

The Source

For Sterling Heights

Sunday, April 13, 2014

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Student Painters offers great experience for college students

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Featured artists bring 'power of your love' message to Sterling Heights

CRIME

Police seek bicycle thief

By SEAN DELANEY
Source Staff Writer

Sterling Heights police are searching for a man accused of stealing two bicycles from the rack at Henry Ford II High School on Clinton River Road.

According to Lt. Luke Riley, the man police are looking for is black, of medium height, with a mustache, and wearing a blue coat with white or light-colored print and a University of Michigan stocking cap.

The incident occurred around 9:50 a.m. March 27 when the suspect removed the bikes and placed them in his vehicle, which was described as an older-model hatchback sports utility vehicle, possibly a maroon Ford Explorer, and fled.

Riley said the theft was not discovered until the end of the school day, but was captured by surveillance cameras.

Anyone with information on the theft is asked to call Sterling Heights police at 446-2801.

STERLING HEIGHTS

City adopts amended sign language

By SEAN DELANEY
Source Staff Writer

After months of review and revision, an amended zoning ordinance governing temporary real estate signs in commercial and industrial zoning districts was adopted April 1 with a 6-1 vote by the Sterling Heights City Council.

"I think we've fine-tuned (the ordinance)," said Councilman Joseph Romano. "We all had a lot of questions and suggestions, and I think (City Planner Don Mende) took that to heart. I think this is a good solution. I think it will work."

Mayor Pro Tem Michael Taylor disagreed and cast the single vote against adoption.

"I'm opposed to it because each monument sign is different," he said. "I also think it's a burden on property owners that I don't necessarily think is fair. I don't think it's going to be applied uniformly to each property owner because each property owner has a different situation -- whether they have a monument sign, whether they have enough space, etc."

According to Mende, the ordinance regulates the standards, location, permitting, construction type, duration and implementation for placement of temporary real estate signs.



SOURCE PHOTO/SEAN DELANEY

An amended zoning ordinance governing temporary real estate signs in commercial and industrial zoning districts was adopted April 1 with a 6-1 vote by the Sterling Heights City Council.

Historically, the city of Sterling Heights has placed a high value on aesthetics in all zoning districts," Mende said. "Unfortunately, surveys of major arterial corridors over the course of the past year have revealed a significant, pervasive and long-term problem with temporary signage placed by brokers on both vacant and developed commercial/industrial properties."

With that in mind, the Office of Planning was tasked with drafting amendments to zoning ordinance No. 278 to ensure that property owners with space for lease or commercial/industrial land for sale are able to effectively advertise, but without the adverse impact on the aesthetics of the city's major roads.

"The proposed text amendments strike the appropriate balance between making Sterling Heights a visually attractive place for residents and visitors, and allowing property owners and their brokers to effectively market property for sale or lease," Mende said.

The latest amendments to the ordinance were made after some council members expressed concern with previous revisions presented at earlier meetings.

"Council did raise an excellent point that not all monument signs are created equal," Mende said. "For example, if an owner finds himself with less than 16 square feet of available space, it may put them at an advertising disadvantage."

To better address this issue, the proposed ordinance has been revised to provide for an Administrative Review Board authorized to grant some administrative relief to the ordinance standards in specified circumstances.

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RESCUE

Firefighters rescue puppy from burning home

By SEAN DELANEY
Source Staff Writer

A donation made years ago to the Sterling Heights Fire Department had a life-saving impact on a local family April 5 when firefighters responded to a call about a kitchen fire on Irval Drive.

According to Fire Chief Chris Martin, crew arrived at the scene around 4:25 p.m. and were told that all of the occupants had evacuated the burning home -- except the family's pet dog, which was unaccounted for and trapped inside.

As fire crews worked to control the fire, they simultaneously searched for the family's 9-month-old female Boxer puppy, which was found unconscious in the heavy smoke conditions.

Shirleyray was removed from the structure and successfully resuscitated using a mask that had been donated to the fire department in 2007 by Best Friends Pet Care of Clinton Township.

"Although there was more than \$160,000 in property and content damage to the home, the family and their pet all survived," Martin said.

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PHOTO COURTESY THE CITY OF STERLING HEIGHTS

Sterling Heights firefighters rescued Shirleyray, a 9-month-old Boxer, from a burning home April 5.

FUNDRAISER

Cops and Lobsters Special Olympics fundraiser returns to Sterling Heights

The Sterling Heights Fraternal Order of Police Lodge No. 118 and Sterling Heights' Red Lobster Restaurant are teaming up once again to sponsor the popular Cops and Lobsters fundraiser to benefit the Michigan Special Olympics.

The event, featuring law enforcement personnel stepping in as servers, is scheduled for April 17 from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. and April 18 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Red Lobster Restaurant near Lakeside Mall.

During Cops and Lobsters, Sterling Heights police officers volunteer their time to help raise money for Michigan Special Olympics and the athletes who are involved in the program.

The off-duty officers help Red Lobster wait staff, and earn tips and donations to help support the Michigan Special Olympics athletes.

According to event organizer Sterling Heights Police Officer Dave Allen, the goal is to hit the \$10,000 threshold for the first

During Cops and Lobsters, Sterling Heights police officers volunteer their time to help raise money for Michigan Special Olympics and the athletes who are involved in the program.

time.

"We encourage the community to please join the Sterling Heights Fraternal Order of Police on April 17 and 18, and patronize Red Lobster Lakeside for lunch or dinner," Allen said.

"Help make this an even bigger event than in years past by telling friends and family members to enjoy a delicious meal and help raise money for thousands of special athletes who count on this support."



SOURCE PHOTO/SEAN DELANEY

The popular Cops and Lobsters fundraiser, which benefits the Michigan Special Olympics, is scheduled for April 17 from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. and April 18 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Red Lobster Restaurant near Lakeside Mall.