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Vandals strike fear in Rochester Hills

Police investigate case of possible ethnic intimidation

By RANDAL YAKEY Of The Oakland Press

A Rochester Hills neighborhood is on edge after messages of hate and obscenities were discovered along Plum Ridge Drive and Hidden Creek Court, north of Oakland University.

Deputies from the Oakland County Sheriff's Office Rochester Hills substation said a resident of Hidden Creek Court called shortly before 6 a.m. Tuesday to report the vandalism.

"At about 5:30 a.m., several sheriff's deputies pounded on my door," said one of the victims, who did not want his identity revealed. "There were racial slurs and KKK written. I think it was kids."

At one of the homes, deputies said they discovered the house and a car covered with spray-painted racial and sexual remarks, swastikas, an inverted cross and other hate-related images. The homeowner is of Middle Eastern descent, deputies reported. It was the second incident at this home since last June when a swastika was painted in his driveway.

"At least three houses had something done to them," Oakland County Undersheriff Michael McCabe said.

A black homeowner in the same neighborhood reported the doors and trunk of his vehicle were opened and a box of bullets were left behind. Deputies also said they discovered two vehicles at other residences in the neighborhood.

"We will not tolerate this kind of criminality, ignorance and intimidation," said Oakland County Sheriff Michael Bouchard. "I am asking anyone who has knowledge of this incident to call us. We suspect the responsible lives in the nearby area. There is a \$1,000 reward through Crime Stoppers."

The sheriff's office views this as a serious hate crime and is investigating this as a possible ethnic intimidation, a felony punishable by up to 2 years in prison. Anyone with information is encouraged to call the Crime Stoppers at (800) SPEAK-UP.

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Oakland County Sheriff's deputies are looking for the people who vandalized several cars and homes in the Hidden Creek Court neighborhood in Rochester Hills. Photo courtesy of the Oakland County Sheriff's Office



Police are asking for help to find out who vandalized several cars and houses in the Hidden Creek Court neighborhood of Rochester Hills. Photo courtesy the Oakland County Sheriff's Office