
Vandals smash windows, steal Christmas lawn displays

Wednesday, 10 December 2008

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Cliff Buchan

News Editor

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The chief said businesses in the south and north ends of Lake Street (US-61) filed reports on Thursday, Dec. 4, documenting the damage.

The vandals smashed windows at the following locations: O'Reilly Auto Parts, 519 S. Lake St.; Jelly Jar Cafe, 59 S. Lake St.; OSI, Inc., 146 N. Lake St.; and a vacant commercial building at 568 N. Lake St.

Quiring said complete damage estimates were not available, but added that the window of the vacant building on the north end of town had recently been replaced at a cost of \$732.

The chief said it is possible the vandals were using wrist rockets to cause the damage and likely traveled in a vehicle. In one case, he said it appeared vandals used an item the size of a golf ball to shatter the window.

Residential vandalism is also hitting the area.

In the city of Wyoming, a homeowner on 250th St. in the former Wyoming Township reported that windows on two vans parked in the driveway had been shattered recently, resulting in \$2200 in damage and making the vehicles unusable until repairs were made.

The vans have raised roofs and are equipped with lifts as they have been used to transport a handicapped family member who relies on a wheelchair. Comprehensive insurance on the 1994 and 1999 models was recently dropped because of the age of the vehicles, meaning the vehicle owners were stuck with the full bill for fixing the damage.

Christmas displays taken

A number of Forest Lake residents have also reported the theft of Christmas decorations from their yard displays. The thefts took place late Friday night or early Saturday morning, Quiring said.

A resident in the 100 block SW 7th St. reported the theft of a Snowman and Mickey Mouse lawn displays. The two display pieces were valued at near \$200 and had been in the family display for 30 years.

Two blocks away in the 900 block of SW 2nd Avenue, a three-foot tall wicker angel and a five-foot ball snow penguin were taken from a Christmas display.

Two homes around the lake were also hit the same night.

A four-foot lighthouse was stolen from the yard in the 600 block of North Shore Drive and an eight-foot Santa lawn ornament was taken from a home in the 7200 block of North Shore Trail N., according to police reports.

US-8 crash

US-8 in Wyoming was closed for about an hour in the early evening of Wednesday, Dec. 3 following a two-car collision just outside the Forest Lake city limits.

The closure happened around 8 p.m. after a motorist struck a deer and then was T-boned by a second vehicle, sending one car into the ditch. Three of the four people who were in the two cars were taken by ambulance to Fairview Lakes Medical Center in Wyoming. Information on their names and the extent of their injuries was not available. The deer was killed in the collision.

The crash resulted in a long back up in both directions on US-8, with traffic routed around the scene for about one hour. Along with the Minnesota State Patrol and North Memorial Rescue, the Chisago County Sheriff's Department and Wyoming police and fire were on the scene.

Other news

Police were also involved in a fire incident and a theft at a local business.

At 4:47 p.m., police and Forest Lake Fire were called to SuperAmerica, 1086 W. Broadway Ave. where a pickup caught fire next to a gas pump. Police and fire personnel cleared patrons from the scene as a fire crew extinguished the fire.

Thanks to information provided by citizens at the scene, police found the driver of the pickup who was attempting to walk

from the scene when he was stopped. Quiring said Michael S. Hebert, 45, of Shoreview, was arrested and taken to the Washington County Jail in Stillwater where he was held for driving after revocation.

Quiring said that Hebert at first said his brother was driving the pickup, but later recanted the story. The pickup was registered to the man's brother who also lives in Shoreview.

At American Legion Post 225, 355 W. Broadway Ave., police hope they will be able to identify the two men who stole an exterior surveillance camera from the north side of the Legion building late Sunday night or early Monday morning. The camera was valued at \$300.

While the camera was taken, police are reviewing the video footage which provides a good picture of one of the two men who removed the camera from above the door.

Quiring also reported that a 2000 Dodge Dakota was taken from the 700 block of Sunshine Court on Sunday was recovered the same day in Anoka County before the vehicle had been reported stolen.