

POLICE AND FIRE CALLS

SONIC AWARD

For the second straight year, the South Oakland Narcotics Intelligence Consortium has been presented with the Special Agency Award at the opening session of the International Drug Conference in West Palm Beach, Fla.

SONIC, which includes officers from Farmington Hills, West Bloomfield, Novi and the Oakland County Sheriff's Department, is managed by the Farmington Hills Police Department. It is one of only a few undercover consortiums run by local agencies in the United States.

The award was based on

expansion of the unit in the past year, and for its work to dismantle drug rings and to arrest high level drug dealers.

EMPLOYEE BUSTED

A 17-year-old Southfield woman employed at Old Navy was

Orchard Lake Road was arrested on a charge of theft Oct. 19, after telling a security employee she had falsified 30 customer return slips from Aug. 25 to Oct. 14, and had taken \$6,461 from the cash register and stuffed it in her shoe over that period.

CAR BREAK-IN

A thief possibly used a screwdriver to steal a car CD player-radio after breaking the driver's side window of a 1989 Pontiac Grand Prix, parked Oct. 20 on Randall Street.

According to the Hills police report, the car was parked on the street. The theft was discovered at 11:45 a.m.

TOOLS GONE

Tools valued by their owner at \$1,340 were discovered missing from a 1998 Dodge minivan

parked Oct. 20 on Independence Street.

According to the Hills police report, the van was likely unlocked and the theft happened overnight.

DOOR SMASHED

A concrete chunk was used to smash the front door of Citgo, 29370 W.12 Mile, and store video tape showed a man taking cartons of cigarettes from a cabinet. The video revealed no getaway vehicle, according to the Hills police report.

MORE VANDALISM

A Farmington Hills woman, 29, told police Oct. 21 that the rear window of her 1995 Pontiac Grand Prix was shattered by a large rock, which was then left on her back seat.



PHOTO BY IAN FORNEY

No injuries: Farmington Hills fire department responded to a fire at a home on Sans Souci Monday at 3:57 p.m., with six trucks and 22 firefighters. Upon arriving, they saw the living room of the home was on fire, said Pete Baldwin, deputy fire chief. The fire, which burned through the ceiling into the attic, took 30 minutes to extinguish. The family was not at home when the blaze started; no one was injured. The cause is under investigation. Property loss was estimated at \$150,000 and contents loss at \$75,000, Baldwin said.



Livonia Mall cancels trick-or-treating

By CHRISTINA FUOCO
STAFF WRITER

Livonia Mall has decided to cancel its trick-or-treating event due to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on New York, Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania.

"After considering national events and the concerns of the public, we've chosen to modify our event," said Bobbi Gelman, mall marketing director. "We are canceling the trick-or-treating on Halloween night. On Oct. 27, we will have our Halloween Fest."

Halloween Fest will feature a

magic show at noon, a costume contest at 2 p.m., and Halloween crafts presented by Arts and Crafts from 1-3 p.m.

The Livonia Mall is one of many area shopping centers that have canceled trick-or-treating out of fears that candy and other food items will be poisoned. Twelve Oaks, Summit Place in Pontiac and Great Lakes Crossing in Auburn Hills are on the list, according to Gelman.

Generally, I was watching local news stations to kind of see what others were doing. Most are wanting to stay within their own neighborhoods when it

comes to trick-or-treating."

She explained that mall management reviews its policy about trick-or-treating on an annual basis. But recent anthrax illnesses (confirmed and hoaxes) have forced the mall to cancel the event this year.

"It's always something we've had to look at every year, in terms of trick-or-treating," Gelman said. "This year, it was heightened because of national events."

The administrative offices at Laurel Park Place and Wonderland Mall said their events are still scheduled.

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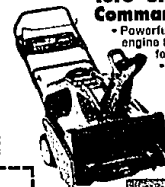
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