

Powdery trail leads police to cocaine, burglary arrest

A fresh trail of snow led Farmington Hills police to another powdery substance — and a burglary suspect.

Police arrested a Farmington Hills man, 48, for breaking and entering and cocaine possession after being called to Plitz Industrial Electronics at 24850 Drake Road when a burglary alarm sounded around 3:20 a.m. Friday, Nov. 14.

Officers found a broken door window that was secured with duct tape.

In the 2-3 inches of freshly fallen snow, police discovered footprints that led to the north parking lot and, subsequently, a set of tire tracks. The trail led north through Heritage Village Complex into Hillside condominiums where it ended in a driveway.

A woman answered the door and called downstairs to her husband, who opened a door and stuck his head out. Officers asked him to open his hands, which he refused.

He later opened the door and complied. Officers found a mirror and white powder that later tested positive for 2.4 grams of cocaine.

Officer noticed the man was wearing a tether, which his wife said was because her husband was on probation for breaking and entering. Police also found a pair of work boots that were wet.

An Oakland Pre-Trial services staff person told police the man was out of range on his tether at 3:01 a.m. and returned in range at 3:25 a.m.

Skaters go on a generous roll for Goodfellows

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

For Kathy Porter, Monday night's "Skate for Farmington Area Goodfellows" at Bonaventure Skating Center was the perfect opportunity to return a good deed.



Can do: Ryan Arndt, 5, of Farmington Hills brought his can of food to help the Goodfellows.

needed her mom to constantly hold her up along the perimeter wall. Kathy Porter was glad to be there with her daughter.

"This is great," said Porter, a resident of Farmington Hills. "I've had help before from the Goodfellows. . . I know what it's like to not have anything for Christmas for the kids, too."

The money collected at the event was to be used by the Goodfellows to purchase toys and other gifts for low-income families living in the area. Food items — which were stacking up along a wall next to Bonaventure's video games — were also to be distributed to the needy.

The benefit was praised by others who waited at least 15 minutes in line outside, in freezing temperatures, to gain admission. At about 7:15 p.m., 45 minutes after the event started, Jeff Nagy of Farmington Hills was waiting with his wife and two daughters, each clutching canned goods.

"I don't mind, I don't mind at all," Nagy said. "With all these people they should have plenty of food for the needy."

Several other parents agreed that combining roller blading with such a charitable cause was a worthwhile mix.

"I think it's a good idea," said Joann Thimm of Novi, with daughter Jessica, 8 and son Matthew, 4. "We've talked about charity, they don't really understand. But they're very upbeat about it."



Hand off: Thirteen-year-old Ashley Hable with her donation to the Farmington Area Goodfellows at Monday's fund-raiser at Bonaventure Skating Center.

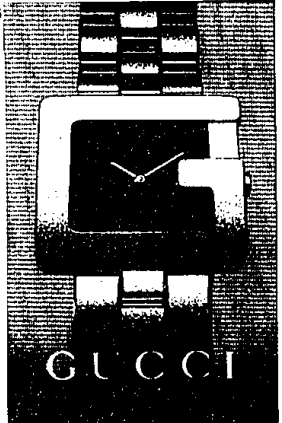
Farmington Hills resident Lynne Warshaw, with her 6-year-old son David, said Bonaventure, on Halsted Road in Farmington, "could do this once a month and get a full house. It's perfect."

Findlay, asked about why Bonaventure wanted to host the event, said there's "always some people with more problems than we have and we have to help them out."

"It's a worthy cause and it's an activity that they like to do. Plus, it's that time of year. . . giving. But people recognize an opportunity to have some fun, too."

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