most recently asked

Please see TREEHOUSE, A5

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