

THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 1993

FARMINGTON NOTES

Beautiful babies

The 14th annual Baby Beautiful Contest, sponsored by the Farmington Area Community Women, is a benefit for the SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome) Foundation. Prizes from local merchants will be awarded to two babies in the following age groups: newborn to 6 months, 7-12 months, 13-24 months, and 24-36 months. A child must be no older than 36 months by April 2, the deadline for entries. Interested parents should submit a recent photo at actual age with check (a minimum \$5 donation is requested) payable to Sudden Infant Death Syndrome and mail to: Baby Beautiful Contest, C/O 36916 Fox Glen, Farmington Hills 48331. Included should be baby's and parents' names, address, phone number, birth date and age in the photo. Photos will not be returned.

Catering to a career

Diane Risko of Farmington Hills has been named catering director of Matt Brady's, a restaurant in the hotel on 10 Mile Road. She will be responsible for the sales and coordinating the banquet facilities at Matt Brady's, a restaurant in the hotel on 10 Mile Road. Previously, Risko was conference service manager for the Hotel Baronette in Novi, and general manager of the Roman Terrace restaurant in Farmington Hills. Risko is a member of Big Brothers/Big Sisters and was named the organization's Volunteer of the Year for 1991. She also is on the board of directors of the Novi Chamber of Commerce and is a member of the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce. She was a finalist in the recent Most Hospitable Person in Michigan contest.

She's appointed

Susan M. Martin was recently appointed nursing administrative assistant at Botsford Continuing Health Center, a Farmington Hills-based long-term care facility. Martin, of Brighton, will be responsible for material management, vendor relations and secretarial support for the nursing administrative staff.

High-tech thieves want your number

Criminals with computers are active in suburban communities, authorities say. They can get into your bank and credit-card accounts. Law enforcement agencies are trying to keep pace.

By BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER



Businesses and consumers alike are finding out the hard way that a criminal with a computer can wreak havoc faster than you can say microwave.

Police and government agencies are closing the gap on computer crime, but it still costs businesses and consumers billions of dollars annually. The best way to crack down on that type of fraud is to prevent the criminal from gaining access to computer information.

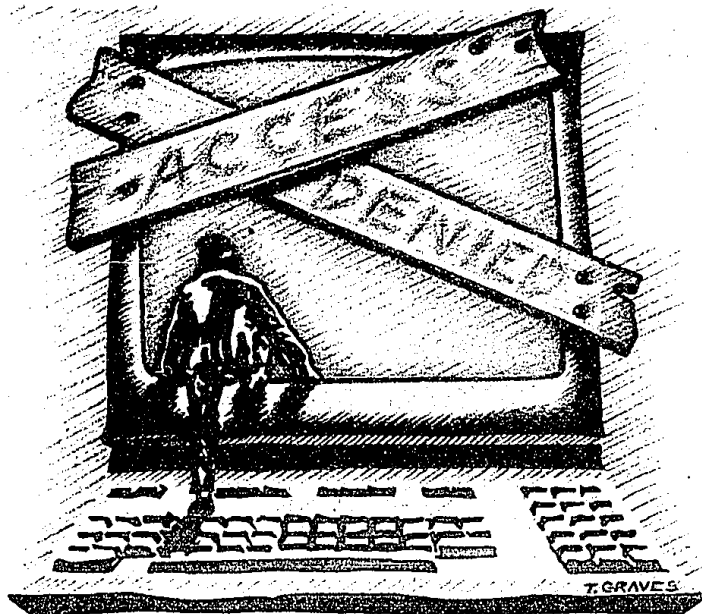
That's the message U.S. Secret Service agents and Farmington Hills Police are trying to get out to business owners and anyone using a personal computer.

"High-tech fraud has real advantages for criminals," said Bruce Towers of the Secret Service. "There is no gun, no violence, and it's clean. It can be done with a personal computer."

The legal system is catching up, with laws that specifically address computer fraud and fraud that relies on high-tech methods, such as credit-card fraud.

But criminals have kept pace with technology as well, leaving a well-informed public and business community as the best means of preventing such crimes.

For that reason, the Secret Service chose the Farmington Hills Police Crime Watch seminar at the Alexander Hamilton Insurance building to make its case for prevention.



Computer crime costly

The 1984 federal Crime Control Act and a similar Michigan statute address specific types of computer fraud that use "access devices" such as credit cards, account numbers and computer codes. But the newest type of fraud costs consumers, businesses

and taxpayers billions of dollars annually, Towers said.

And Americans, who on average have eight credit cards, often are easy targets.

Computer "hackers" who usually don't think of themselves as crooks, have gained access to banks, credit card accounts, hospitals and federal

agencies; and have stolen money and compromised sensitive security systems, he said. They've even fixed their own college grades with a keystroke.

"They see themselves as modern-day Butch Cassidys," Towers said.

See THIEVES, 11A



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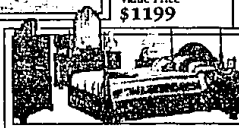
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