

City police battle increases in armed robbery, shoplifting

Although armed robbery, shoplifting and larceny of automobile parts and accessories have increased since last year, City of Farmington Public Safety Director Daniel Burnes is pleased with the overall crime fighting picture.

Burnes made his quarterly report at this week's city council meeting at which he reported that one crime has decreased by four per cent over last year.

Part one crimes include murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny over \$200 and auto theft.

This year the City of Farmington has suffered 11 armed robberies. Last year by this time the city had two armed robberies.

But I'm optimistic. We have solved seven of those robberies with arrests. Burnes' 141 counterparts in other municipalities also are becoming a major

problem in the city. This year, 102 shoplifting incidents have been reported to police, an increase of 104 per cent more than last year when 50 cases were reported. Ninety-five of the cases have been solved by police.

The increase in the number of shoplifting complaints is because we have more commercial establishments than we have had in the past and that obviously owners and employees are both apprehending more shoplifters and notifying the police when they do so, he said.

THE INCREASING popularity of CB radios has proven to be a headache to police officials. Their popularity has caused a dramatic increase in larceny of auto parts and accessories.

Last year there were 43 cases of larceny of motor vehicle parts and accessories. This year 131 cases have been reported. Only seven have been solved — the stations getting so bad that insurance companies won't even write new policies for persons with CB radios in their cars, he said.

If you want insurance you have to pay an extra premium, he said.

But while reported crime has been on the increase, arrest statistics also have risen substantially. Arrests for adults involved in part one crimes has increased by 143 per cent and for juveniles by 115 per cent. An increase in the number of larceny and theft arrests caused the increase, he said.

BY THIS TIME last year, 27 arrests for larceny had been made. This year 63 arrests have been made. Also 28 of those persons arrested this year have been found guilty. Last year eight were found guilty. One of the larceny cases has been dismissed this year. Only one was dismissed

Last year, 67 persons have been arrested for larceny this year. Last year at this time 23 had been arrested.

Liquor law violations continue to be a problem in the city. The police have made 24 arrests this year among adults. This doesn't include arrests made for driving under the influence of alcohol which totals 72 arrests for the year. Last year by this time only eight liquor law violation arrests had been made among adults.

Fifty-eight of those arrested have been found guilty.

Liquor law violation juveniles arrests have numbered 36 this year. Only eight arrests were made last year. Juveniles have been free of arrests for driving under the influence of alcohol this year.

Marijuana arrests and convictions also are up from last year in both the adult and juvenile population with adults holding a "tight" edge.

Among adults, 43 persons have been arrested for marijuana violations. Of those 19 have been found guilty. Last year 23 persons were arrested and 12 were found guilty.

Among juveniles 31 persons have been arrested for marijuana violations. Last year by this time 13 juveniles had been arrested.

Burnes also is encouraged by the accident statistics in the city.

Overall, the accident statistics for the first three quarters of 1976 are encouraging. Although we have experienced two fatalities as opposed to one in 1975, and we show a 12 per cent increase in personal injury accidents and a six per cent increase in property damage accidents, we show a 20 per cent decrease in private property accidents for an overall increase of all accidents for the first nine months of 1976, a modest 2 per cent increase," he said.

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I didn't do it

That's what Mortimer (Steve Kenler) seems to be saying while rehearsing for the Farmington High School production of "Arsenic and Old Lace" which will be Nov. 4, 5, 6 & 8 p.m. in the school's auditorium. To his left is Martha (Janine Woldt) and to his right is Abby (Cathy Bennett). (Staff photo)

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