

Cities mark big drop in crime

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 Farmington Hills significant particularly when compared to neighboring communities. West Bloomfield, for example, experienced a 10.6-percent increase and Novi a 9.7-percent increase in serious crimes.
 "Farmington Hills has a reputation of a city that's not going to tolerate serious crimes and our record speaks for itself," Dwyer said, crediting the 97 sworn officers for the decrease.
 Lauhoff attributes the change in Farmington to a number of variables, including a changing population in the city which has increasingly gotten older, active residents who are becoming the eyes and ears for police, and the fact that communities nearby are becoming busier and more populated. "Farmington is no

longer a place to go to at the end of Grand River," he added.
 Reputation and officers' quick action is what Dwyer believes acts as a deterrent to would-be criminals. Geography also plays a role. In armed robberies, for example, robbers have little chance for a quick getaway because there is only one entrance onto I-696, at Orchard Lake Road.
 DWYER ALSO attributes decreases in burglaries and larcenies to the high visibility of officers in the neighborhoods. The decrease in motor vehicle thefts can be tied to manufacturers' marking-major components and well as insurance companies prohibiting the use of used parts. "There's no outlet for chop shops," Dwyer said.
 Activity overall in Farmington has decreased with 7,848 calls in 1990 compared with 8,305 calls the previous year, when major crime was up 6 percent. Those calls include everything from major crimes to drunk driving arrests, medical emergencies and citizens who are locked out of their cars.
 In Farmington Hills, all categories of serious crime decreased, except rape. Incidents of serious crime, including burglary, larceny



Frank Lauhoff



William Dwyer

and motor vehicle theft decreased from 3,258 in 1989 to 2,712 in 1990. Sexual assaults increased from 14 in 1989 to 18 in 1990. But Dwyer cautioned that these crimes were not street rapes. "These are assaults committed by people who are related or acquainted," Dwyer said. Significant decreases in larcenies

in Farmington Hills can be attributed to a drop in stealing auto part accessories and stealing items from cars. Stealing — or not paying for — gasoline, however, increased in 1990.
 LAUHOFF SEES the decrease in serious crime as a way to better serve the community.

1990 major crime statistics for the Farmington area

City of Farmington Hills
Overall decrease of 16.8 percent

Offenses	1989	1990
Murder	0	0
Rape	14	18
Aggravated Assault	96	91
Robbery	43	29
Burglary	671	598
Larceny	2,080	1,771
Vehicle theft	26	192
Arson	32	13
Totals	3,258	2,712

City of Farmington
Overall decrease of 22 percent

Offenses	1989	1990
Murder	0	0
Rape	3	2
Aggravated Assault	8	5
Robbery	8	3
Burglary	78	56
Larceny	396	317
Vehicle theft	28	18
Arson	1	.5
Totals	522	406

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Hills passes up chance to buy golf course

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 deed restrictions, which apparently guaranteed some of them preference with tee times, for example, would be applied on a city-owned course open to the general public.
 "I feel I have been heated out of my opportunity to participate in a private course," resident J.H. Jones said.
 Resident Ray Davis, who publicized the proposed sale a week ago at a council meeting, questioned municipal ownership of what was sup-

posed to be a private club.
 "Everyone voiced concern or agreed on concern voiced on the conduct of play on a public course versus a private course," Davis said. He questioned whether the city should negotiate against private enterprise and called the city "a fail-safe negotiator."
 City officials did not offer any concrete plans how the course would operate and the type of clubhouse that would be built. They said green fees would likely be more expensive than at San Marino.
 "In my mind . . . it would be just a bare bones clubhouse, no restaurant, just sandwiches. We've never been in the restaurant business,"

City Manager William Costick said. He also suggested that perhaps the course could have a hot dog stand, a comment he said he later regretted making.
 "WE HAVE a Burger King and no others. Then we have hunt clubs and 'Touche's,'" said resident John Dreher. "We have a lot at stake here. If you build a hot dog shop, I want the tax assessor out at my house the next day."
 Some residents said they needed more time to consider the city buying the course because they were the last ones to know about the possible purchase.
 "I would have to know more be-

fore I offered support," Seymour Kilger said. "I feel somebody isn't telling us everything."
 Residents were concerned that their deed restrictions — which the city does not enforce — would not be upheld if the course is sold to someone else, including the city.
 With some residents' blessings, councilwoman Jean Fox questioned why the city did not enforce developers' promise that the course would open August 1990. The golf course serves as open space, which allowed developers to increase the density of the development.
 "I know our department leaned on the developer . . . It just didn't happen," Costick responded. "They were a few months behind."

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