

# Scam

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and Mastercard." The caller had the victim read a number on the back of the card in reverse order. "I wasn't aware that's the same number that's on the front," she said.

After taking the woman's number, the caller said another attempt had been made with another Visa registered to their address. Since her husband had a Visa, he got on the line. The woman said her husband, when asked to read the number on the back, realized something was amiss.

"He said, 'What is your employee number? I want to speak to your supervisor.'" The

caller claimed the supervisor was busy with other calls and kept him on hold.

■ **'It was stupid. I'm aware of scams, and I didn't catch onto it.'**

*Unidentified credit card scam victim*  
—Farmington Hills resident

Next, the husband called Equifax and learned that the call was indeed a fraud.

The couple then called Mastercard. The company reported two charges had just come through on their card; for \$115 at a Denny's restaurant in Romulus

and \$125 at a Chili's restaurant in Detroit.

"He called Denny's and talked to the manager. She said they're in here right now," the woman said.

Romulus police arrested a woman who came in to pick up the gift certificates, after earlier calling in the stolen card numbers.

Farmington Hills police say another version of the scam is to call at random and tell a victim they won a prize, and their credit card number is needed to pay tax on the prize.

To guard against illegal card use, Hills police encourage card holders to sign their cards, carry only a minimum number, never leave them unattended, and to never give the number over the phone unless you're sure the company is reputable.

Also, shred or destroy unused credit card applications that come in the mail, and check billing statements promptly, police say.

## POLICE CALLS

The following reports were filed with the Farmington Hills Police and Farmington Public Safety Departments over the past week:

### COMPUTER GEAR TAKEN

A computer and printer worth \$3,900 were reported stolen Dec. 4 from GHS Holdings, 28580 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills police said. Thieves broke a suite door lock to get inside; suggested by shreds of wood on the carpet and pry marks on the door frame.

### CAR STOLEN

An unlocked blue 1986 Mercury Cougar was reported stolen

at 7:15 p.m. Dec. 6 from a driveway in front of a house on 13 Mile Road, according to a report filed by its owner with Farmington Hills police.

### DECORATIONS TAKEN

A baby Jesus figure made of fiberglass and used in a lawn nativity scene was reported stolen Dec. 3 from a lawn on Cheshire, according to a report filed with Hills police. Also stolen Dec. 3 was a lighted deer, from a front lawn on Hamlet; and an \$80 mechanical reindeer, from a home on Lanterhill. Police said there are no suspects in the thefts.

### CAR, TV STOLEN

A 2000 Mercury with a TV, VCR and child care seat inside was reported stolen Dec. 4 from the Flamingo Trailer Park on Middlebelt, according to a report filed with Hills police. There are no suspects in the theft.

### SUSPECT APPREHENDED

A Farmington public safety officer assisted the Farmington Hills Police Department on Nov. 25 by apprehending a suspect.

The man fled from Hills officers during a traffic stop on M5 near Gill Road at around 10 p.m. Police believed the man had crack cocaine.

The Farmington public safety officer checked the area on foot and saw the suspect running toward Freedom Road. He chased the man to the rear of the residence and ordered him down to the ground. The man was turned over to Hills officers, who confirmed he was their suspect.

### THEFT

A man reported several items stolen from a storage trailer at Nine Mile and Farmington Roads Dec. 1. The items included a \$1,500 I-Mac computer as well as action figures, a mummy resin statue and a large Lego set.

### PROPERTY DESTRUCTION

Five windows at Longacre School on Arundel were reported damaged Nov. 26. Someone shot a BB gun or pellet gun into each of the windows, police said.

—Kevin Brown & Sue Buck

## MOVERS & SHAKERS

### Hermanoff promotions

The following promotions and additions have been made to the staff at Hermanoff & Associates, a full-service public relations firm in Farmington Hills:

■ Alex Grossberg has joined the staff to assist on the agency's technical and consumer accounts.

■ Tiffany Devon was promoted to executive vice president and will oversee a number of accounts from the consumer, goods and nonprofit sectors.

■ Susan Nemes was appointed account supervisor and will work with long-standing agency clients.

### Surgeons join Botsford

David Seel, D.O., an otorhinolaryngologist and facial plastic surgeon, has joined the medical staff at Botsford General Hospital.

Dr. Seel's practice provides general ear, nose and throat and facial plastic procedures.

He is a graduate of Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine and completed his post-graduate training at Botsford General Hospital.

Dr. Seel's practice, ENT Specialists, P.C., is located at 28100 Grand River, Suite 313, in Farmington Hills.

Jeffrey A. Szczepanski, D.P.M., a podiatric physician and surgeon, has also joined the medical staff at Botsford General Hospital.

Dr. Szczepanski specializes in reconstructive surgery of the foot and ankle, including the treatment of foot conditions caused by diabetes and foot and ankle traumas.

He is a graduate of the Ohio College of Podiatric Medicine and completed a three-year foot-ankle surgical residency at Forum Health System in Ohio.

Dr. Szczepanski is in partnership with Neal Moxen, D.P.M. Their practice, Foot Healthcare Associates, P.C., has two locations: 18161 West 13 Mile Rd., Suite D-2, Southfield, (248) 258-0001, and 87696 Seven Mile Rd., Suite 310, Livonia, (734) 642-9305.

### New vice president

Joseph Bandor, M.D., an 18 year resident of Farmington Hills, is the new Vice President for Medical Affairs at Harper University Hospital.

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