

Teen thieves caught in act

Four male teenagers arrested by the South Oakland Narcotics Intelligence Consortium (SONIC) Oct. 23 may be responsible for up to 100 automobile break-ins in Farmington Hills, Novi, West Bloomfield Township and area communities.

SONIC surveillance officers followed a vehicle and watched the suspects break into autos.

The teens were arrested when they left a subdivision at 10 Mile and Meadowbrook in Novi.

Their vehicle contained stolen phones and other electronic devices, CDs, sunglasses and more, as well as burglary tools.

Two suspects, ages 16 and 18, are from Farmington Hills; one, age 17, is from Farmington and an 18-year-old is from Lathrup Village.

All four are charged with various counts of conspiracy to commit breaking and entering of autos, and breaking into motor vehicles.

The Farmington youth was also charged with a home invasion.

Farmington Hills Police Chief William Dwyer credits SONIC officers from Farmington Hills, Novi, West Bloomfield, and the Oakland County Sheriff's Department with outstanding surveillance work.

According to Dwyer, detectives from all of the departments are busy matching pieces of stolen property to larceny reports by each department.

The teens mostly targeted unlocked vehicles looking for money in purses and wallets. Chief Dwyer reminds drivers to lock their car doors when leaving their vehicles.

A locked automobile reduces the opportunity for a crime and the odds of victimization.



World War II veterans who left high school to serve in the war recently received their diplomas at the annual Senior Adult Forum breakfast. Pictured left to right: Ed Mofitt, Thomas Sabo, Earl Bliss, Lucila Chalmers (receiving for her husband, Joe Chalmers), Moses Cholmakjian and Wayne Kanack.

Veterans receive diplomas at senior breakfast

Six veterans received long-hoped-for high school diplomas Oct. 22, during the annual Senior Adult Forum Breakfast at the William Costick Activities Center.

It was the first time veterans have been honored during the breakfast, which drew a record 350 senior citizens.

The veterans missed the chance to cross their high school stages more than a half century ago because they were sidelined by a greater calling — World War II. Just as with today's graduates, the seniors received their honors to the traditional march, "Pomp and Circumstance."

Anne Knutson, of the district's school/community relations department, handled the arrangements for the men, most of whom live in the Farmington area. They contacted the school district after a Summer 2002 Update newsletter told about the state legislature's decision to grant diplomas to veterans.

"They went forward and served their country with honor, courage and bravery," Supt. Robert Masfield said. "They came back, went to work, raised their families and went on with their lives. The legislature said those folks have more than paid their dues."

Honored were:

- Earl Bliss, who was a pilot in the Army Air Force from 1943-46. He attended Wilbur Wright High School, Detroit.
- Joseph Chalmers (Cholmakjian), who served as a Second Lieutenant in the Army Artillery from 1942-1944. He attended Wilbur Wright High School, Detroit. His wife, Lucia, represented him.
- Moses Cholmakjian, who served in the Army from 1941-45, 16 months of which was spent as a machine gunner in the Aleutian Islands. He attended Wilbur Wright High School, Detroit.
- Wayne Kanack, an anti-tank gunner and Corporal who served in the Army from 1943-45. He fought in the Battle of the Bulge and spent 32 days with General George Patton in Czechoslovakia. He was scarred in battle three times, received a Purple Heart and the Victory Medal. He attended Northwestern High School, Detroit.
- Ed Mofitt, who served as a Machinist's Mate Specialist third class in the U. S. Navy from 1944-46, fought in the Pacific and received the Victory Medal. He attended Plymouth High School.
- Thomas Sabo, who was a Private First Class sharp shooter, served in the Army from 1946-49. He received the WWII Victory Medal in the Army of Occupation in Germany. He attended Redford High School, Detroit, and Boys & Girls Republic, Farmington Hills.

LEACH

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12 School Board meeting.

"I'd like as many people as there can be included," Garrison said. "This is an important issue."

The informal meeting with Leach was tentatively scheduled for Nov. 12, most likely in the late afternoon. The formal interview will take place on Nov. 14, at 6 p.m., prior to the board's regular meeting.



Leach

Before taking the interim post, Leach had planned to retire and spend more time with her family. What changed her mind?

"It's been a great opportunity," she said after Thursday's meeting. "I have my family's full support. My son is excited that Mom's going to be the boss."

Veteran grads must meet requirements

Applications are available for any person who wishes to obtain a high school diploma for a person — living or deceased — who left high school to serve in World War II.

The application must include necessary documentation to verify service and eligibility. To be eligible for a diploma, veterans must meet all of the following criteria:

- The military veteran is at least age 65, if living, or had attained at least age 65, if deceased.
- Before graduation from a high school, the veteran enlisted in or was drafted into the United States Armed Forces during World War II between Dec. 16, 1940 and Dec. 31, 1946.
- At the time he or she was drafted into or enlisted in the U. S. Armed Forces, the military veteran was enrolled in a high school in the school district to which the application is made.
- The veteran did not graduate from high school.
- The veteran served under honorable conditions during World War II.
- The application may be completed by the veteran, the veteran's spouse, brother, sister, child or grandchild.

The application requires a copy of the veteran's discharge from military service indicating honorable service between the dates of Dec. 16, 1940 and Dec. 31, 1946.

The applicant's signature certifies the remaining information.

Farmington/Farmington Hills residents who want more information should call Anne Knutson, Farmington Public Schools School/Community relations department, at (248) 489-3349.

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This material was developed through a project funded by the Michigan Truck Safety Commission.

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