

# In this neighborhood it's hare today, gone tomorrow

*Several Penfield residents have had lawn ornaments stolen or removed in the past few weeks.*

**By AMY CAVALIER**

Messenger Post Staff

It wasn't worth filing a police report.

When a 25-pound, white cement rabbit disappeared from John Wilkie's Clearview Drive yard, he chalked it up to "teenage pranks," something he admits he might have been guilty of as a youth.

Left behind were two smaller baby bunnies, and sad grandchildren.

"The grandchildren have this big deal about always washing them," he said. "They clean the bunnies up."

Wilkie enlisted the help of his neighbors in finding the

"mama" bunny, the largest of the three.

"We saw them (the neighbors) going out for a bike ride," he said. "We asked them to keep an eye out for it."

Within an hour, the bunny was spotted.

Around the same time, Wilkie's neighbors' bird feeder was stolen and placed in his lawn. Wilkie said he understands the incidents are just teenage hijinks and there's no harm done. But at the same time, "it leaves you with this empty feeling," he said.

"It was two houses up and across the street," said Wilkie.

These types of incidents are not very common, according to Cpl. John Helfer of the Monroe County Sheriff's Office, but they do occur.

Dolores and Robert Crowell are recent victims of theft. The items stolen from their lawn, near the corner of Atlantic Avenue and Scribner Road, were more valuable. In May, they had a three-piece ornate wrought-iron furniture set stolen from their side yard. They also reported the theft of a weed-eater.

Dolores Crowell said the furniture would have required several people to lift and a truck to transport, since their house is fairly secluded.

"It's an invasion of your privacy and your personal things," she said.

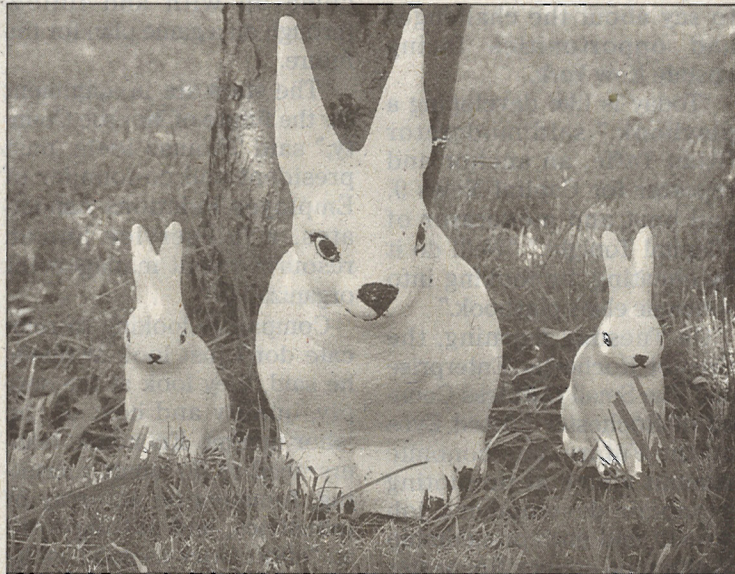
The Crowells filed a police report, but they have yet to see their belongings returned.

"It's probably something we see more of around the holiday season with decorations and things people put up around the holidays," Helfer said. "It does happen, more so



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

**A 25-pound cement white bunny was stolen from John Wilkie's front yard earlier this spring.**



**It was recovered in a nearby yard by neighbors out on a bike ride.**

at a larger level, at construction sites, where equipment or power tools and those items are taken. It's something we see every now and then."

Dolores Crowell said she and her husband are now more diligent about locking

things up.

"It's upsetting to know people can do that and get away with it," she said.

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