

Hills crime down

Police plan more improvements in '93

By BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills Police Chief William Dwyer isn't shy when it comes to patting his force on the back for its part in fighting crime. And he hopes the city's leaders keep that in mind when he gives them this year's wish list.

Dwyer said police have made strides in lowering major crime, including no homicides in 1992 compared to five in 1991. Criminal sexual conduct, breaking and entering, thefts, auto theft and arson were all down.

Robberies and assaults were the only areas where crime numbers were up, according to department figures.

"As far as armed robberies go, 90 percent or more were committed by outsiders," Dwyer said. "For the most part they (robbers) were from outside Oakland County."

But along with the 4 percent overall drop in major crimes, Dwyer pointed to several programs and innovations the department instituted in 1992, including many that were financed with drug forfeiture money, not tax dollars.

The department started its Business Watch Program, which offers seminars to area business people on ways to recognize and prevent crime.

The department bought 125 new 40 Smith and Wesson semi-automatic pistols, with 15 rounds per clip, to replace 357 Magnums, with six round clips.



'When you're out there, sometimes you're going to make mistakes. But we don't have a blue curtain. We'll protect an officer who's innocent. But we're not going to tolerate misconduct.'

William Dwyer
police chief

"We have to keep pace with the criminal element," Dwyer said.

A new crime lab, bought with \$40,000 in drug forfeiture money, will help police with preliminary procedures such as fingerprinting.

A cultural diversity training program added in 1992 will make police more aware of cultural differences and language barriers.

A new computer aided dispatch system was installed along with a citywide radio band.

"We had too many cities on our one band," he said. "We also purchased a complete new radio system."

While those and other programs have improved the department, Dwyer said Farmington Hills Police have a busy agenda in 1993:

An in-car video system already used by the Michigan State Po-

lice will be phased in depending on available city money. The system helps protect officers and the city from liability concerns.

Training will begin on a new small gas cylinder, carried by officers, that will replace the use of billy clubs and other methods of restraint. The gas temporarily disables but does not harm the person being restrained.

The department plans to hire more minorities beginning this year.

"We want to be more representative of our community," Dwyer said.

Build a new garage behind the

city complex, financed with gambling forfeiture money.

Dwyer said improving community relations will be a top priority in 1993. That will involve providing speakers to the community, including service organizations, even if it involves overtime.

"That's a biggie," he said. "It's essential that the community knows what we're doing and has access to speakers."

Dwyer, 52, who has been chief of police for the past eight years, said lawsuits against the city have decreased at a time when litigation in general has increased. "That," he said, "is a part of keeping the public's trust."

"When you're out there, sometimes you're going to make mistakes," he said. "But we don't have a blue curtain. We'll protect an officer who's innocent. But we're not going to tolerate misconduct."

Although the chief's wish list is extensive, he said most of the goals are within reach by year's end.

"I want to continue to make our department one of the most professional in the nation," Dwyer said. "That requires a high degree of training, good working conditions and good equipment."

Honorer Soronen becomes honoree

The 1993 Farmington Jaycee Distinguished Citizen Award went to someone who has been instrumental in helping select past winners.

Jody Soronen, executive director of the Farmington Area Chamber of Commerce, said she was surprised by the selection.

"I've usually worked to help select the award recipient," said Soronen. "I'm really surprised and honored."

Soronen is active in many organizations, including the YMCA, BDA, Farmington Beautification Committee and has twice served as mayor of Farmington Hills.

The award presentation was part of the 26th annual Farmington Jaycee Community Leadership Prayer Breakfast attended by about 75 people, including civic leaders, clergy and business leaders.

The Rev. Terry Prisk, executive director of Contemporary Communication, was the guest speaker for the event. Prisk, who travels throughout the



Tables turned: Jody Soronen was surprised to be named this year's honored citizen.

country as a motivational speaker, is a former director of ministries for the Youth for Christ program in Farmington. He spoke about the importance of God, priorities and prayer in everyday life.

WARNING

Lead levels in Metro Detroit drinking water are reported to be above EPA standards.

REMOVE UP TO 99.9% OF THE LEAD IN YOUR WATER

THE EVERPURE DRINKING WATER SYSTEM:

- Removes chlorine taste and odors
- Installs easily under sink
- Maintenance free
- Practical, low-cost water processing system

ADVANCE Plumbing & Heating Supply Co. 1977 W. Maple Rd. Westland, MI 48090-9910 669-7474

WORKOUTS FOR WEIGHTLIFTERS.

FARMINGTON HILLS 661-9958
PLYMOUTH 661-9958
CANTON 416-1348

Babysitting available at most classes. No contracts to sign! Start anytime!

4 for \$10

This coupon entitles you to four Jazzercise classes for \$10. New students only. Offer expires 2/28/93. Call for participating location near you! Please bring this ad in to receive this special offer. GE21

★ Add Sheppard Messer's Jazzercise. The fitness professionals.

Farmington Observer
(USPS 187-840)

Published every Monday and Thursday by Observer & Economic Newspapers, 803 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009-0910. Second-class postage paid at Birmingham, MI 48009-0910. Postmaster: Send address changes to Observer & Economic, Newspapers 803 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009-0910. Telephone 664-1100.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
(Birmingham & Michigan)

One year (12 issues) \$36.00
Six months (6 issues) \$18.00
Three months (3 issues) \$9.00

Newsstand: One copy, 50¢
One year, (elsewhere in U.S.A.) \$36.00

All advertising published in the Farmington Observer is subject to the conditions stated in the circulation rate card, copies of which are available from the advertising department, 21898 Farmington Road, Farmington, MI 48336 (313) 417-2450. The Farmington Observer reserves the right not to accept an advertiser's order. Observer & Economic do not have the authority to bind this newspaper and only publication of an advertisement shall constitute final acceptance of the advertiser's order.

Fur Coat SALE

50% OFF

Crowley's Caravan Sale brings tremendous savings to the locations below. Choose from:

- Full length mink coats • Fox-trim leather strollers
- Micro-fiber jackets with rabbit lining and fox trim
- Selected leather coats

Furs labeled to show country of origin.

Livonia Mall	Monday	January 25
	Tuesday	January 26
	Wednesday	January 27
Tel-Twelve Mall	Thursday	January 28
	Friday	January 29
	Saturday	January 30

CROWLEY'S

COME TO QUALITY, VALUE & SERVICE

Use your Crowley's Credit Card, Visa, MasterCard, American Express or Discover Card.

HANDWOVEN ORIENTAL RUG COLLECTION SHOW

Thursday to Sunday, January 28-31, Store for the Home, Birmingham

Don't miss this opportunity to find the rugs you need. Outstanding values, each of over 600 of these new and old rugs of wool and silk have been hand-selected from India, Afghanistan, Turkey, Nepal, Pakistan, Kashmir and China. Representatives from the Patusan Trading Company will be on hand to help with your selections and answer your questions. Each rug sold is accompanied by a certificate of authenticity complete with a history, description and an appraised value. Sizes range from 2'x3' to 12'x18'.

Jacobson's

336 W. MAPLE RD. • BIRMINGHAM • 644-6900

Shop 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday. Sunday Noon to 5 p.m. Jacobson's Charge, MasterCard®, VISA®, and American Express®.