

THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 1993

FARMINGTON
NOTES

Kitty named Caddy

Give that cat credit — he knows how to pick a car to get warm in. Because he chose a big Cadillac instead of some econo-box, he's alive today.

The story began last Friday when a resident of the Jamestown Apartments drove his Caddy into the service department of the nearby Bob Saks Oldsmobile dealership on Grand River.

"The driver said, 'Help; there's an animal in my engine,'" said Vicki Novotny, customer relations manager for Saks.

A mechanic pulled the fan blades and Novotny reached in a pulled out a very frightened tabby cat.

Animals seeking warmth and shelter sometimes crawl under the hood of an auto. Few survive, however, once the unsuspecting driver starts the engine and drives away. This cat escaped with just some missing fur.

"He — we're calling him Caddy because he climbed into a Cadillac — was very lucky," said Novotny, a Westland resident. "There's a lot of room under that hood. Had he picked a smaller car, he'd have been a goner."

The cat, about 2 years old, was treated at a veterinarian's office in Farmington Hills.

Novotny, who is looking for Caddy's owner, can be reached at 478-0500 during normal business hours.

Saving the planet

A 10-part video series, "Race to Save the Planet," will be shown free of charge from noon to 1 p.m. for 10 consecutive Thursdays, beginning March 18 and ending May 20, at Dublin Hall in the Mercy Center on 11 Mile Road, east of Middlebelt, Farmington Hills.

The series presents a global perspective about how human populations are changing the face of the planet. Scientists, politicians, economists and environmental activists discuss global warming, pollution, and extinction of species, while offering what they see as solutions to the problems.

The series is sponsored by the Environmental Adult Committee for the Sisters of Mercy Regional Community of Detroit. For more information about the group, call Kathleen Barrett at 478-8000.

■ Keeping your car out of the hands of thieves takes on a high-tech look with the advent of Pactel Teletrac Co. of Farmington Hills. The exact location of a car is shown at the company's alarm center.

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER



The Metro Detroit Ford Dealers have an idea that could not only save you money, but maybe also your car.

The dealers are offering a 24-hour vehicle tracking system and portable cellular phone package worth more than \$1,000 through the Pactel Teletrac Co. of Farmington Hills. The unusual offer runs through the end of the year.

Unlike other alarm systems that make a noise, Teletrac is a device that registers on a computer at the Teletrac alarm center indicating the exact location of the vehicle. The system is monitored 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Once the company sees the signal, police are contacted and perhaps can capture the thief without tipping their hand.

"You can't tell it's in the car," said Lou Csordas, general manager of the Farmington Hills office. "You don't want him (the thief) to be in a hurry. There's no high-speed chase and no guess work."

But is it effective?

"We've gotten 100 percent of our cars back," Csordas said.

When someone breaks into a car with the Teletrac system, a signal and printout with the exact location



Car watch: Teletrac's Lou Csordas: "We've gotten 100 percent of our cars back."

of the vehicle comes into the Hills alarm center. An operator can track the vehicle and give police the exact location. Better yet, the Michigan State Police in Northville have one of the systems at their station.

The signal now extends as far west as Chelsea, south into Ohio, and north to Holly, Oxford, Leonard and Richmond.

"It's becoming more and more pop-

ular," said Tony Elder, general sales manager at Troy Ford. "We often suggest getting it, especially for our sports cars."

Elder has good reason to recommend the system for certain cars. Csordas said that one Ford Mustang was stolen three times and recovered three times using Teletrac.

But another big plus for car owners

is use of the system for roadside service.

If a car breaks down, the driver pushes a button in the vehicle, the Teletrac operator signals the driver through a blinking light in the car, and the driver in turn pushes the button again to verify the need for road service. Teletrac then calls a con-

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