

POLICE AND FIRE NEWS

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

BREAK-INS

In Farmington Hills: Someone stole a cellular phone and radar detector after breaking the driver's side window on a 1999 Mercury Sable parked at Greenhill Apartments the night of Dec. 10-11, causing \$300 damage.

Someone smashed the passenger window and stole a cellular phone from a 1998 Jeep Cherokee parked at St. Paul's Lutheran Church on 12 Mile Dec. 13.

A thief managed to unlock the

door and stole a leather jacket, radar detector, CD player and calculator from a 1991 Chevy Blazer parked at Ruby Tuesday on 12 Mile Dec. 13.

BURGLARY

In Farmington Hills: A burglar busted a window and unlocked the kitchen door to get inside Farmington Community School on Shinwassee between 9:15-9:40 p.m. Dec. 12. The perpetrator set off the alarm. Nothing appeared to have been stolen.

DISORDERLY TEENS

In Farmington Hills: Police hauled in two girls and

two boys, between the ages of 13-15, for disorderly behavior in the Nine Mile and Tuck area Dec. 12. The teens are believed to be responsible for breaking Christmas decorations in the area. The teens were turned over to their parents.

ALCOHOL OVERDOSE

In Farmington Hills: Police and EMS found a 14-year-old girl unconscious in her home after she drank rum Dec. 13. The girl had been encouraged to drink by a 17-year-old acquaintance. She was taken to Botsford Hospital and a blood alcohol level of .20 percent. The girl's father wants the 17-year-

old prosecuted for giving alcohol to a minor.

EMBEZZLEMENT

In Farmington Hills: Two people are suspected in stealing 10 leather coats worth \$2,599 from Loehmann's on Orchard Lake between Nov. 13-23. A video shows the two men putting the coats in garbage bags and putting them in the trash.

CRACK COCAINE

In Farmington Hills: Police arrested a Walled Lake man and woman, both 35, after officers found one ounce of crack cocaine in the woman's sleeve

during a stop on westbound Grand River and Purdue Dec. 14. Police stopped the 1973 Dodge pickup for speeding. Officers also found an open bottle of vodka in the truck.

THEFTS

In Farmington Hills: Someone stole a cellular phone from a 1997 Mitsubishi parked on Orchard Lake Dec. 6. Another cell phone was taken from a 1992 Chevrolet Astro parked on Jacksonville between Nov. 15 and Dec. 11.

A thief stole a Dell Inspiron laptop from a room at the Comfort Inn on 12 Mile Dec. 10.

Someone helped himself to three notebook computers worth \$6,000 from Eynon Associates on Northwestern Highway between Dec. 11-12.

Someone stole a \$1,579 Vectra computer from Liberty Bicos on Northwestern Highway the night of Dec. 11-12.

A \$10,000 pearl necklace, \$1,200 diamond earrings and a \$1,350 gold chain were stolen from a dresser drawer from a Ramblewood Club Drive residence sometime between June 16 and Nov. 1. A resident believes a nursing service he hired while recovering from a

stroke is a responsible.

Someone stole a \$3,000 carpet extractor and a TV from Courtyard Manor between Dec. 9-12.

VANDALISM

In Farmington Hills: A 13-year-old boy couldn't tell police why he spray-painted a Dumpster at Fairmont Apartments Dec. 11. The apartment complex manager estimates it will cost \$200 to repaint the garbage bin.

DRUNKEN DRIVING

In Farmington Hills: Police arrested a Pontiac man, 41, for drunken driving on eastbound 12 Mile and Stansbury at 11:30 p.m. Dec. 11. Police stopped the 1989 Olds after getting a report from another motorist about a possible drunk driver. The man told police he had been at a holiday party and hoped he wouldn't get "popped." His blood alcohol level was .20 percent. It's illegal to drive with blood alcohol level of .10 percent or higher.

Police arrested a Farmington Hills man, 28, for drunken driving on Brandywine and Farmerville at 3:55 a.m. Dec. 12. The driver had a blood alcohol level of .17 percent.

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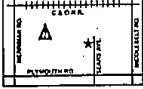
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Frustration

Goss said, "The inability of the city of Farmington's Public Safety

Department and the city of Farmington Hill's Fire Department to coordinate firefighting efforts nearly resulted in a loss of life." Goss showed a videotape made at the scene of a fire in Farmington, where his department was unable to directly contact Farmington Hills Fire Department units to divert equipment to protect homes endangered by a nearby flaming commercial structure. Goss' firefighters had to knock on doors to evacuate the homes. "This most recent incident shows this system is needed now," Dwyer said.

A key component of the upgraded system is the need for an additional 14 channels in the 800 MHz frequency range, and for 1,400 police radios to be shared among all participating communities in Oakland County unifying communications between departments and across boundaries. The request for an additional 14 channels in the 800 MHz range is before the Frequency Allocation Committee of the FCC, and is to be considered at the meeting in January.

"Getting the channels from the FCC is critical to the project. Competition with other county governments for the channels is hot, and today's approval strengthens our request to the FCC for the channels," Moffitt said.

The plan requires appropriation from the county budget to pay for the improvements. Only if funds are unavailable in the county budget can the project be funded by other means, for example, a surcharge on phone bills. "In the name of public safety, the county has to 'bite the bullet' before someone 'takes a bullet,'" Moffitt said.

Permission granted

Public Act 29 of 1994 enables the Board of Commissioners to authorize a telephone surcharge of up to 4 percent for emergency telephone operations. Already, more than 49 counties have adopted this funding mechanism to provide adequate public safety. The plan would authorize, if county funding is unavailable, the telephone companies operating throughout Oakland County to include up to a 4 percent surcharge on telephone lines — thus providing funding for emergency communication equipment and operations. For consumers, this represents a charge of approximately \$0.57 per phone line per month, with Centrix lines generally counting as only one line.

The upgrading and expansion of Oakland County's 800 MHz system in a manner that would enable all public safety radios to exchange direct communications would cost approximately \$18.1 million for the first year alone. Subsequent years would require funds of up to \$7.7 million for debt service and additional capital outlays.

The plan will tie in with the recently approved federal COPSMORE grant of \$17 million that will assist the county in incorporating a state-of-the-art computer aided dispatch into the geographic information system.