

POLICE/FIRE CALLS

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

BREAK-INS

A vacationing Farmington Hills couple will have an unpleasant surprise when they return from their holiday. A break-in was reported at their home on St. Francis Sunday evening. The homeowner's brother, who was checking the house periodically, called police just before 11 p.m. when he noticed a rear window broken open and the door forced open.

There was blood on a screen door, wooden door and nearby carpet. A plaid flannel shirt was found in front of the rear door. Items missing included a portable television answering machine, Nintendo video games, and blank checks from the living room, as well as a television and VCR from a bedroom.

In a separate incident on Sunday, police officers were called to Sanddalwood and Brockwood on a report of a breaking and entering in progress. Two teens were seen leaving a residence through a window and carrying a laundry basket full of clothing and two briefcases.

A 17-year-old Farmington Hills youth was arrested on a charge of receiving and concealing stolen merchandise over \$100 following a brief chase. A second youth was apprehended. The 15-year-old from Waterford was sent to Children's Village. During questioning, the Farmington Hills youth told police the two friends had borrowed his girlfriend's car and were driving around between 12 Mile and 14 Mile roads and Orchard Lake and Haggerty roads, breaking into about 10 cars. He said they took things they could use or pawn, such as a cellular phone, a large tool box, and two radar detectors. An undetermined amount of cocaine was found wrapped in paper inside his wallet. The youth's parents told police he hadn't been home since last Thursday and that they had taken away his car a month earlier. His only means of transportation was the car owned by his 18-year-old West Bloomfield girlfriend. In the boy's room, police found a cellular phone and cell battery, a handicapped parking permit, and his girlfriend's purse stashed under his bed.

LOST RING

A 26-year-old woman called Farmington Hills police Monday morning to report her 14-karat gold, 2-karat round diamond ring missing from its place on a bathroom cabinet. She said the ring was valued at \$8,000. The woman, who lives in an apartment on Halsted, told police she has three cats, but it was unknown if they had anything to do with the disappearance.

FIRES

A woman bringing her grandson

home from school in Farmington Hills was met by a houseful of smoke caused by a smoldering fire inside a closet in the basement. She called 911. Firefighters found smoke inside the house and the dryer full of clothes smoldering. A light water extinguisher was used to extinguish the clothing and cool the dryer. Firefighters discovered the dryer unplugged and what appeared to be a dry chemical product from an extinguisher on the floor to the rear of the dryer. The homeowner arrived and said he had a small fire in the rear of the dryer in the morning and had extinguished it and he thought the problem was solved before he left. Possible cause was an overheated motor.

DRUNKEN DRIVING

Farmington police arrested a Farmington Hills man, 24, for drunken driving at Orchard Lake and Nine Mile May 9. Police stopped the 1984 Buick Skyhawk after it struck a curb on eastbound Grand River. The driver had a blood alcohol level of .28 percent. A level of .10 makes it illegal to drive in Michigan.

Farmington police arrested a Livonia man, 49, for drunken driving at Farmington and Freedom May 6. Police stopped the 1990 Isuzu Trooper for speeding. The driver had a blood alcohol level of .15 percent.

Farmington police arrested a Berkley man, 25, for drunken driving at Grand River and Farmington May 5. Police stopped the 1994 Geo Metro for speeding. The driver had a blood alcohol level of .12 percent.

VANDALISM

Rear window was smashed on a 1989 Pontiac Grand Am parked on St. Mary in Farmington May 8, causing \$500 damage.

THEFT

A Detroit Free Press box (\$250) was stolen from the front of Ram's Horn on Grand River in Farmington May 6. The box contained about \$25 in coins. A paper box was also stolen from the same spot the previous week.

FLEEING

A Grand Blanc woman, 25, was arrested after she drove away from police near the Farmington High tennis courts May 7. Police found the 1996 Pontiac 6000 between two portable classrooms. The driver was found hiding nearby. Police were called to the area on a report of a woman talking to herself. When police tried to question the woman, she yelled an obscenity and sped off. She posted bond and was later released. She reappeared the following day at the police station, screaming obscenities at a dispatcher and climbing on the counter. She then left.

