

Hills, city cops reaching out to residents

By walking the beat

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

Car-bound Farmington patrolmen are discovering a new way to maintain friendly contact with the public—they're beaming to walk beats again.

In addition to cruising through town, patrolmen are leaving their cars behind to walk through shopping centers to meet the public. Patrolmen who are hounding it are stopped by passers-by in quest of directions or helpful advice.

One woman relied on a Farmington officer to stop her car's gas tank from leaking in a parking lot. Midday heat caused pressure to build up in the tank and the gas overflowed.

In another incident, an elderly woman trusted the police to find her way home. After walking two days and a night, the woman, Sylvia Lumonsky was too bewildered to find her way home. She sought some rest on an unfamiliar apartment porch until the manager noticed her and called police.

"Where do you live?" asked Officer Tom Cox, bending over to peer into the woman's face. "Do you live in a big house with a lot of people?"

"Renaissance on Woodward," the woman answered slowly. "Cox shook his head in disbelief and turned to Officer Ray Lardie, who arrived in a second patrol car. It was late in the morning and the sun was uncomfortable as it beat down on the small group.

COX BEGAN to shepherd the fragile looking woman into his patrol car. The little figure in a neat red house coat dutifully followed the policemen to her car.

After Mrs. Lumonsky was seated in Cox's car, he turned to Lardie. "She couldn't have walked here from Detroit," he said.

"Did you look at her arms. They were sunburned. She might have walked here," Lardie said.

One hour and five phone calls later, Cox discovered that Mrs. Lumonsky was correct all along. She had walked from her nursing home in Detroit to Farmington.

"Sometimes you'd think that they were picked up from Detroit and put down here," Lardie said after hearing the news on his radio.

Children waved and adults sometimes stared as the patrol car wound its way through residential streets until it reached Grand River, where earlier in the day, Lardie had parked the vehicle and walked through the area.

Police trying to recapture the personal rapport with the public by walking a beat is relatively new in Farmington. The decision to walk through a shopping center is left up to the patrolmen. Lardie chose to walk because it helps improve the types of contact he has with the public.

"FIRST THERE WERE BEATS. But then they introduced the vehicle into police work. That gave you mobility but it also removed you from the people. So, now we're getting back to beats," he explained.

"Our public image improves with in-

creased contact. You're out talking to people," he said.

Police on foot still are an uncommon sight to morning shoppers browsing through the downtown stores. Coverly, they stare at Lardie, trying to find the reason for his presence on the sidewalk.

Walking into a downtown bank, he's spotted by one of the clerks, who looks up from her work in surprise.

"Did our alarm go off again?," she asks in dismay.

"No, just walking through," Lardie reassures her and continues walking toward the back door. After a tour of the downtown he takes a swing through the Village Outlet.

"Dir' we do something wrong?" a store manager asks with a grin. Her co-workers watch as Lardie walks through the clothing store.

"People do watch you. It's like being in a goldfish bowl," he says. Out of the corner of his eye, he notices an elderly man nudge his wife with his elbow and point her attention toward Lardie. Both of them stare as Lardie walks out of the back door.

NEW RESIDENTS who receive a routine introductory visit by officers register a similar reaction to finding a policeman at their doorstep.

"Most are surprised. Some are apprehensive.

"Oh, I have a son in military school and when I saw you I thought something might have happened to him," explained the relieved owner of a pondie that tried to run away.

Other homeowners relax after they realize that Lardie is there to hand out a few safety pamphlets and offer a welcome to the city.

"Most people are surprised because they don't have the friendly type of contact with police. Usually it's in a time of need. People don't have much friendly contact with patrolmen," Lardie said.

By the time early afternoon has rolled around, Lardie is in his car, again, checking out the schoolyards that soon will be teeming with students on late lunch breaks.

After cruising through Farmington High School's parking lot, Lardie is called back to the school. A counselor has chased away a young stranger from the lot. He suspects that the youth was pushing a dog.

Lardie takes another tour of his alma mater's lot, hoping to find the late model Oldsmobile the youngster was driving.

IT WAS GONE. Groups of students scattered around the lot turn to look at the passing patrol car. "Oh, oh," shouts a student in disapproval.

A meeting with the counselor produces a description of the short teen who drove the Olds with the loose trunk. The counselor is unable to remember the color of the car. He was too busy trying to memorize the license number.

The license number does little good at the moment. It has yet to be registered in the police computer. Lardie takes whatever information the counselor can give and walks out the door as students between classes exchange knowing glances over seeing a police officer in their midst.



