

False alarms more than annoyance for police

By Julie Brown
staff writer

False alarms can be a source of headaches — not only for police officers and firefighters, but also for neighbors.

"It can be a problem because of the neighbors," said Sgt. Dennis Rochford, dispatch supervisor for the Farmington Hills police. "The neighbors are upset that the alarm keeps going and going."

The current Farmington Hills ordinance on alarm systems went into effect in 1980, said Police Chief William Dwyer. It was designed to deal with the problem of false alarms.

"The problem really has mushroomed to major proportions. We respond to over 3,000 false alarms yearly."

The police department sends two cars on alarm calls, Dwyer said.

"The call is treated as though a crime is in progress. That means two cars are called up responding to a false alarm."

The ordinance provides a \$20 fee per

false alarm, following the first such alarm during a calendar year.

"We have to do that," Dwyer said. "When you talk about 3,000 false alarms yearly, just for this city, that's a tremendous drain."

If an alarm system is being serviced, police dispatchers should be notified ahead of time, he said. Owners aren't considered responsible for accidental activation of an alarm system when such activation is the result of severe weather.

THE HILLS ordinance requires that those with audible or visible alarm systems provide police with their name, telephone number and address. Owners must also provide the name and telephone number of at least one other person who can be reached at any time of day or night, and who can, within 30 minutes, open the premises and deactivate the system.

Officers in the city of Farmington also have problems with false alarms. "It is prevalent, and it does create problems," said Frank Lauhoff, Farm-

ington's director of public safety. "It obviously takes up time. Many times, this may take an officer away from other calls."

Lauhoff's department handled 494 false alarms during the first six months of 1985. He estimated that only between 1 and 2 percent of the alarms received are actual ones — a breaking and entering, a crime in progress, or a fire.

Farmington's ordinance provides for a \$25 fee per false alarm, following the first four such alarms in a calendar year, or two within a 30-day period.

"During that time, we try to communicate with the business or homeowner, to find out what the problem is," Lauhoff said. "If there are more than that, there's a fee assessed."

OWNERS of private residences in Farmington aren't required to provide the public safety department with the name and telephone number of someone to call to deactivate the alarm system. Such information may be requested, however, if problems begin to sur-

face with an alarm system.

Farmington's ordinance does not allow direct-dial alarms, which notify the public safety department directly. Instead, all alarm systems must be connected to a central answering location.

As in Farmington Hills, Farmington's ordinance doesn't hold owners responsible for false alarms set off by severe weather.

"No, it doesn't, and we try to use as much discretion as possible," the public safety director said. "We try to work with them."

"Right now, the residences are not a problem," Lauhoff said. His department does, however, receive false alarms due to employee negligence at local businesses.

"That's the biggest problem for us." Retail stores, which have a number of employees, contribute to the false alarm problem.

False alarms can also create problems for firefighters.

"We have some problems," said Farmington Hills Fire Chief Richard Marinucci. "Obviously, it costs the tax-

payors money every time the equipment rolls."

RESPONDING TO false alarms also takes away from the time firefighters have to respond to real emergencies. It also exposes department personnel to the risk of accidents, Marinucci said.

In 1984, the Hills fire department had 92 false alarms.

"That's out of 2,554," the fire chief said. "A lot of those are system malfunction-type alarms, they're not malicious." The department receives 15 or 20 false alarms each year "where it's a malicious type of thing."

Summer school more than making up grades

By Jean Adamczak
staff writer

The Farmington School District's summer school program has changed a lot in the past 15 years.

Just as Donald Howell, director of the district's community services and federal projects.

"In the 1970s, summer school was all remedial — for students to make up deficiencies," Howell said.

Since, that time, the program has expanded to include kindergarten through 12th-grade students, and an "enrichment" program.

The present summer school program offers the opportunity to provide experience for youngsters who aren't able to take advantage of classes they couldn't take during the school year," Howell said.

For example, kindergarten through grade three students can enroll in a summer school chemistry class.

"THIS CLASS is not something they would get in regular school program, yet it is something they would be interested in and is geared to their level."

Other such enrichment-type classes include geology, pottery and water colors.

It is this course flexibility that makes the summer school program exciting, Howell said.

As more courses are added to the program, enrollment has also increased, Howell said.

Last summer, the elementary summer school format was altered to offer 87 classes. Nearly 880 elementary school students enrolled. The previous summer (1983-84) elementary enrollment was just 78 students for four classes.

