

POLICE AND FIRE NEWS

The following are police and fire incidents that occurred in Farmington and Farmington Hills during the past week.

LARCENY

**In Farmington Hills:** Three Dell P-166 laptop computers valued at \$12,000 and a \$200 Dell CD-ROM drive were reported Friday as stolen from a Farmington Hills accounting firm on Orchard Lake Road. The laptops were last seen on different desks in the office Thursday night. A partner in the firm said two other laptops were stolen the night before. The alarm company said the alarm hadn't been set since 6 p.m. Sept. 23. Police said there were no signs of forced entry and no fingerprints.

LARCENIES

**In Farmington Hills:** A construction company working on a new building on 12 Mile Road reported Saturday the thefts of equipment totaling \$2,300. A large industrial drill and bits valued at \$2,000 were taken Friday from the company's construction trailer, which is left unlocked during business hours. That night, a \$150 air compressor and \$150 battery operated drill and bits, were taken from a large tool locker after locks were cut off.

An employee of the ROA Hitch Store, 28806 Grand River,

reported two computer printers valued at \$300 total and a computer, monitor and keyboard valued at \$1,100 were missing when she arrived for work about 9 a.m. Sunday. A glass pane on the entry door was broken out and police were able to recover prints from it.

ASSAULT AND BATTERY

**In Farmington Hills:** An argument escalated into violence Saturday with a father and two sons being arrested for fighting outside the father's residence on Ontaga Street.

VEHICULAR THEFT

**In Farmington Hills:** A West Bloomfield man who said he left his 1997 Plymouth Voyager van parked on the shopping center lot outside a billiards parlor at Orchard Lake Road and 12 Mile over the weekend reported it stolen Sunday. The man said he left the van locked, with the only set of keys in his ashtray. Clothing, a cell phone, tools and electric meters were inside the van.

RETAIL FRAUD

**In Farmington Hills:** A 40-year-old Farmington Hills woman was arrested Friday afternoon after she attempted to leave the Kohl's Department Store, 30150 Grand River, with \$125 worth of sterling silver charms, rings and a necklace

stuffed in her pants pocket. A 40-year-old Detroit man was charged with felony retail fraud after he walked out with almost \$250 worth of items, including diapers and baby formula, from the Kroger, 25780 Middlebelt, around 6:30 p.m. Friday, without paying.

A few minutes later, Hills police stopped a vehicle matching the description of the one the suspect said gave him a ride to the Kroger. The car was speeding 55 miles per hour in a 40 zone, heading west on 11 Mile near Orchard Lake Road. The passenger, who was found to have his driver's license suspended, was ticketed for giving false identification to police.

BIKE THEFT

**In Farmington Hills:** A \$400 BMX boy's bicycle belonging to a 14-year-old youth was reported stolen from Harrison High School where the boy is a student. He said the bike lock had been cut.

SEXUAL ASSAULT

**In Farmington Hills:** A 20-year-old Hills woman told police Friday when she awakened from a nap in her bedroom of the family home, she felt as if someone had had intercourse with her. Police said the girl's father, 41, the only other person at home at the time, is a suspect.

Burglaries from page A1

The Hills police Crime Prevention Department offers free security surveys to residents, which includes checks of locks, doors and other preventative measures to thwart burglars.

"Information is our biggest ally." The decrease has been the result of awareness on part of the community and their consistent care in securing their own property," said Lt. James Whitcomb, Hills Crime Prevention Department.

But the drop may have led some to let their guard down, Chief Bill Dwyer said.

"We're still one of the safest cities in the tri-county area, but we're still vulnerable to these types of crimes," Dwyer said.

Part of the problem is the numbers themselves, police said. New crime statistic reporting standards require departments to include thefts from garages and break ins of apartment stor-

age sheds as burglaries. For instance, a bicycle stolen from an open garage is classified as burglary though no force is involved. Police departments switched to the new crime report method in mid-1996.

In August, 10 of the 40 burglaries were at residential homes. Five were attempts and the rest involved garages, storage sheds and apartments.

Other numerical factors contribute to the increase, Whitcomb said. For one, Farmington Hills has grown in population and there are more households than eight years ago when the last census was done.

"The other part is increased (criminal) activity. We can't discount that completely," Whitcomb said. "It's not all a numbers game."



Farmington Hills Chief Bill Dwyer

Post office from page A1

of the facility, which the post office vacated in 1997. Bush said the private inspector will "check out everything ... the roof, mechanics, plumbing, heating, electrical."

Another step would be the granting of a special use permit by the Farmington City Council. Because of her involvement with the real estate deal, and as mayor, Bush said "I'll be having to abstain from any decision regarding this matter."

The proponents would need to

provide an artist's rendering and comply with other city requirements, Bush explained. The day care center must prove it would fit in with the surrounding neighborhood, aesthetically and for reasons of compatibility.

Sunny Day Care Center co-owner Theresa Powers was reluctant to discuss the proposed deal, one that would necessitate the business' move from Farmington Hills. Another co-owner is Sue Casey, who could not be reached for comment.

"Right now we're leased," said Powers, adding that the lease is set to expire "in a couple months."

Bush, asked about whether a day care facility would be welcome in downtown, said "It could make sense, yes. It would seem to be a good use."

She added that filling the post office vacancy is an important development for the city.

"It's kind of exciting," Bush said. "It's a key part of downtown."

Question candidates at Oct. 7 forum

The Council of Homeowner Associations of Farmington Hills will host a candidate night at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 7 in Farmington Hills City Hall.

ELECTION '98

31655 11 Mile. Candidates will take questions

from the audience and questions may be called in during the live cablecast. The number of call is (248) 473-9532.

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