

# Episode shows customers need to be careful

## CRIME PREVENTION



Is this story a coincidence or a conspiracy? You decide.

On Feb. 14, I stopped in to a nearby service station and purchased \$12.50 worth of gasoline. When I was done filling my tank, I proceeded into the station to pay for my purchase and was charged \$13.50. I questioned the clerk about the discrepancy and he said that I owed \$13.50. I invited him to come out to the pump and see for himself. Suddenly, he noticed that he indeed had overcharged me. He said he thought that I also had purchased a bag of potato chips in there. He gladly refunded me \$1 in cash, even though I charged the gasoline. I was slightly mollified, to say the least.

Later in the week, I needed a fill-up. This time I decided to go to another station at another part of town. I filled my truck up to the tune of \$32.34. Guess what happened when I went to pay for my purchase? If you guessed that I also had purchased another dollar you were right. This time the clerk told me that the customer before me made a 50¢-gas purchase and it appeared on my slip! How that is possible is beyond my conception.

I thought that came to my mind was that there was a conspiracy going on. After all, what were the chances that this could happen to me twice in three days? All this could be just a coincidence, however, I did alert the main headquarters of the oil

**If this dollar scam has happened to you or you have an opinion on whether my incident was a coincidence or a conspiracy, please drop me a line.**

company that provides both of these stations with fuel. The same oil company represents both stations. From a crime prevention standpoint, I have requested a new credit card that can be scanned at the pump. The magnetic strip on my credit card does not work. When I receive my new card, I will be able to scan it at the pump and hopefully only be charged for the fuel that I pump. That should eliminate that issue.

Should we get too comfortable with the computer that is scanning my new card, I will be able to scan it only a machine. The bottom line is that we should always check our receipts to ensure that we are charged the correct amount. However, I am sure that a lot of residents have cards that don't scan properly. I do not scan their credit cards at the pump in order to make an additional purchase of food or drink at this convenience marts.

A dishonest store clerk can combat personal inflation problems by taking advantage of a customer's carelessness. Overcharging or shortchanging a customer can put money in his pocket or buy him a bag of chips.

Always be sure the amount charged agrees with your sales slip.  
Count your change.  
Have an idea of what your total bill will be and how much change you should receive.  
If it is an intentional con, the clerk is hoping that it is such a

nominal amount that it will not get reported, if caught by the consumer.  
Given that at least 100 customers a day come in, that could be an extra \$36,600 yearly in sheer profit. Not a bad profit, I

would say. Beyond that, I strongly recommend that you check all purchases to make sure they are correct.

If you feel you have been wronged, please contact Consumer Protection at (248) 426-4465.

Your response may be addressed to: Juliette McGlinch, Crime Prevention, Farmington Hills Police, 31655 Eleven Mile Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48336-1170.

## OBITUARIES

**CHARLES H. MONTGOMERY JR.**  
Services for Charles H. Montgomery Jr. "Bud", 72, of Farmington Hills were held March 8 at the Farmington Hills Church of God with the Rev. Gordon Steink officiating. Burial took place at Mt. Hope Cemetery in Livonia.

Mr. Montgomery was born Dec. 25, 1927, in Howell and died March 4 at Botford Hospital in Farmington Hills. He was a materials manager for General Motors and a member of the Farmington Hills Church of God. He was also a member of

the Ford Mercury Auto Restorers Club and enjoyed classic cars and trains. Mr. Montgomery was a U.S. Army Korean War veteran. He is survived by son, William; daughter, Patti; mother, Helena Montgomery; brother, Miller; sisters, Shirley Parry, Blossom Faye Kincock and Patricia Spala. He was preceded in death by his wife, Mary Jeanette.

Memorial contributions can be made to the American Diabetes Association, 30400 Telegraph Suite 2205, Bingham Farms, MI 48025.

**HENRY FORD MUSEUM & GREENFIELD VILLAGE**  
CELEBRATE MARCH FAMILY FUN!  
ALL EVENTS ARE FREE OF CHARGE WITH MUSEUM ADMISSION

**DAILY ACTIVITIES**

**Your Place in Time: 20th Century America**  
Visit our newest exhibit and experience five generations of American culture. Everyone will enjoy this interactive and fun composition of the last century's technological landmarks. View a Nickelodeon Theatre, take part in duck and cover drills, put yourself in a MTV video, and more. Discover where you fit into the last 100 years of technological advancements and pivotal moments in history. All day.

**Photographic Exhibit: Family Life 100 Years Ago**  
Historical photographs provide a unique window on the everyday world of families in the early 1900s. All day.

**Special "Wide" Treasures" Display**  
These blasts from the past include a selection of lunchboxes, kids' mail toys, and assorted children's collectibles from the museum's own collection. All day.