The middle school program also was expanded and included an enrollment of 268 students.

The high school classes had 485 students last summer. More than 200 students participated in the basketball and weight-conditioning programs.

MORE THAN 18 percent of the regular student population took part in summer school activities, according to the year-end report.

More than 610 students enrolled in the district's preschool summer offerings last summer. The offerings included participation in Mother/Tot and PALS programs.

Summer school programs run anywhere from seven days to eight weeks, depending on the individual program.

"Some programs include seminars, field trips, presentations and speakers," Howell said.

"We try to provide all different kinds of activities to enrich the students' summer fun."

At the same time, additional educational classes are offered in the summer, enabling students to pick up partial credit and to encourage early graduation, Howell said.

THE REMEDIAL elementary summer school program runs about five weeks. The remedial high school program runs about eight weeks.

A fee is charged for summer school.

"It would be nice if we didn't have to charge (a fee), but the programs are self-supporting, and we do have to pay the instructors."

on the agenda

City of Farmington Hills
City Council Agenda
July 22 — 7:30 p.m.

- Unfinished Business:
- Consideration of enactment of Ordinance C-45-85, an amendment to section 60.301, to rezone property on east side of Haggerty Road, south of Nine Mile Road.
 - Consideration of enactment of Or-

Ordinance C-46-85 an amendment to section 60.301, to rezone property on east side of Haggerty Road, south of Nine Mile Road.

- Consideration of enactment of Ordinance C-47-85, an amendment to section 60.301, to rezone property on east side of Haggerty Road, south of Nine Mile Road.
- Consideration of enactment of Or-

Ordinance C-42-85, Zoning Text Amendment, an Amendment to section 60.504, Planned Residential Developments open space.

- Consideration of enactment of Ordinance C-43-85, an amendment to section 60.301, to rezone properties in section 60.301.
- Consideration of enactment of Ordinance C-44-85, an amendment to section 60.301 to rezone property at 27700 Haggerty Road from RA-1 to RRO.
- Consideration of resolution approving ballot wording for Charter amendments.
- Consideration of approval of City Attorney's contract.
- Consideration of approval of pre-conference expense request for City Council attendance at Michigan Municipal League convention.

New Business:

- Consideration of setting public hearing date for street name change in Farmington Green North No. 2 and 3 subdivisions.
- Report from Mayor Dolan on initiation of citywide beautification program.
- Consideration of setting date,

time and place for a public hearing on the request to consider the reopening of Tulipwood Road between Valley Forge and Quail Hollow.

- Consideration of appointments to boards and commissions.
- Consideration of holding executive session to discuss land acquisition.
- City Manager Report:
- Recommends adoption of resolution for city's participation in purchase and installation of fitness trails.
- Recommends approval of variance for the extension of Elm Grove Road, section 25.
- Recommends the adoption of a resolution providing for the expansion and renovation of San Marino Golf Club, Club House.
- Request for approval of employment under section 10.01A of City Charter.
- Reports on maintenance expenses related to certain gravel roads.
- Status report on 12 Mile Road bids.
- Recommends the adoption of a resolution approving the issuance of a purchase order for the procurement of mobile communications equipment.

Botsford plans expansion

Continued from Page 1

Considered first for those new positions will be any qualified employee among the approximately 100 laid off by the hospital in March 1984, said Schueber.

"We've brought many of them back already," Schueber said.

"A large number of them are already hired back, and the ones who aren't have found other jobs."

Botsford currently employs 926 full-time workers, 324 part-time workers and 240 casuals (people who come in to work whenever they are called), according to Schueber.

Financing of Phase II will be done in part through the sale of tax-exempt bonds issued by the Michigan State Hospital Finance Authority or the Farmington Hills Hospital Finance Authority, said Rbelmer.

Although the project will cost approximately \$11.5 million, of which \$3 million is construction costs, the hospital will sell about \$7.5 million in bonds, according to Rbelmer.

"A portion of that (\$27.5 million), will be used for refinancing the hospital's current debts," she explained.

Donations from the Botsford Guild will provide for the construction of a chapel as well as the expanded gift shop. Proceeds from the Allen Ziegler Memorial Fund will also be used to offset the costs of the expansion.

Phase II was designed by Henningson, Druham & Richardson, a national hospital architectural firm located in Omaha, Neb., and is being built by the McCarthy Construction Co. of St. Louis, Mo.

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