police/fire calls

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

● OVEN FIRE

About $1,500 damage was caused when an oven in a house on Whittington ignited the adjacent cabinetry and countertop in the kitchen Nov. 21. The oven was in the cleaning mode when the cabinetry was ignited. The fire was extinguished by firefighters, according to a Farmington Hills fire report.

● HEATER FIRE

A Forestbrook homeowner extinguished a fire in his basement laundry area caused by a malfunction of a water heater Nov. 22, according to a Farmington Hills fire report. No dollar amount of damage was estimated. On their arrival, firefighters cleared the smoke from the house and an investigator was at the scene to determine the specific cause of the fire.

● LAWNS DAMAGED

In three separate incidents Nov. 23-24, homeowners' lawns were damaged by cars driving over them. On Oak Point, a homeowner reported an estimated $500 damage. On Pine Cone, the homeowner reported $99 damage and on Southbrook, $250 damage, according to Farmington Hills police reports.

● WEAPONS SEIZED

Two knives were confiscated during a routine traffic stop in Farmington Nov. 24.

According to a Farmington Department of Public Safety report, an officer was monitoring speed in the Drake and Heritage Lane area when a car was clocked traveling 47 mph in a 25 mph zone. The car's two occupants, one from Detroit and the other from Hazel Park, were found to have a butterfly knife and a 6-inch homemade double-edged knife in the car.

Warrants are pending.

● FURNITURE FIRE

About $500 damage resulted when a chair and desk in an upstairs bedroom of a house on Chesepeake caught fire Nov. 26. The homeowner extinguished the fire before firefighters arrived. Firefighters will investigate the cause of the fire, according to a Farmington Hills fire report.

● CLOSED INVESTIGATION

Farmington Hills police have closed their investigation of a 17-year-old North Farmington High School student who was pulled out of classes Nov. 16 after police received information that two students had marijuana cigarettes at school intending to sell to other students.

One of the 17-year-olds was issued an ordinance violation ticket, a misdemeanor that carries a maximum penalty of 90 days in jail and $500 fine. The student was released after posting a $40 bond.

No charges were levied against the second student. "We found insufficient evidence to do lab work," said Det. Sgt. Charles Nebus of the Farmington Hills police. "There was a lack of probable cause to substantiate charges."

According to a school official, the student's mother was upset that the Observer reported her son was still being investigated after the Nov. 16 incident. But Nebus confirmed the investigation.

● THEFTS REPORTED

A 1988 S-10 Chevy Blazer valued at $10,000 was reported stolen from the parking lot of H.R. Krueger, 31506 Grand River, Nov. 21. It was later recovered in Detroit with the seats missing and damage to the steering column.

A car phone valued at $300 was reported stolen from a car parked on Baywood, Nov. 21-24.

Approximately $207 cash was reported stolen from McDonald's restaurant, 24200 Orchard Lake Road, Nov. 23-24.

An $800 leather coat was reported stolen from Max & Erma's restaurant, 31205 Orchard Lake Road, Nov. 23-24.

Wire wheel hubcaps valued at $480 were reported stolen from a car parked at Clam Diggers restaurant, 30555 Grand River, Nov. 23.

A video recorder valued at $199 was reported stolen during a break-in at Beahan Junior High, a private school owned by Our Lady of Sorrows, 915 Power, Nov. 23-26. A window was broken.

Man gets probation in poisoning case

An 18-year-old Novi man will serve one year probation for his part in a Farmington poisoning case.

Derek Joseph Novara pleaded guilty to one felony count of willfully placing a poison or harmful substance in a spring, well, reservoir or public water supply.

The charge involved a July 27 incident in which the office manager at the Village Animal Clinic in Farmington experienced dizziness after drinking from her water bottle.

Novara and a 16-year-old female employee were involved in the incident, in which a pill was placed into the office manager's water bottle the evening before, according to *court testimony.*

Novara was sentenced Nov. 13 under the state's Youthful Trainee Act by Oakland Circuit Judge Robert Templin. The YTA allows a first-time felony offender under the age of 21 to receive probation for one year; if that person stays out of trouble for that year, the charge is expunged from his or her record, said Commander Chuck Lee of the Farm*ington Department of Public Safety.*

"They're saying to young, first-time offenders, 'We're going to give you a break'," Lee said.

The juvenile has been charged in the incident in the Oakland County Probate Court, and hearings are under way in her case.

Novara's defense attorney, Bill Nahikian, declined comment on the case. *Oakland County* assistant prosecutor Fred Miller did not return phone calls.

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