**ADDITIONAL WEEKEND ACTIVITIES**

<b>Celebrate a Decade</b> March 4th & 5th: 1940's Theme March 11th & 12th: 1950's Theme March 18th & 19th: 1960's Theme March 25th & 26th: 1970's Theme	<b>Face Painting</b> Smile and express yourself with the help of our creative face painters! All day.	<b>A Decade of Music and Dance</b> Put on your dancing shoes! A DJ will be on hand to play music of the week's decade while a dance duo provides lessons. 12 noon to 1:00 p.m. & 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.
<b>Storytelling</b> Copy up with our friendly storyteller. Fun and whimsical tales will engage the imaginations of families one and all!	<b>Classic Cartoons</b> Lots of laughs and giggles will be shared together as your family watches these nostalgic cartoons including favorites from Disney and Warner Bros. All day.	<b>"Decades of Fun" Trivia Game</b> The fun continues with this fast-paced trivia game where teams of families will compete to prove their game-show prowess. 12:00 & 3:00 p.m.
<b>Barbara Sobitzgruber</b> March 4 & 5 <b>Corlene Stovick</b> March 11 & 12 <b>Mary Shrodes</b> March 18 & 19 <b>Julia Deary</b> March 25 & 26 11:30 a.m., 1:30 & 3:30 p.m.	<b>Favorite Pastimes: Kopsatch and Hair Hoops</b> All Day	<b>Fancy Costume Contest</b> Families dressed in the style of the weekend's decade will participate in a judged contest. One lucky family each Saturday and Sunday will win four passes to Fantasia 2000! 1:00 p.m.
<b>Jump Rope Exhibits &amp; Workshop</b> March 25 & 26 only! Presented by Ann Roberts' St. Francis Heartbeats' jump rope team, one of the finest in the Midwest! 1:30 p.m.	<b>Copy &amp; Mac: Songs and Stories for Little People</b> Features music, children's songs, radio or TV theme songs and commercial jingles of the particular decade. This dynamic and unique duo has recorded several children's albums and was awarded a Resolution of Tribute from the Michigan State Legislature for their wonderful shows for young audiences. 1:30 & 3:30 p.m.	<b>Arts &amp; Crafts</b> Using recycled materials children can create a take home art activity that reflects the weekend's decade. 1:00 p.m. & 4:00 p.m.

**Henry Ford Museum & Greenfield Village**  
20000 E. Warren Blvd., Dearborn, MI 48124

## POLICE AND FIRE NEWS

The following are police and fire reports made during the past week in Farmington and Farmington Hills.

### THEFT

**In Farmington Hills:**  
A resident living on West Echo Valley reported the loss of more than \$6,000 in jewelry when she moved from Oak Park on Feb. 25. The theft took place between 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. on that date, while a moving company was packing up her belongings.

The woman had left a bag with several watches, gold bracelets, gold and gemstone rings, gold chains and ancient coins, along with her birth certificate and passport, in a bag that hung in a bedroom closet. When the move was completed, she couldn't find the bag. The moving company gave her the names of the employees who worked that day.

### BIRD FEEDING

**In Farmington Hills:**  
Hills police responded last week to a complaint on Renaissance about a neighbor feeding birds, in violation of a new city ordinance. Officers left a note advising the neighbor of the violation.

### EMBEZZLEMENT

**In Farmington Hills:**  
Police are investigating an embezzlement by a former employee of a Northwestern. A 35-year-old Detroit woman, who had been employed by the firm, allegedly received two invoices. The business subsequently issued a check to a person who was not a vendor, and when a supervisor questioned the transaction, the woman asked to leave work early. She never returned.

The check was located and has been voided; a company manager indicated charges would be pursued.

### LARCENY

**In Farmington Hills:**  
On Monday, an employee at

Botford Hospital's North Professional Building reported a laptop computer, valued at approximately \$3,000, had been taken from a locked office. Police found no sign of forced entry.

### TREASURES

**In Farmington Hills:**  
An employee who was reprimanded because of her attitude and threats to "blow this place up" was sent home early Friday from a Hills firm on Twelve Mile Road. Her supervisor returned Monday to find a threatening and vulgar voice mail from a man who the supervisor believes is connected to the female employee. He threatened to harm her when she left work.

### PROPERTY DAMAGE ACCIDENT

**In Farmington Hills:**  
A 62-year-old Bloomfield Hills woman was cited for making an unsafe lane change Monday afternoon, following an accident on Orchard Lake Road near I-698.

According to the police report, the woman was driving a 1999 Mercury north on Orchard Lake Road when she became distracted by a dog near her car and swerved into the adjacent lane. She struck a 1999 Toyota driven by a 68-year-old West Bloomfield woman. Neither of the drivers was injured.

### THEFT FROM VEHICLE

**In Farmington Hills:**  
A 17-year-old resident of Sunderland Drive reported \$130 had been taken from her purse, while it sat in an unlocked vehicle parked in the driveway of her home. She gave police the name of a suspect, based on rumors she had heard at school.

### HIT AND RUN

**In Farmington Hills:**  
A manager at Strawberry Lane Apartments reported a white moving van with unknown plates hit a carport hard enough to do significant damage and fled the scene. The accident happened late Monday night.

## Diamond Award nominees sought

The Farmington Area Commission on Aging is seeking nominations for the "2000 Diamond Award."

It is an award presented annually to a Farmington area resident who is 75 years of age and remains active in service to the Farmington area community.

The 2000 Diamond award will be presented to this year's recipient at the annual senior recognition luncheon Tuesday April 18. The senior recognition luncheon will be held at the Costick

Center. To nominate a senior for the Diamond Award, send a short statement of nomination. Nominations should be mailed to the Farmington Area Commission on Aging at 28600 11 Mile Road, Farmington Hills, Mich. 48336. Nominations may also be faxed to (248) 473-1800.

For more information call Commission member Carl Christoph at (248) 474-8400 extension 212. Nominations close March 24.

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