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'Quick change' scam strikes restaurant

A man who started out with a \$3 purchase at **Famous Dave's** in Rochester Hills Sept. 16 may have defrauded the restaurant out of \$166 by forcing a cashier into making numerous transactions in quick succession.

A manager called the Oakland County Sheriff's Office the next day to report the incident, which occurred at around 7:45 p.m. He said the man approached with a \$3 purchase at the carry-out stand. Then, while the cash drawer remained opened, asked the cashier to make change for numerous bills. A surveillance camera captured the event and showed that the cash drawer was open for three minutes. When the money was counted at the end of the night, the drawer was short \$166.

According to the Web site www.ehow.com, the quick-change scam typically involves a con artist who confuses a cashier by paying for a small purchase with a large denomination bill, then changing his mind several times about how he wants the change returned to him.

Home Invasion

A 24-year-old homeless man was in custody Friday awaiting arraignment in connection with a Thursday home invasion on Lakeview.

A resident of the home called police around 5 p.m. after she came home, found a door to her garage damaged, and thought she saw someone leaving her house by the door she had just entered. Just then there was a knock at the same door, and the woman recognized the man as a friend of her son's who had been told to stay away. He fled on foot.

As Oakland County Sheriff's deputies responded, a second call came from a nearby Rite-Aid store at Rochester Road and Tienken. A man matching the intruder's description was causing trouble. He was arrested there without incident.

Lt. Ray White said the man, a former Rochester Hills resident, admitted to being a recovering heroin addict who had been living in a Pontiac homeless shelter. It appears the man was in the woman's house for a couple of hours, taking a nap. He is suspected of stealing \$21 cash from the house.

Last June, the same man was charged in a similar incident. In that case, White said, after sleeping in another acquaintance's garage, he took a blanket from the garage and was later arrested sleeping in the vestibule of First Congregational Church. He eventually pleaded guilty to entry without permission.

Larceny

- A Rochester Road car dealer reported that a tailgate was stolen off a Ford F-250 pickup truck over the weekend of Sept. 13-14 while the dealership was closed.

- A laptop computer, two cameras and a phone were stolen from a car parked in an Emmons driveway Sept. 12.
- A radar detector was stolen from an unlocked car parked on Coolidge Sept. 13.
- A window was broken on a car parked at Avondale Middle School on Auburn Sept. 17 and a purse was stolen. The school's surveillance camera shows a man in a red pickup truck committing the crime.

Lost

A 46-year-old Rochester Hills woman drove off from the Wal-Mart store on Adams Sept. 15, leaving her \$2,000 Louis Vuitton purse in a shopping cart. When she returned for it, it was gone.

Suspicious

- A 70-year-old Golfview Ct. resident reported Sept. 17 that not only was someone fraudulently using her credit card, but someone had been to her house and moved a chair and a plant.

A jacket was hanging from the plant hook and a pair of jeans and a Yankees cap were found nearby.

She believed the same person was responsible for all the incidents.

- A North Fairview resident reported Sept. 13 that a political sign was removed from his lawn and stuffed in his mailbox the previous night. Other neighbors' signs for the same candidate were untouched.

Malicious destruction

Plants and chairs were found in the pool at Village Green Apartments Sept. 14. The pool's handrails were damaged.