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Twenty-five cents

Hills cops report dip in crime

Overall crime in Farmington Hills last year was down 2.7 percent from 1981.

According to Inspector Thomas Godwin, the decreases came in "all the right areas. I'm very pleased."

Every major crime category except vehicle theft showed a decrease, Godwin noted.

Police statistics show a 10.1 percent increase in motor vehicle thefts, from 268 in 1981 to 294 last year. Godwin said the increase was part of a state-wide trend.

Adults were arrested for 35 motor vehicle thefts, while 11 juveniles were apprehended.

The city had no homicides in 1982 (there was one in 1981). Fatalities totaled eight, down one from 1981. Six criminal sexual misconduct cases were reported, one less than in 1981.

Aggravated assault dropped 20.7 percent, from 92 to 73 incidents, while burglaries were down 12.9 percent, from 919 to 800 cases.

Of those arrested or apprehended for burglary, 46 were juveniles and 37 adults. This was the only category where juveniles outnumbered adults.

Larcenies, down 8 percent, totaled 1,568 in 1982 and 1,704 in 1981. Police arrested 97 adults and apprehended 59 juveniles.

Reports of non-aggravated assaults were down 14.4 percent, from 374 in 1981 to 320 last year. A 27 percent drop was reported in vandalism, from 1,076 incidents to 788.

Six offenses, which totaled 44 in 1981 dropped to 40 last year, a 9.1 percent decrease.

Police recorded 109 cases of driving under the influence of liquor or drugs, a 23.5 percent decrease from the 143 recorded in 1981.

Liquor law violations declined 32.3 percent, from 130 to 88.

Disorderly conduct investigations increased 40.8 percent, from 392 in 1981 to 552 in 1982. Police arrested 78 adults and took into custody eight juveniles for disorderly conduct.

VAGRANCY CASES increased slightly, from 101 to 104.

Sick and injured complaints showed little change, totalling 893 in 1982 and 896 in 1981.

Hazardous traffic violations skidded 25.8 percent to 6,377 from 8,609 in 1981. However non-hazardous traffic violations were up 22.7 percent to 3,075 from 2,508.

Personal injury accidents dropped 5 percent to 576 from 606.

Godwin was most concerned with the increase in motor vehicle thefts.

"It's up quite a bit over previous years," he said. "Auto theft is a trend that's happening all over — it's just going up and up."

The drop in burglaries and larcenies should be credited to Farmington Hills Neighborhood Watch program, Godwin said.

In a year's time, the number of residents joining the city's crime patrol plan has doubled. Of Farmington Hills' 83 residential subdivisions, 40 now participate in Neighborhood Watch.

"More are added all the time — it's an ongoing effort to train residents what to look for, and people out there watch," Godwin said.

"Word gets out, and if they (would-be burglars) know they're in a Neighborhood Watch area, they just may drive on."

The program headed by Sgt. Richard Murphy, is implemented by juvenile diversion crime prevention officers.

Thieves take cash, sunroofs from shop

Nine sunroofs worth \$2,743 were reported stolen from Ziebart Auto-Truck Rustproofing early last Monday.

Store manager Lawrence Zibick of Detroit noticed \$133 in currency and four buffer machines valued at \$900 also were missing from an unlocked storage room.

The burglars left through the rear



This pile of garbage from the Independence Green apartment complex builds up every week. As with the garbage from other apartment complexes in the area, the only way it will be picked up by the city's collection service is if residents build a similar mound. Some apartment complexes are bringing suit against the city to force it to pick up their garbage as it does for single-family residences.

Garbage policy called rubbish by those seeking equal pickup

By M.B. Dillon Ward
staff writer

Area apartment owners are charging the city of Farmington Hills with discrimination because unlike homeowners they are not provided with free rubbish pickup.

The matter is scheduled for trial before Oakland County Circuit Court Robert C. Anderson Tuesday, Feb. 22. Plaintiffs include the Bestak Co., owner of Mulwood Apartments at Grand River and Drake, Bezmos Realty Investment Co., owner of Fairmont Apartments at Nine Mile and Drake, and Edward Rose Building Co., owner of Cordova Apartments on 12 Mile near Middlebelt.

The court will be asked to declare the city's refuse policy illegal and unconstitutional, and to grant an injunction requesting that the city collect refuse from apartments. The litigants also want to be reimbursed for expenses they have incurred in contracting their own refuse pickup services, said their attorney, Gordon Gold of Evans and Luptak in Detroit.

'It may mean we (chamber members) try to get a petition drive going. It could mean anything at this point. It could result in a lawsuit, theoretically, or in joining in the Bestak suit.'

—Charles Williams
chamber president

"The city's policy has been that we will provide collection of refuse if the owners of the complexes will bring it to a public street and set it out at the curb for pickup," said Farmington Hills Assistant City Manager William Costick.

"We do that now for Independence Green (at Grand River and Halsted). The policy is being defended by city officials despite the lawsuit. It's a policy in many other cities, Costick said.

Gold said, "The city's policy is inconsistent with the fact that the landlord pays property tax, a portion of

which goes to pay for rubbish collection in Farmington Hills." Adding apartment pickups to those of homeowners would increase the city's annual refuse bill by \$200,000, Costick said. Currently, it costs the city \$4.93 per month per house to collect refuse from its 14,000 single-family residences. Pick up from the city's 7,000 apartment units would cost \$2.46 per unit.

