

police/fire calls

Listed below are some of the Farmington-area police incidents, fire calls and court cases reported during the past week:

UNARMED ROBBERY

A 20-year-old Hazel Park woman wasn't hurt when robbed of money and a small ceramic statue during a traffic altercation with two other women Saturday night in Farmington Hills.

According to a Farmington Hills police report:

The woman was westbound on Eight Mile at 8:15 p.m. when she noticed a trailing car tailgating, so she tapped her brakes.

After the other car pulled alongside and the occupants of both cars exchanged words, the other women threw objects at the victim's car. At a red light at Grand River, the other women got out and approached the victim's car. One tried to pull the victim out while the other took her purse and the statue.

The other women, thought to be in their 20s, then fled.

MOTORIST CHARGED

Police say they will seek fleeing and eluding charges against a 20-year-old Novi man in connection with a traffic chase in Farmington Hills early Sunday.

According to a Farmington Hills police report:

Officer Al Soderlund was on patrol at 1:45 a.m. when he saw a car race through a red light at Freedom and Drake.

Soderlund activated his emergency lights and pursued the car to Nine Mile. At Castlemeadow, the fleeing car headed north and the driver turned off the headlights.

The driver then ran off the road and spun out on a lawn before heading south and coming to a stop, nose to nose, with Soderlund's car.

MAILBOX EXPLOSIONS

Large firecrackers apparently were planted and exploded in three mailboxes in Farmington Hills last week, police said.

At 10:40 p.m. June 15, both ends of a metal mailbox in front of a house on Quail Hollow were blown out. One end was found across the street, 15 feet away. Damage was estimated at \$60.

A half hour later, a metal mailbox in front of a house on Glenview was blown apart. One piece was found 90 feet away. Damage was estimated at \$120.

The incidents "were possibly related," police said.

Damage was estimated at \$60 when a metal mailbox in front of a house on Dorchester was blown apart at 11:45 p.m. Sunday.

BURGLAR STRIKES

While the homeowner was mowing the grass in the back yard between 3:45 p.m. Saturday, a burglar entered the front door of a house on St. Francis and took from the living room an integrated telephone system-recorder and a leather purse containing a wallet with cash.

The wallet was later found in the front yard.

The value of the stolen property was \$590, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

MEN TICKETED

Two Farmington Hills residents were ticketed after an open can of beer was found in their car during a traffic stop at Orchard Lake Road and 10 Mile Sunday.

The 18-year-old driver was ticketed for transporting open intoxicants in a motor vehicle. The 20-year-old passenger was ticketed for possessing open intoxicants in a motor vehicle and possessing illegal fireworks (firecrackers), according to a Farmington Department of Public Safety report.

FIXTURE DAMAGE

Damage was estimated at \$600 when a light fixture was removed from a pole at Tri-Atria Plaza, 32425 Northwestern Highway, and thrown through the windows of a car parked nearby June 15-16, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

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"She said she tried to run out of the way, but couldn't," said officer Chris Guinan of the Farmington Department of Public Safety.

Lipa was working near the south bay door when he heard an engine race and tires squeal at 10:15 a.m. "I thought a kid was squealing tires in the parking lot," he said.

But when he walked toward the front door, "all of a sudden a car came flying through the open bay door, and shoppers and employees were jumping out of the way. One of my managers had to jump over the watermelons to get out of the way," he said.

THE DRIVER, a 61-year-old West Bloomfield Township woman, told officers that after turning on her 1984 Cadillac Seville, the engine seemed to be racing. When she put it in drive, the car took off.

After going through the sidewalk flower display, the car entered the store. It struck a fruit stand and four bins of watermelons before coming to a stop just before a main aisle.

"The car was still racing so I told the driver to put it in park and turn the engine off," said Lipa, who estimated the car's speed at 40 mph.

Detectives continue to investigate.



RANDY DORST/staff photographer

This is the Cadillac that lurched into the Oak Farms Fruit Market Tuesday morning. Store employees are shown clearing some of the debris from the accident.

Investigators won't identify the driver, who was not hurt, until the investigation is complete. "A Cadillac Motor Division representative is coming out to look the car over," Commander Thomas Cox said.

The store's three bay doors, opened in nice weather, gave an "Old World effect," Lipa said.

The store didn't close as employees shoveled and swept debris from the front of the store. But Lipa figures he lost \$2,000 in sales and at least \$3,000 in ruined fruit and flowers.

Oak Farms has been in the Uptown Farmington Plaza less than a year.

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