Farmington Police Officer Ray Lardie (top) patrols the city's shopping centers in addition to using his car to keep an eye on the town. In Farmington Hills, Ellen Tune, Community Service officer (bottom), talks to Cindy Adelson before going on her assigned rounds. (Staff photo by Harry Maute)

or busting barriers

Community Service Officers (CSOs) have been encouraging cooperation between Farmington Hills residents and their police department for two years.

Lacking police powers to arrest, carry a gun or write tickets, the CSOs are dispatched to handle situations in which the presence of a uniformed officer would be unnecessary or overbearing.

If a resident is burning leaves, the CSO is sent to remind him that such practices are illegal in Farmington Hills.

When a group of youngsters is wary of uniformed police, a CSO tries to break down barriers between the two groups.

"They promote citizen contact and gain rapport that is required of police departments," said Farmington Hills Police Chief George Halverson.

The five-member unit underwent three months of orientation and training before being allowed to act as liaisons between the department and the community.

Members are chosen through interviews with City Manager George Majors and Chief Halverson.

BEFORE THEIR ORIENTATION IS through, the members work in every facet of the department—from the records bureau to the juvenile division.

"Because their uniform is similar to that of a regular officer, they are often mistaken by residents for police officers.

"Most people don't realize that I'm not an officer. The uniforms don't look that much different," said CSO Ellen Tune, 23.

As a result, she's sometimes left wondering if the person she just met is under the mistaken impression that she can arrest people.

The confusion may end soon when the unit receives its new uniform of grey slacks, white blouse and red blazers. The unit tours town in specially marked CSO cars.

Eventually, the group could acquire

the power to write tickets, according to Halverson.

"First I want to see what the volume of written citations. Then we'll see about furnishing them with the power to write citations," he said. Their work with juveniles actually can't be boosted, according to the CSOs, by the fact that the unit is unable to make arrests. CSO officers can serve as go-betweens.

WORK WITH THE YOUNGSTERS SHOULD increase for the unit in the summer months.

"I can see it's going to increase for me, especially since I'll be working from 2 p.m. to 20 p.m. in the next months. It's evening and the kids will be out then," she said.

She wants to expand her work with youngsters to include contact with them after they have been taken into the station.

"I want to deal with juveniles after an incident, during the information intake period," she said.

"I LIKE MY JOB, but I'd like to be given more responsibility," she said. A graduate in social work from Western Michigan University, Ms. Tune spends some of her time filling in for other employees at the station.

Recently, she spent a day helping out the radio dispatch personnel. That duty included helping someone find a dog and filing a report on a missing lawn mower.

On more lively days, she can be found reminding cyclists to wear helmets next time they ride or discouraging youngsters from growing marijuana gardens.

She believes that she's been well received within the department but has to cope with residents who have problems accepting women in their police department.

"Usually people are cooperative. I'm uncomfortable when people give me a hard time because I'm a woman. It's something that I have to accept. Usually, I ignore it," she said.

Neglected pets cause disease

By LYNN ORR

Evidence of uncontrolled matting of hair, undetected illnesses and sometimes misadventures of fleas and maggots on dogs verify the fact that pet owners often neglect animals with the same irresponsibility displayed in purchasing the animals.

"People think you can bring in a dog once a year and we can work wonders," says Sue Chepaska, a dog groomer at Pets 'N Particulars on Mooney across from the Farmington Plaza.

"A lot of people think all that hair is cute and natural when actually the dog is uncomfortable and it's not natural."

Ms. Chepaska recently began grooming a dog brought into the shop only to find maggots underneath all that matted hair. And although short-haired dogs may not require the four- to six-week grooming sessions long-haired dogs need, all dogs should have their nails clipped and their anal glands emptied and checked for infection, they claim.

"If the dog doesn't need grooming, they should be brought in for that. And if we discover any problems we ask the owner to take the pet to a veterinarian," Ms. Chepaska says.

Jan Muzzarelli, who boards and grooms dogs at Dog Gone Acres in addition to raising Golden Retrievers, emphasizes the importance of caring for family pets.

"It hurts the dog to comb out mats

and mats of hair, and I refuse to use tranquilizers, which can have an adverse affect. The most I'll do is muzzle a dog, but you still don't like them to get hurt."

SPRING and summer seasons are also heartworm season for dogs, an often fatal illness. A blood test to check the dog and medication to prevent the disease (carried by mosquitoes) is good prevention, they say.

