

Police believe thieves used one car to steal another

BY SUE BUCK
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Farmington Police believe two stolen auto incidents that occurred last week during the period between July 26-28 are related.

Farmington Public Safety Director Gary Goss referred to a recovered Dodge Stratus as a "drop car." That means thieves use one car, typically a stolen car, to steal another car.

In this case a lesser valued car was exchanged for one of greater value, Goss explained.

While police were at Kinglane Apartments on Kinglane Court taking a stolen car report on a \$16,000 Chrysler Cirrus, they found an \$8,000 Dodge Stratus parked under the carport.

The woman reporting the

stolen Chrysler told police she parked her car under the carport about 2 p.m. July 26. She returned about 10:30 a.m. July 28 and noticed her car was missing. No one had permission to use the car and she had both sets of keys.

Residents told police they didn't know the owner of the Dodge found under the car port, according to a police report.

The responding officer saw that the trunk on the Dodge was open but there was no damage to the steering column.

A police dispatcher contacted the owner of the Dodge who lives at nearby Kensington Manor Apartments.

He told police he parked his car about 11:30 p.m. July 25. He was unaware his car had been taken.

POLICE CALLS

PLUMBING STOLEN

An estimated \$13,000 in plumbing materials were reported stolen July 27 from a home under construction on Crawford Court in Farmington Hills.

According to the incident report taken by Farmington Hills Police, the materials were discovered missing by the owner at 4:30 p.m.

NO WORK FOR PAY

A Farmington Hills woman, 40, reported to police July 28 that she had given a man a check for \$3,600 on April 27 to perform work on her house, but she had not seen him since.

The woman told police the man promised to begin work within a month of receiving the check. She said the check had been cashed, but no work was performed. The woman showed police a copy of the invoice and told them she had tried and failed to contact the man.

GUNSHOT VICTIM

Police received a call from Botsford Hospital at 4 p.m. July 28 after a man was dropped off at the hospital after being shot.

The man said he was in Detroit on Westbrook Street when an older model white Ford Escort pulled up and a man got out, said "What's Up?" and shot him. The victim told police he had been dropped off by a friend.

The report did not give the man's age or his medical condition.

HIT WITH HUBCAP

A Farmington Hills woman, 29, was arrested July 29 on a charge of domestic violence after she hit her 31-year-old boyfriend between the eyes with a hubcap,

drawing blood.

Farmington Hills Police were called at 1 a.m. to a home on Cadillac. Police said the woman was visibly intoxicated.

She told police she and her boyfriend got into an argument, and she pulled the wheel covers from her car, which he had been driving. The woman then struck him with a hubcap, because "she didn't want him to take her car," according to the incident report.

GARAGE THEFT

Farmington Hills Police were called at 1 p.m. July 29 to a theft from a garage on Albion Street.

Thieves opened an unlocked bay door and took a lawn mower, mini bike, miter saw, shop vacuum, weed trimmer and extension cord; all valued at more than \$1,000 by the homeowner.

CRACK ARREST

Farmington Hills Police arrested a Wixom man July 29 for crack cocaine possession, after a traffic stop.

The man was stopped at 7:30 p.m. for having an air freshener hang from his rear view mirror in such a way as to cause a vision obstruction.

Police said that after the man was pulled over, he began to pull over his 1995 Dodge Neon, his right shoulder dipped several times as if he was placing something on the floor.

After the man stepped from the car, police searched him and found a rock of suspected crack cocaine in a plastic bag hidden in the man's sock. In addition to drug possession, the man was also charged with driving while license suspended and vision obstruction.

Teen organizes successful fund-raiser

BY SUE BUCK
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Imagine rounding up all the people who made a difference in your life of 18 years and getting them to perform on stage before an audience of 300.

That's what Rebecca Singer did last Thursday night at North Farmington High School, where she graduated this year. The event, in which she also sang, raised money to start a music program at a Detroit elementary school.

"It happened," Singer exclaimed with delight after the show as her arms became weighted down with congratulatory bouquets.

Before graduation, Singer whose nickname is Becca, turned down her family's offer for an open-house party, hoping that donations could instead be funneled to Logan Elementary School in southwest Detroit. She visited and sang there while a student at North.

It took a while and some planning, but Singer pulled off the benefit performance, "Make a Difference," in which she also sang. Her father, Marvin estimated Friday at least \$1,000 will be donated to Logan Elementary from the Thursday evening event.

"She worked hard," he said. Marvin, from whom Becca acquired her initial love of music, sings around the house and has a love of spirituals. He belted out "Go Down, Moses" to thunderous applause.

"Sometimes it seems like a hard world, but there is a lot of beauty in so many people," Marvin Singer said.

Singer produced a program featuring 17 songs, which could rival an entire high school performance. The North Farmington High School Steel Band greeted guests as they arrived and departed.

"Music has been a necessity throughout my schooling," Singer wrote in the program. "After visiting an inner city school that lacked the vitality of music in its halls, I felt compelled to help. Hopefully, this concert will be a spark, as the opening number suggests, igniting others to offer their own gifts in praise of music."

Jan Brachel served as musical director and pianist for the performance. The choir director at NFS, she helped with the program.

Dean Cobb and Jim Sturdy of TV-10 filmed the performance on VHS. It is available for a donation of \$15 to Logan Elementary School.

Singer, who is working as a nanny this summer, combined her singing efforts with Taylor and Elliott, twin sons of Mike and Carrie Saxton-Woods, for whom she baby-sits. Mike Woods also took part.

Singer has cared for the Woods boys while Carrie Woods recovers from brain surgery in June. Carrie Woods was also present in the audience.

"Becca never quit," Mike Woods said. "She's exceptional."

Two Hebrew songs were included in the program. They were: "Uf Gosal" (Fly Away, Fledgling), sung by Robin Lash, and "Yihye Tov" (It Will Be All Right), performed by Singer. Both English and Hebrew versions were included in the program booklet.

Singer will depart in August for New York University, where she will major in vocal performance and music theater. It leaves her parents, Marvin and Ruth, with an empty nest.

"I understand that this is the way of nature," reads the last verse of "Uf Gosal." "And I, too, have left a nest once. Yet now, when the moment comes, I have a lump in my throat."

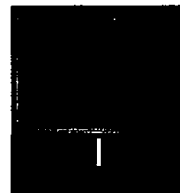
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