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Posted by : Randy

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(NewsPressNow.com) - Although Rudy Phelps needed a car, he never expected one would suspiciously show up in his garage.



"I woke up about 9 a.m., looked out the window and there was this car sitting in my garage," the 72-year-old St. Joseph man said Tuesday. "I need a car, but I didn't expect one would come like that."

Mr. Phelps questioned his wife and daughter about the mysterious 2005 Dodge Stratus in his garage in the 1100 block of Corby Street. He decided to investigate further when he took the trash out shortly after 11 a.m.

"I knew something was wrong, because it wasn't really a new car and it had some damage to it," he said. "I figured it had probably been stolen, so I went out and looked at it. There was nobody in it and no keys in it."

Mr. Phelps called police, and Capt. Jonathan Beaver said officers believed the vehicle may be connected to an incident Monday night.

"Officers attempted to stop a vehicle in the 800 block of Hickory Street," he said. "It took off, but we believe this might have been the same car and someone was just trying to hide it there."

Mr. Phelps said the owner of the car arrived at his house and recovered the vehicle. He remained amazed that someone would leave a vehicle on his property.

"(The owner) said he left his keys in the car last night and someone had just taken off with it," Mr. Phelps said. "I think he was lucky that it still ran and that he got it back."

Mr. Beaver said vehicle recoveries seldom happen in this manner. He encouraged owners to lock their cars when they leave them unattended.

"To put a vehicle in someone's garage that they didn't know is very odd," Mr. Beaver said.

"Unfortunately, we don't have a suspect, but at least the owner got his car back."