And long-haired dogs should be groomed frequently, despite the owners' contention that shaggy is natural.

"There is no such thing as a natural dog, except for the wolf and dogs like Huskies and German Shepherds," says Ms. Bibeau. "All the other dogs are man-made. You don't see natural dogs with long hair all matted. It's uncomfortable."

Matts of hair tighten the dogs' skin, Ms. Bibeau says. And washing the dog only shrinks the matts which pull the skin tighter.

"People come in and say 'Oh, we don't get him clipped in the winter because he'll catch a cold.' What they don't realize is that in the winter the dog gets wet in the snow and doesn't dry and often mildews."

PET OWNERS often impose their own standards of beauty on dogs, she says, and since men breed dogs,

(Continued on Page 2A)

Tables turn for senior housing foes

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

Senior citizen housing advocate Rev. Meredith Moshauer blasted Farmington Nursing Home's plans to construct elderly apartments as "isolationist," during a recent Farmington Planning Commission public hearing.

During the meeting, which resulted in the commission's support of the nursing home's building plans, Farmington Hills Council of Homeowners' representatives came out in favor of the proposal, which adheres to the city's master plan.

The structure should provide a maximum of 414 living units, according to Rowe, of the city's building department. About 146 units are scheduled for the first phase of construction.

Initial plans for the complex included provisions for medical aid for semi-dependent residents, shuttle buses and a meal delivery program.

About 50 residents of the nursing home are independent enough to move into the first 146 units, according to Rowe.

REITERATING HIS support for sen-

ior residences, Moshauer deplored the choice of an isolated location for the complex.

"My concern is the validity of the location of the complex. On one side it will have I-696 and on the other side it will have Eight Mile and its light industries," he said.

"If we're going to build the residences, we should also look at the humanity of the location of senior citizens' housing. It should be close to shopping centers. But the Farmington Nursing Home's closest shopping center is the Livonia Mall and downtown Farmington."

In order to get to these centers, residents must have ready transportation, he cautioned. The site would be adequate if most seniors were able to travel easily.

"I didn't hear them talking about the semi-invalid or the well-aged person. There's no drug stores or party stores nearby for them," he said.

Homeowners argue that most residences in Farmington Hills are some distance from shopping centers and drug stores.

"Almost any part of Farmington Hills is not a walking distance of stores," said Homeowners President Joe Alkateeb.

"ALMOST EVERYBODY drives. And the bus service for seniors makes it (Farmington Nursing Home site) ideal," Alkateeb said.

Homeowners association representatives would like the move because it keeps within the guidelines of the city's master plan instead of allocating an addition to the zoning code.

"You don't change the master plan for specific purposes. There's enough there to provide for our needs," Alkateeb said.

"If you do change the master plan, you'll open the door to changing the character of Farmington Hills. Farmington Hills is special to me. I would like to keep it that way. We developed the master plan to keep a low profile and a country atmosphere. We don't have to create a new zoning to provide for senior citizens," he said.

With the advent of the additional units, Alkateeb believes the city will be able to meet its senior citizen housing needs without a change in the master plan.

"We're ahead of ourselves. With the new units, by the end of 1977, we'll have 831 units. That will give us 4050 units in excess of our needs and bring us closer to our goal for 1980," he said.

Alkateeb admitted that the 831 units were a combination of existing apartments and buildings still on the planning tables.

FARMINGTON HILLS' master plan could also accommodate the planning and building of subsidized housing, according to Alkateeb.

"We probably do need subsidized housing," he said.

Senior citizen housing advocates agree subsidized housing is needed but fail to see how the addition of a private elderly apartment complex would help the present situation.

"It's still a private enterprise. It's not directed to Farmington Hills residents. Primarily, if city hall is interested in senior citizens, that public housing is the way to go about it," Moshauer said.

Such housing could be made available to Farmington Hills residents if the arrangements are done properly, according to Moshauer. That's the reason he supports passing a bonding issue to help finance a senior complex. Moshauer is convinced that would give the city legal leverage to allow residents to have first preference in the complex.

inside

Community Calendar	2B
Classified	Section C
Editorial Opinion	11A
Sports	47A
Suburban Life	Section B

DOG DAYS
Overpopulation in the animal kingdom leads to roaming packs of dogs and free rein for neglected pets. And the public's ignorance of dog breeding makes them naive consumers when it comes to purchasing a family pet. Turn to page 2A for some advice and information on the pet world from some Farmington dog lovers.