

Enforcement Can Reduce Traffic Injuries

FARMINGTON
Although it may be too early to draw final conclusions, statistics indicate the traffic bureau started by the City of Farmington has had an important influence in reducing injury accidents.

THE TRAFFIC BUREAU, directed by Sgt. Richard Miller, was established last September after approval of a federal grant for the city. The grant allowed the department of public safety to add patrolmen and increase its patrol coverage of Farmington streets.

Prior to establishment of the new traffic unit, personal injury accidents were increasing in the city at the rate of 5% a month or 40% for the first eight months of 1969.

After the unit began operating in September, the personal injury rate was reduced less than 30% increase in the last four months of 1969, compared to the same period in 1968.

Last December, the Traffic Unit began feeding traffic accident and enforcement data into the Oakland County computer operated by the county Traffic Improvement Association.

Robert Deadman, director of the public safety department, says the information the computer feeds back will be used to develop selective traffic enforcement programs.

WHILE REVIEWING his department's annual report, Deadman noted that Class 1 Crimes increased 3% in 1969 over the previous year.

But he added, FBI reports indicate an 11% increase in Class 1 Crimes for suburban communities across the nation through September 1969.

Last year, calls for police and fire service in the city increased 17% over 1968 which is the largest increase in the past five years.

There was only one fatality in the city in 1969 and that was the death of a DPW employee in September on Farmington Rd.

An analysis of the 530 traffic accidents in the city last year shows the following major causes: failure to yield right-of-way; failure to stop; speed and improper backing and turns.

The months producing the most accidents were July, October, November and December. Most accidents occurred on Mondays and

F.A.H.C.

Meets

Feb. 23

The Farmington Association for Handicapped Children, Inc. will have its next general meeting Feb. 23 at 8 p.m. in East Junior High School on Middle Belt between 10 and 11 Mile Rd.

Guest speaker is Brent Glazier whose topic will be "Sex Education for the Handicapped Child." Glazier is executive director for the Oakland County Association for Retarded Children.

During the meeting, members will discuss plans for the third annual spring Fund-Raising Fair on April 25. Proceeds from this fair will be used for the New Horizons of Oakland County and youth activities for handicapped children.

Scout Given Recognition

FARMINGTON
David Barringer of Boy Scout Troop 389 received the "God and Country Award" in Nardin Park United Methodist church recently.

David is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Wallace M. Barringer of 3026 Pipers Lane, Farmington. The award is given on the basis of service to his church, study of religious history, class attendance and concern for others.

The Rev. Meredith Mosbauer performed the ceremony. Also participating was the troop band directed by Assistant Scoutmaster Lindsay Chalmers.

Others recognized for service to scouting were: Scoutmaster Douglas Welborn and Assistant Scoutmasters Gerry Veining and Frank Drayton.

Honor Student

2 Earn Honors

Mary Phillips of 31730 Lamar Drive, Farmington, has been named on the dean's list at Siena Heights College, Adrian.

Miss Phillips, a junior, has achieved a 3.5 grade average for the first semester of the scholastic year, 1969-70.

Wednesdays between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.

A summary of the mishaps show most involved Michigan residents and happened on dry pavement in daylight hours. A majority of the drivers involved were between the ages of 25-34.

DURING 1969, 51 motorists were arrested in the city for driving under the influence of alcohol. Of these, four were found guilty as charged, 20 were found guilty of a lesser

charge and one charge was dismissed.

Enforcement increased sharply in 1969 with a marked increase in traffic violations issued. Last year, the department issued 2,424 moving violations compared to 1,551 in 1968. In 1969, 430 parking tickets were issued compared to 291 the year before.

An examination of the actual fires which occurred in the city during 1969 shows there was no great increase from 1968 in the number of out-

breaks. However, there was a notable increase in the severity of fires—that is, the fires resulted in much more property loss.

In 1969, fire losses in the city amounted to \$240,850 compared to only \$12,169 the year before. The total losses in 1969 was \$37,815 and \$30,765 in 1967.

These figures represent the amount of money paid out by insurance companies for claims resulting from a fire. But not all the damage ac-

tually represents losses directly caused by fire—much of it involves smoke and water damage.

FIRE LOSS figures have no real correlation to preventive measures by firefighters, says Deadman, because they do not reflect the number of fires but instead the type of buildings involved.

If all your fires were in homes or grass fires in one year, Deadman explained, the

dollar loss would be low compared to a year when a store or factory burned down.

And that's what happened in 1969. Of the total fire loss (\$240,850), over half was in the month of March. Most of the \$170,885 March fire loss is attributable to the Himmelsbach fire.

OTHER MONTHS showing heavy fire loss figures were January, \$12,550; June, \$12,350; and November, \$27,855.

The January loss was due to

a higher-priced home being destroyed by fire. In June, the Hammond architectural office building fire accounted for most of the loss. In November, most of the dollar loss came from a fire which occurred in the River Glenn Apartments.

The apartment fire involved only one unit in one building, but smoke damage resulted in a large claim for the insurance company.

In case of the Hammond fire, a water pipe broke in the furnace room downstairs and

most of the claim involved damage caused by water and not fire.

Deadman explained that because more and more buildings are being constructed with air-conditioning without ventilation to the outside, when fires occur smoke is responsible for most of the damage.

This year there were 94 actual fires compared to 99 in 1968. In 1967 there were 85 fires and 65 the previous two years.

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