Dowdell leads telethon

Dennis Dowdell Jr., a Farmington Hills resident, corporate vice president of human resources for Henry Ford Health System, has been selected to chair the Greater Detroit United Negro College Fund's annual telethon.

During his two-year appointment, Dowdell will be responsible for recruitment and coordination of all volunteer fund-raising activities for the Lou Rawls "Parade of Stars" Telethon in January.

Dowdell takes over from Tyrone Davenport, senior vice president for NBD Bank.

"I am pleased and honored to have been selected," said Dowdell. "Since 1908, members of my family have graduated from United Negro College Fund institutions of higher learning. These colleges and universities have a rich and, often unheralded, history of contributions."

"Dennis Dowdell brings a great amount of energy and expertise to the table, and I am certain that his involvement will enhance our ability to meet our goals and further the cause of educating tomorrow's leaders," said Mike Flynn, UNCF Project Manager.

The United Negro College Fund is in its 51st year. It has grown from 27 private, historically black colleges enrolling more than 13,000 students to 41 colleges enrolling more than 54,000 students.

Through the efforts of the college and its generous supporters, more than 250,000 students have been given the opportunity to earn college degrees over the past five decades.

The College Fund raised over

Dennis Dowdell Jr.
\$51 million in the fiscal year ending March 1994.

Before Dowdell joined Henry Ford Health System in 1991, he was vice president of Human Resources at American National Can Company. At Henry Ford, he is responsible for policy and quality for all system-wide human resource programs including organizational development, compensation, benefits, employment, employee relations, diversity and training.

Among his community and civic activities, Dowdell is a board member of the National Urban League's Black Executive Exchange Program, the Detroit Urban League, the National Achievement Award Foundation, and the National Urban Coalition. In addition, Dowdell is a life member of the NAACP and president of 100 Black Men of Greater Detroit, Inc.

Letter-carriers bag groceries this Saturday

On Saturday, May 13, Farmington area letter carriers will be collecting and delivering more than just the mail.

As part of a joint participation between the United States Postal Service and the National Association of Letter Carriers, May 13 has been designated "National Food Drive Day."

John Sapelak, postmaster for Farmington and Farmington Hills, describes the event as "a way our communities can lend their support to those in need."

"All of our letter carriers will be collecting donated non-perishable items from residents' mailboxes on May 13 for distribution and delivery to Farmington and Farmington Hills charitable organizations," he said.

Sapelak said these organizations are all located and serve in the community and are associated with the Oakland County Food Bank. They include the Boy's Republic, Sarah Fisher, Salvation Army and St. Alexander's Church.

Letter carrier steward Charlotte

Ott said, "Although the Food Drive is a national program, we feel all donations from our customers should be provided to local charities. We ask that all residents of Farmington and Farmington Hills place any item for donation in their mailbox, if at the curb. If this mailbox is located on their porch, simply leave all items on the porch for collection by your carriers."

Donated non-perishable items can also be brought to both the Farmington and Farmington Hills Post Offices from May 8-13. Sa-

pelak said, "We will have hampers in our lobbies during this week to collect donated items."

Sapelak said the Postal Service is pleased to support this program, with the assistance of the letter carriers.

"With our letter carriers delivering to each household on this day it certainly provides an opportunity to collect any donated items as our letter carrier employees make their daily rounds," he said.

Book discussion groups set to meet in May

Borders Books & Music in Farmington Hills will host three book discussion groups in May. One group focuses on Jewish authors and topics, one on general literature, and one on gay/lesbian issues and authors. They meet

once per month in the Cafe Espresso. All sessions are free. Jewish Authors & Topics will meet Monday, May 15, at 7:30 p.m. "A Beggar in Jerusalem" (Schocken Books, \$14), by Elie Wiesel, will be discussed.

The gay and lesbian book group will meet Monday, May 22 at 7:30 p.m., to discuss "The Dyke & the Dybbuk" (Seal Press, \$10.95), by Ellen Galford.

The general literature group will meet Wednesday, May 31 at

7:30 p.m. to discuss "The Invention of Truth" (Ecco Press, \$10), by Marta Morazzoni.

Borders is on Orchard Lake Road south of 14 Mile Road. Call 737-0110 for further information.

Mother's day and more Sale

Mother's Day is Sunday!

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PARISIAN

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