

the farmington

enterprise & observer

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3-City Police 'Saturation Patrol' Sought For Area

A new crime-fighting unit called a "saturation patrol" may be operating next year in Farmington, Farmington Hills and Livonia.

The Farmington council approved applying for federal money for the system Monday, and if the other two councils affected approve, it will be one of the first times police agencies in two counties have cooperated in such a venture, according to Farmington City Manager Robert Deadman.

The proposal passed by a 32 vote in Farmington, with objections coming from

Councilmen John Allen and William Hartsock.

The proposal is an effort by the three communities to reduce certain types of crime, such as burglary, armed robbery, auto theft and larceny. Chiefs from the three cities met and recommended the formation of the new unit, Deadman told the council.

The unit would be made up of 11 officers, with Livonia contributing eight, Farmington one and Farmington Hills two.

The unit would be under the control of the chiefs of

the three contributing communities, with one of the officers designated as a command officer.

The chiefs would be responsible for establishing guidelines and the overall administration of the program.

The idea of the patrol is to be able to concentrate a patrol in high-crime areas, identified as "target areas" by computer analysis, Deadman said.

"Alone, none of the communities could provide the necessary manpower to effectively concentrate on a given area.

"Together, we believe the communities can have an effect on the rising crime rate in our suburban area."

Councilman Allen challenged the concept and the need.

"It is a duplication of effort - we have a well-funded department. These programs are like pump priming, and you have to look at the costs in the future."

"It looks to me like an inter-city STRESS program."

Deadman said it wasn't like Detroit's STRESS, which

uses a decoy system against street crime, "although STRESS isn't all bad."

He named burglaries as the main problem on which the new unit would concentrate. Although Farmington burglaries declined slightly this year, they jumped 125 per cent the year before.

"Crime is increasing. You used to get no more than one robbery a year out here - now you get four or five."

The total cost of the program would be \$394,000, of which the federal govern-

ment would contribute 90 per cent.

The county's share is five per cent, and the remaining five per cent would be shared by the three participating communities on a population formula.

Livonia would pay 63 per cent, or \$12,400; Farmington Hills would pay 29 per cent, or \$5,700; and Farmington would contribute eight per cent, or \$1,500.

The funding could be continued for a period of up to three years.



SHIRTS WILL be included in the Goodfellow baskets for the first time this year -- an addition to the annual dress drive. Tim Sockasky models one of the contributions prior to the annual paper drive to be held Dec. 14. (Photo by Fran Evert).

Up 12 Per Cent?

Farmington Protests Assessment Increase

A potential 12 per cent increase in Farmington assessments next year will be protested before the Oakland County tax allocation board by the Farmington City Council.

Although adjustments within some property classes may be negotiated, City Manager Robert Deadman told the council the city must adjust residential property from eight to 14 per cent, depending on the current assessment and how that assessment compares with the market value of the property.

The effect of an increased

assessment is to add to city, county and school taxes. In recent years, all local units of government have used most of the steadily increasing tax base to fund increases in their budgets.

A similar increase is being reported in surrounding cities, as Oakland County makes adjustments to its over-all tax assessments to comply with new state directives.

A court suit, filed by several Oakland County commissioners protesting new assessing guidelines, was not heard by the court, Deadman said.

The announcement of the proposed change came in a report from Oakland County indicating a "factor" of 1.12 was being considered for the City of Farmington.

The factor is a multiplier applied to all assessments in the city.

Deadman told the council that to apply the factor of some commercial properties would put their assessment over 50 per cent of the properties' real value, causing these properties to be in violation of the state constitution, which limits the assessment to half their true cash value.

Commissions Are Changed

Farmington City Councilman Richard Tupper called newly-elected Councilman William Hartsock, "our new planning commissioner," Monday, letting slip prematurely plans for John Allen to retire after 15 years on that body.

John Richardson was named to replace Fred Seibert on the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Although the change is not yet official, the council has apparently agreed on Hart-



RON WILSON displays the prize winning blue and gold pennant he designed in competition while a sixth grader at Forest Elementary School in 1972. Wilson now attends O.E. Dunckel Junior High. The pennants are being sold by the Forest PTA and may be purchased at the school office. (Photo by Fran Evert)

What It's Like When Cops And Robbers Are For Real

By DAN McCOSH

Detective stories make good reading.

Staple plots of the most popular television series and the best-selling books, the sage of an individual nailing his man after putting together the elusive threads of a case, have been retold more times than "Romeo and Juliet."

But crime isn't fiction. Sometimes it happens down the street. A teen-aged girl finds herself staring at a gun in the hand of the customer she was waiting on, and he is asking her to hand over the money in the cash drawer.

What happens then?

Dept. Thomas Daniels moved over to the plainclothes side of the department last month, after serving 7 1/2 years as a patrolman.

Daniels was handed his first big case just a few weeks after he started the new job.

When robbers really get caught, they are usually picked up either shortly after committing the crime or after months of investigation—usually after they have robbed at least a few more stores.

Daniels broke the armed robbery after two weeks of investigation. "A lot of it is just luck," he said.

But the story of how a real crime is investigated provides insight into both modern crime and modern police work.

A call into the police station for an "RA in progress"

The working detective sets sail on a sea of paper.

Surrounding police departments get the call, as well as the local police, and sometimes a car escaping through Livonia will be stopped by that department.

The detectives, arriving after the patrolmen, should find the crime scene "protected" against anyone disturbing potential evidence and most of the witnesses identified.

They really do look for clues, and some of them even carry magnifying glasses.

But clues rarely lead directly to an arrest.

Their main function is later, in the courtroom, when hard evidence is needed to convict in a trial that may be held a year later.

"You have to maintain the chain of evidence," Daniels said.

"That means someone must be responsible for it at all times."

He related how the date, case number and identification of each bit of potential evidence is recorded every time it changes hands.

The emphasis gave you the impression it was a routine drilled at policemen again and again.

The job of a detective took

tedious, repetitive job of record keeping.

A case doesn't show up in court as a slam-bang action adventure. It comes sealed up in little plastic bags, fingerprints ("lifted") onto pieces of plastic, and small personal items tagged and labeled.

At the scene in question, money was scattered on the floor when the gunman ran out the door. This was picked up and fingerprinted.

The cash register was dusted for fingerprints and the counter and the door. Sgt. Murray Switzer is the fingerprint expert, as well as Daniels' supervisor.

Fingerprints don't lead to a suspect directly, but they help a lot in court.

But the biggest help in this case was an alarm-triggered camera which filmed the actual robbery.

"I wish more people around here had things like that," Switzer said. "They all think it can't happen here."

"We interview the witnesses again. You have to ask leading questions."

"What did he say? Was he taller than me? Shorter?"

"People don't remember right away sometimes."

After the first night, the real work begins.

"We usually start out by looking at the teletypes," Daniels continued. Teletypes



BATTLING FOR A LOOSE BALL are Farmington's Al Blyski (44) and Livonia Bentley's Randy Litke (51). It was the opening game for both schools with Bentley dashing away with a 70-47 victory. (Observer photo by Harry Mauthe)

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