

Car windows are target of vandals

By Bob Sklar
staff writer

Windows in more than 130 cars in Farmington, Farmington Hills and Novi have been shot out in the past two weeks during a vandalism spree that has prompted stepped-up neighborhood police patrols.

Cars have been parked either on the street or in a drive. Weapons are believed to include a wristrocket and a

BB gun. "We've recovered ball bearings from a wristrocket," Farmington Hills Sgt. Charles Nebus said.

Incidents have occurred after 11 p.m., with many after 2 a.m. Most have occurred Saturdays and Sundays. With most incidents involving more than \$100 in damage, "we're talking about a great deal of dollar loss," Deputy Director Gary Goss of the Farmington Department of Public Safety said.

In Farmington, 37 reports of car

vandalism came in Oct. 27-28 and Nov. 3. Many reports were in the Power and Maple areas and in Cutham Hills.

In Farmington Hills, more than 50 reports have been taken during the past two weeks. Vandalism has been concentrated west of Orchard Lake, mainly in the Nine Mile/Halsted, 11 Mile/Drake and 13 Mile Farmington areas.

THE CULPRITS are believed to be teen-agers, Nebus said.

"We've increased our patrols in these subdivisions. And our youth section officers are contacting the schools to gain leads," he said.

Added Goss, "We've increased our subdivision checks dramatically. We've recontacted our focus, particularly on the midnight shift, where we feel the majority of incidents are happening."

"We've recommended that residents in affected areas park in their garages or as far up in their drives as they

can," Nebus said. "We've told them to keep their cars off the street, where possible, to reduce the odds of attack."

Nebus also recommends increased outdoor lighting. "Make sure you turn on floodlights and porchlights," he said.

NEBUS HOPES someone will provide a description or license-plate number of the culprit's vehicle. "Obviously, it's more difficult to solve a crime when related incidents are occurring in different sections of the city and in different cities," he said.

"Anybody who hears anything or sees anything suspicious, we want to know about it as soon as possible," Goss said.

"A person could be out walking a dog or coming home late and see something he or she just doesn't feel right about. Very often, that person will shrug it

off. But those are the people we need to call on."

MANY VICTIMS aren't bearing the sound of cars passing or glass breaking. "They're just surprised in the morning to find their car in the condition it is," Nebus said.

A possible suspect vehicle is a late-model, light-colored Chevrolet Caprice or Impala.

If a car matching that description is seen in your neighborhood after night-fall, Nebus urges you to call your local police agency.

With a quiet Devil's Night, "we thought the vandalism was over with," Nebus said. "Then we were hit again this past weekend."

Conviction of malicious destruction of property over \$100 is a felony punishable by up to four years in prison and a \$2,000 fine.

Alleged prostitution fought

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Only one of five owners of buildings housing Oriental health spas — believed to be part of an organized prostitution ring — has responded to police requests to stop alleged illegal sexual activity on their Farmington Hills property.

"I got a letter from one owner indicating they were going to take action,"

said Police Chief William Dwyer Tuesday.

Building-owners were notified by letter about two weeks ago, shortly after Farmington Hills Police charged 16 Oriental women and one man with illegal sexual activity following raids Oct. 7-8 on five Oriental health spas.

Two of the building owners are from Southfield, one from Livonia, another from West Bloomfield Township and one from Redford Township. Building

Pizza places' cash taken

A Little Caesar's in Farmington Hills was the target of a stickup Sunday afternoon. Another, in Farmington, was the scene of a break-in earlier that day.

In Farmington Hills, three men held an employee at bay while robbing the Little Caesar's at 28728 Grand River of an undetermined amount of cash at 12:20 p.m. Sunday, according to a police report.

According to the report, three men believed to be in their 20s approached the counter and ordered two large pizzas. As the employee began to make them, one of the men started to talk about boxing.

After the employee went to the freezer, he found the three men standing outside of it — one holding a sawed-off shotgun pulled from a duffel bag.

When the employee hesitated opening a safe when directed to do so, one of the bandits knocked him to the floor. The bandits then took money from the safe and a cash register. They fled af-

ter locking the employee in a back room.

MEANWHILE, \$150 was stolen from the Little Caesar's, 35109 Grand River, early Sunday, according to Deputy Director Gary Goss of the Farmington Department of Public Safety.

The north main door of that Little Caesar's was smashed to gain entry. Glass shattered 25 feet into the building. The break-in occurred sometime between 11:30 and 7:35 a.m. Money was taken from a dropbox and a cash register, Goss said.

Six days earlier, two men, one toting a long gun, robbed a Little Caesar's at 23230 11 Mile in Farmington Hills of \$250. The stickup occurred at 5:50 p.m. "It appears there's a connection between the two Farmington Hills robberies," Hills Police Sgt. Dennis Rochford said. "One of the men involved in the Sunday robbery appears to resemble a composite of one of the men involved in the earlier robbery."

owners do not operate the spas. Although the five spas have reopened, business is reported down by about 80 percent, Dwyer said.

FOLLOWING A pretrial conference with attorneys for the 17 suspects, Judge Margaret Schaeffer of Farmington set a Nov. 12 deadline for motions to be filed. Attorneys' motions could include a request for discovery — requiring the police to turn over information regarding the case. Jury trial dates are expected to be scheduled by Jan. 5. Some of the suspects' trials might be consolidated, Schaeffer said.

The 17 suspects were charged with misdemeanor ordinance violations. The maximum penalty upon conviction of aiding and abetting prostitution as well as soliciting and soliciting charges brought against the suspects — is 90 days in jail and a \$500 fine.

The raids were the result of a six-week police investigation stemming from residents' complaints of prostitution and other sex-related offenses at the storefront spas, police said.

Of the 17 arrested in the raids, 14 are Korean citizens, one is a Japanese citizen and the other two are U.S. citizens.

THE HEALTH spas raided were: Sun

Spa, 29402 Orchard Lake Road; Keiko Spa, 25515 Nine Mile; Kim's Spa, 30322 Nine Mile; Tokyo Oriental Health Spa, 28841 Orchard Lake; and Osaka Oriental Health Spa, 38409 10 Mile.

Police believe the alleged prostitution in Farmington Hills may be connected to an international organization, thought to be controlled by Koreans, that recruits U.S. servicemen to marry Korean women and bring them into the country. The servicemen are paid \$5,000 to marry the women and another \$2,000 or more to divorce them once in the United States, Dwyer said.

The Korean women are placed in spas, similar to those in Farmington Hills, to work and repay the money owed to the international organization for the marriage and divorce proceedings. Although the servicemen have been linked to bringing the Korean women into the country, they have not been linked to the alleged prostitution ring, Dwyer said.

As a result of the raids, police also ticketed and released seven men for alleged loitering in a place of illegal occupation. Customers were believed to be charged \$50-\$60 for a variety of sex acts, Dwyer said.

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