

Digest

STAFF REPORTS

BROWARD COUNTY

Sheriff's Office: Suspects used fake police badges

Two men thought to have flashed bogus police badges to rob residents of Pompano Beach and Coral Springs last month were charged with armed robbery and kidnapping, the Broward Sheriff's Office said Friday.

Sanders Hightower, 32, of Fort Lauderdale, and Kevin L. Martin, 25, of Sunrise are held at separate Broward County jails without bail. Hightower was arrested July 13, and Martin was captured Thursday.

The men identified themselves as police officers July 7 at the Pompano Beach home of James Pack, 23, said Sheriff's Office spokesman Hugh Graf. Once inside, the suspects handcuffed Pack and his roommate and stole a handgun, rifle, cash and a notebook computer, Graf said.

Three days later, Hightower and Martin used their phony badges to enter the home of George Koutsis, 55, police said. Police said they stole a gun and cash from the home.

Miramar to begin city h

Offices in heart of town intended to 'unify' areas

BY LORI SYKES
STAFF WRITER

It's expected to take three weekends and eight vans to move 900 pieces of furniture and 1,700 boxes into the new Miramar City Hall.

It's quite a step, leaving the city's historic east side for a brand-new, three-story complex in the heart of the city, off Red and Hiatus roads.

City officials begin the first phase of the move on Wednesday.

"Everybody is getting ready to go," Miramar Mayor Lori Moseley said. "It's a little bittersweet, really. We are moving out of a facility that we've been in always, and it will be knocked down."

City officials spent years searching for a new home for City Hall.

"We have been growing so rapidly, we didn't have a facility for the community that was centrally located,"

Moseley said. "To me, this [new] City Hall is symbolic of unifying our older neighborhood with our newer. To me, it's more than just a building."

As the city's population continues to expand west of Interstate 75, office space has become limited. Several years ago, the Building Department had to move into an old five-and-dime across the street from the current City Hall, at 6700 Miramar Parkway.

Now, all city officials will be within walking distance. The Community Development Department will be housed in a building next to City Hall.

Before the move, boxes and furniture from both buildings, which are plagued with mold and bugs, will be tented for termites.

The grand opening is scheduled for October, giving officials time to settle in. The first meeting in the new commission chambers is set for Sept. 1.

The new building follows Miramar's Mediterranean theme, complete with royal palm trees, brick pavers and decorative light posts.

Inside the large glass doors, visitors are greeted with "The City of Miramar Welcomes You."



Staff graphic/News

This is the first phase of Town Center area. The site consists of 40 acres, with a public library, cultural park, housing, offices, parks and restaurants.

The Town Center scheduled in five to seven years, officials said.

While some residents such as Jacome are excited about things to come at the friendly Town Center such as Bob Ruben, are no

Now that City Hall is more centrally located, it