

Parker appoints new magistrate



Carl Christoph

Carl Christoph was appointed to serve as a magistrate in the 47th District Court. The court serves the communities of Farmington and Farmington Hills.

Chief Judge Maria Parker made the appointment.

As a magistrate, Christoph will preside over misdemeanor and felony arraignments, conduct informal hearings regarding traffic and ordinance violation matters and conduct hearings in Small Claims Civil matters.

Christoph holds a bachelor's degree in business from Michigan State University, a master's degree in education from Eastern Michigan University and earned a juris doctorate from the University of Detroit.

He is a member of the State Bar of Michigan.

Christoph resides in Farmington Hills with his wife, Rose who is a teacher for Farmington Public Schools. He has two daughters, Colleen and Carrie.

Check scam targets used car sellers

BY PAUL R. PACE
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills Police are warning residents of a new scam that is preying upon people selling used vehicles.

The department is investigating two complaints from Hills residents who had advertised their cars for sale in the *Tru-din Times*.

In both complaints, the sellers were contacted by a woman posing as a buyer.

The suspect gave a fake name and negotiated a sales price over the phone.

She then met with the sellers

at their homes and presented each with what turned out to be a counterfeit cashier's check drawn out of Comerica Bank.

Each check appeared legitimate and had been completely filled out by a computer with the exception of the line after "Pay to the Order of."

After meeting with the sellers, the suspect would hand write the seller's name in that space.

When the sellers attempted to cash the checks, they were told they were counterfeit.

In each complaint, the suspect arrived at the seller's home with a black man driving

a blue or black Ford Explorer type vehicle. In both cases, the rear hatch was up to conceal the license plate.

The man remained in the Explorer at all times.

The woman is described as black, heavy-set at about 230-240 pounds, about 30 years old with a light complexion.

The department offers these tips to avoid being scammed.

■ A true cashier's check will be completely filled out, including the "Pay to the Order of" space. Do not accept a cashier's check that is not completely filled out.

■ If possible, contact the

bank or credit union where the check was drawn from and verify it.

■ Be suspicious of someone who attempts to negotiate the price of a used car before seeing it.

■ If taking a check, try to get as much information from the buyer as possible.

Ask to see the person's driver's license, write down his or her full name, date of birth, address, and phone number.

Anyone with tips or information, may call the Hills Police Command Center at (248) 473-9695.

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POLICE CALLS

Theft from auto

The owner of a Ford Explorer parked at the Radison Hotel on Grand River reported someone took speakers worth \$500 and 200 compact discs from the vehicle during the night of July 12. She said the vehicle was locked when she left it, but unlocked when she returned. She believes she knows who took her things.

Drunk driving

Police pulled over a vehicle along Westhills and Orchard Lake around 2:30 a.m.

Saturday, The 35-year-old Farmington Hills man had a .14 blood/alcohol level.

Police pulled over a vehicle along I-696 and Orchard Lake around 1:50 a.m. for driving on the wrong side of the median.

The driver, a 23-year-old Warren man, had a .16 blood/alcohol level.

A 19-year-old Farmington Hills man hit an electrical pole around 2:50 a.m. Sunday. He had a .14 blood/alcohol level and was cited for unlawful alcohol level.

Police pulled over a vehicle along 12 Mile and Orchard Lake around 5:55 p.m. Monday based on a dispatch report of a possible drunk driver. The driver, a 61-year-old Southfield woman, had a .17 blood/alcohol level.

Pump dismantled

In the 25500 block of Branchester, a resident reported someone took out the screws to the pump machine for his pool during the night of July 6. Damage was \$300.

Shed broken into

In the 21800 block of Power, a shed door was pried open and a \$150 lawn mower and a \$120 weed whacker were stolen from inside between July 9-11.

Underage drinking

Police spotted an 18-year-old Oak Park man urinating on the side of the Kinko's building on Orchard Lake around 10:15 p.m. Sunday. He was with friends parked in a car outside the business and a bottle of gin was in the car. The man was ticketed for underage drinking and for urinating in public.

Tenants take appliances

The owner of a home for rent in the 21100 block of Whitlock Street reported the tenants he evicted for not paying rent took the stove, refrigerator, washer, dryer and butcher block table during Friday night from the house.

Bike stolen

A \$100 mountain bike located outside the Beechview Swim Club was stolen in the afternoon on Monday.

Shoplifting

An 18-year-old Farmington Hills man was ticketed for shoplifting a \$15 CD from the Kmart store on Orchard Lake around 8 p.m. Monday.

Vehicles stolen

A resident in the 39000 block of Polo Club Drive reported three year 2002 vehicles, a BMW and two Cadillac Escalades, were stolen from her residence.

By staff writer Paul R. Pace from reports on file at the Farmington Hills Police Department.

Observer
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