

police beat

Editor's note: The following column is the first of a series of articles written for the Farmington Observer by Chris Cogar of the Farmington Hills Police Department's Crime Prevention Unit.

Every burglar requires at least two essential elements to complete his crime — a victim and opportunity. Since it is impossible to completely remove the criminal element from our society, the individual citizen must become security conscious and take an active role in "crime proofing" the home.

There is no way you can make your residence 100 percent burglar proof, but there are a number of simple, inexpensive steps you can take to make your home more secure from unwanted entry and to better protect your possessions. To accomplish these objectives, the following suggestions should be considered:

• **AVOID LOOKING** like a good target — Keep your house well lit both inside and out during evening hours. Collect mail and newspapers daily or arrange to have this done while you are away. Keep your trees and shrubs trimmed to provide a clear view of your home. Keep your garage door closed and valuable items out of sight.

• **RECOGNIZE** the specific points of vulnerability — Objectively exam-

ine your home and surrounding property. Check the condition of all entry points, (doors and windows) and look for any weaknesses that a burglar would see when he wants to enter your house, garage or shed. The Farmington Hills Police Department's Crime Prevention Unit will provide residential security surveys, free of charge, to residents. Call the Crime Prevention Unit at 474-6181 for an appointment.

• **INITIATE ACTION** to secure those areas of vulnerability — Make it difficult for the burglar to enter your home by increasing home security. Experts believe that the average burglar will not complete his crime if he is delayed by as little as four minutes. If forcing entry into your residence requires a lot of time, noise or effort, the burglar will most likely move to something easier or less dangerous.

• **USE SECURITY** devices you have installed — Obvious devices, perhaps, but often ignored. In more than 40 percent of home burglaries, the thief has gained entrance by merely walking in an unlocked door or crawling through an unlocked window.

• **MAKE IT DIFFICULT** for the burglar to take anything of value — Never accumulate large sums of cash in the home. Secure expensive items of jewelry in a safety deposit box. Hide these items you do have at home

in a location that is not obvious — avoid the bedroom dresser drawer.

PARTICIPATE IN COMMUNITY crime prevention programs — The Operation Identification program offers the homeowner a positive action approach which will substantially increase the recovery of stolen property and may even reduce the risk of theft. Engrave your valuables with the state of Michigan. Call the Farmington Hills Crime Prevention Unit at 474-6181.

Start a Neighborhood Watch. Get to know your neighbors and work together to give the effect that detection by you, your neighbor or the police can't be avoided. Burglars have been known to leave areas that actively participate in Neighborhood Watch programs in order to go to areas that do not.

Remember, the first step toward crime prevention is the involvement of concerned citizens. By following the advice and precautions listed above, the odds are greatly in your favor that a would-be burglar will bypass your home and move on to an easier target.

Watch for future articles which will provide Crime Prevention tips.

AAA adds telephone service

A 24-hour toll-free telephone service is available for AAA Michigan members and business hours will be extended for the Farmington office. The changes began June 3.

Hours at the Farmington branch will be extended one hour from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. "The new statewide AAA Member Service Center offers our 1.3 million members a fast, convenient alternative to visiting their local offices simply by using the telephone," stated Kenneth Gates, AAA Michigan Member Service Director.

The center is in AAA's Dearborn Administrative Building.

Members will find the telephone number on their membership cards. They will be able to call and immediately receive road condition reports, request travel routings, make reservations or have questions answered about

insurance coverage, boat and homeowners insurance; information on billings; car leasing line, cruise, hotel and car rental reservations also will be available.

Students honored

Named to the dean's list in recognition for superior academic achievement during the past term at Madonna College in Livonia were the following Farmington students: Claudia Clarizio, Lucy Cocimiglio, Karen Devine, Kathryn Dieroff, Dorothy Donovan, Sheila Easton, Joyce Hunt, Dianne Klotz, Nancy Leszczynski and Jill Vayko.

Also: Barbara Aho, Melinda Bartlett, Cynthia Carrier, Bernadette Carroll, Jennifer Dahlstrom, Nancy DeLeon, Jlene Hunt, Virginia June, Kathleen Kelly, Patrick LaFave, Donna Martell, Deanna Miller, Kimberley Pettie, Barbara Richardson, Anne Marie Snyder and Lisa Thanos, Susan Vargovick, Patty Wanck and Kathleen Watson.

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Gridiron members sought

The Farmington Founders' Festival is right around the corner and it's time once again for the Farmington Observer staff to put together the annual Founders' Festival tabloid.

This year we are trying to incorporate some new stories into the tab and we need your help.

We are interested in contacting members of Farmington High School's

1944 football team. The team was undefeated that year and we would like team members to reminisce about their glory days for us.

Team members were: Bill Brooks, Harold Turner, Don Gramer, Milton Knight, Bob McLean, Clyde Yokum, Bob Carlee, Donald Robman, Bill Blight, Dave Carey, Jerry Fisher, Bob Newlin, Bob Miller, Rennie Bacon, Bud

AschenBrenner, Fred Hamlin, Elliot Tyler, Corky DeVriendt, Dick Bingham, Norman Goers, Bud Locker, Bob Chesley, Sam Erwin, Ed Norton, Jimmy Joy, Mat Erwin, Cyril Schniers, Bill Van Hulle and Jack Brown.

If you were a member of that team or know of the whereabouts of any of the members, please contact Jean Adamczak at the Observer, 477-5450.

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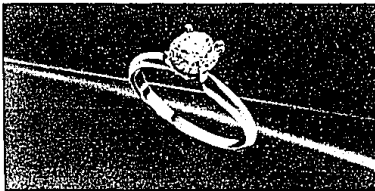
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