Mulwood Apartments has paid at least \$150,000 for refuse collection since 1976, Gold said.

Businesses in the city have the same complaint as the apartment

owners, said Farmington Hills council member Charles Williams. Approximately an eighth of the city's tax revenues is spent for refuse collection, yet businesses must contract their own services.

"This is going to become a hot issue — it has to be brought out into the open," said Williams, who is president of the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce.

"It may mean we chamber members try to get a petition drive going. It could mean anything at this point. It could result in a lawsuit, theoretically, or joining in the Bestak suit."

"Businesses don't provide votes, so you go with the voters and try to keep taxes down for homeowners," said Williams of the city's position. "But where you're taking from one segment of the population and giving to another, it's not fair."

It costs \$62.68 a month for 20 bags of trash to be removed from the small accounting office where Williams works, he said.

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Strike impact awaited

By Mary Klemic
staff writer

The effect of the independent truckers' strike has yet to be felt in the Farmington-Farmington Hills area, local market representatives say.

But some are keeping a concerned eye on the strike, which began last Monday. The strike is in protest of recent legislation that will hike federal diesel and gasoline taxes by five cents per gallon in April and will raise other taxes on truck use in 1985.

"It's not too bad yet," said Fred Stocker, president of Stocker's Market Ltd. in Farmington. "We're getting everything we need. Next week will tell the tale."

"We've experienced delays and late trucks but no produce shortage," said Jim Gregory, vice president of merchandise and sales promotion for Chatham. "At the moment everything seems to be okay."

"We'll start seeing some impact in the middle of next week if the trucks don't show up Monday and Tuesday," he said. "But they showed up all this week, and there's no reason to believe they won't show up next week."

Some stores, such as Andy's Country Market, had their supplies in before the strike began. "It doesn't bother me so far," said George Jappaya, owner of the Farmington store. "So far I got everything stocked up."

"Everything I get is within Oakland and Wayne Counties," said Sam Sheena, manager of the Farmington Hills Market. "I haven't come across any shortages so far."

Concern was expressed by one market representative that prices on poultry and beef may go up because of the strike.

"It's certainly got us worried," said Dan Feldpausch, partner of Dan-Deo Finer Meats in Farmington Hills. "So far we've been able to get our orders. If it lasts any length of time there will be a drastic effect."

The attempted shutdown of national trucking has been noticed by consumers, store representatives say.

"There are some signs of stocking up already," Feldpausch said. "Of course, this is the first of the month when it's busy, but there seems to be a little bit more than usual."

"A lot of customers seem to be shopping a little bit earlier," Gregory said. "All the publicity has caused customers to shop a little sooner."

Robert Marquart, vice president of public relations for Farmer Jack said public reaction will depend on news coverage of the strike.

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Peck senior housing forms corporation

By M.B. Dillon Ward
staff writer

The HUD-funded, 900-unit senior citizen complex being proposed by auto dealer Roger Peck has inched a step closer to reality.

Peck, of Roger Peck Chevrolet in Farmington Hills, announced recently that 41 city residents have volunteered to form a non-profit housing corporation — the tax-exempt sponsor/mortgagor required by HUD, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The corporation includes former Farmington Hills mayor Joan Dudley, editorial consultant Aida Vagnoni, Rev. James MacDonald of St. Martin's Episcopal Church, Massie Kurzoja, and retirees Gilbert Seoley, Ivar Nylin and Leonard Moore.

The complex would have 178 units on a 7.6-acre site, owned by Peck, fronting Nine Mile and Tuck south of Grand River. According to Peck's proposal, he

will lease the property to the housing corporation, which in turn will designate him as manager.

"I told them (corporation members) they can have as much input as they want into this thing. You need all the help you can get," said Peck.

Each member has background and experience that will benefit the project, he said.

"Rev. Jim will give us the help we need with the man upstairs. Aida is an experienced businesswoman. Dudley has a good background in local government. Seoley's a good repairman, Leonard Moore is involved with the senior citizens' Meals on Wheels program and Ivar is an accountant."

Farmington Hills residents will have

the first opportunity to apply, said Peck. Persons wishing to receive an application may call 474-0500.

Zoning changes and the preparation of architectural plans, now nearing completion at Charles Marks and Associates of Southfield, are delaying Peck's application to HUD. Peck expects his rezoning request (necessary for construction on the site) to be approved at the planning commission's next meeting.

Farmington Hills council member Donn Wolf, who in the past has expressed reservations about the "strings attached" to HUD projects, is examining carefully Peck's proposal.

"I think we have to be watchful of a senior citizen who takes advantage of this by turning his home and bank account over to his children and then says, 'I'm in poverty and need a rent subsidy.' It's happened in many projects," said Wolf.

Peck has heard other concerns voiced.

"A lot of people think you're going to

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17-year-old loses \$15,000 in jewels

A .32-caliber blue steel revolver and jewelry worth \$15,000 were stolen from the home of 17-year-old Maria Skrill of Farmington Hills Tuesday.

Two rifles belonging to Skrill's husband also were found missing from the closet.

Police said the ransacked home, on

Rockdale near Orchard Lake Road, was entered through a smashed window and exited from a family-room patio door which was found unlocked.

Officers have no suspects but say fingerprints may be lifted from a black jewel box left on Skrill's dresser, or from the patio door.