

# New officers join Hills police department

By Joanne Maliszowski  
staff writer

Four new officers and three cadets have joined the Farmington Hills Police Department. "These positions were created partially because of police activity increasing by 13 percent and in anticipation of increased calls in 1986," Police Chief William Dwyer said. Farmington Hills City Council approved the hirings when it adopted the 1986-87 budget in June. Two more officers will be hired in January, bringing the department's total

number of sworn officers to 80. "That brings us up to 1.2 officers per 1,000 people. Still, out of the surrounding cities we're low. Southfield has 1.8. Novi has 1.3," Dwyer said. In a budget presentation in June, City Manager William Costick offered reasons for expanding police ranks: • In addition to increased residential population, day-time business population has increased, particularly as the result of commercial development along Northwestern Highway and 12 Mile, Costick said. • Rapid growth and accompany-

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ing traffic in the city has led to a 33 percent increase in traffic accidents and a 22 percent increase in traffic accident-related injuries. • Serious crimes increased in 1985 by 13.9 percent, mostly due to increases in armed robberies, larcenies and homicides.

THE CADETS — part of a revived department program — have been added to the ranks to keep pace with the need for additional personnel to man the new police building that's expected to be completed in November or December, Dwyer said. Three of the four new officers have been assigned to patrol duties. The fourth recently began the 16-week training at the Oakland Police Academy.

"All of the three will stay with a training officer for 90 days and then based on probation reports, will go solo. They are all on probation for 18 months," Dwyer said. When the fourth officer completes training at the police academy, he will return and be placed with a training officer for 90 days. When two additional officers are hired in January, one senior officer will be moved into the detective section and another into the traffic division.

Unlike the officers, the cadets will not have on-the-road patrol duties. But they will be assigned to the department's patrol division, detective, communication and property sections. Cadet duties will include assisting in the dispatch center, processing prisoners, writing reports, processing abandoned vehicles, school crossing guard duties and helping residents at the command desk, Dwyer said.

CADETS ALLEVIATE the more costly need of using sworn officers to perform station duties such as writing reports and processing prisoners. The revived cadet program provides young men and women interested in a law enforcement career an opportunity to get their feet in the door by training prior to assuming full duties of sworn officers, Dwyer said.

"They will have on-going training. This allows us time to look at these people in their roles and see if they have the potential to become sworn officers," Dwyer said.

Cadets will earn an annual starting salary of \$15,200, plus benefits. Cadets will be eligible for educational reimbursement for an associate or

bachelor's degree in police administration or other field that would be beneficial to the police department. Sworn officers are required to have a minimum two years of college. "It's the hope of the department that the program will grow. At least eight of our officers were cadets," Dwyer said.

Farmington Hills offered the program in the late 1960s and early 1970s, when it was financed through the Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA). When the federal government eliminated CETA, Farmington Hills eliminated the program in 1974.

IN THEIR first year, the new officers will earn \$23,000 plus benefits. After the first year through the first 24 months, they will earn \$27,541, Dwyer said. The new officers are: Patrick Sidge, 28; Michael LaFave, 23; John Regorrah, 25; and Mark Meredith, 29.

Sidge was an officer with the Berkley Police Department since 1982. He holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Michigan State University. Sidge and his wife, Joan, live in Farmington Hills.

LaFave was an officer with the Pontiac Police Department since February 1985. He holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Madonna College. LaFave and his wife, Janet, live in Pontiac. He is a Farm-

ington Hills native. Regorrah served in the Trenton Police Department since March 1986. Prior to that, he served for two years in the Brownstown Township Police Department. He holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Ferris State College. Regorrah currently lives in Trenton.

Meredith, who is attending police academy, worked with the ground handling crew for Butter Aviation at Willow Run Airport prior to being hired as a police officer. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps for 10 years. He has a two-year criminal justice degree from Washtenaw Community College.

Meredith and his wife, Brenda, and daughter Jessica, 6, and son, Jason, 3, live in Ypsilanti.

THE FARMINGTON Hills Police Department requires officers to live within a 25-mile radius of the city, Dwyer said.

The new cadets are Gary Bradley, 21; Sandra Schrage, 19; and Matthew Koehn, 19.

Until joining the cadet program, Bradley was a corrections officer with the Macomb County Sheriff's Department. He is currently enrolled in a criminal justice program at Macomb Community College. He is a Warren resident.

## on the agenda

Farmington Hills City Council  
Council Chambers  
3155 1 1/2 Mile  
7:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 8

The council will consider introduction of an ordinance allowing political signs as well as approval of a planned residential development called Copper Creek on 291 acres, between 12 and 13 Mile and Halsted and Haggerty roads. Reports will be presented on the development of a multi-lane sidewalk improvement program, major road improvement survey results and lease purchase of major equipment.

A public hearing is scheduled to discuss paving costs for Barfield. The council will consider awarding a construction bid for the paving of Barfield, as well as setting a public hearing date for discussion of the master storm drainage plan.

Downtown Development Authority  
City of Farmington  
Council Conference Room  
23600 Liberty  
8 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 9

A discussion involving a proposed tax increment financing plan for downtown Farmington's rejuvenation is on the agenda for tomorrow's meeting.

The financing plan is a considered key in the proposed changes for the city's central business district.

Farmington Board of Education  
Lewis Schulman  
Administrative Center  
32500 Shawwassee  
8 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 9

An audit report for the school district from accounting firm Plante and Moran is scheduled for presentation.

Also on the agenda are two administrative appointments, one in the staff development department and the other for the Shawwassee Center alternative education program.

Also on the agenda is the opening of bids for bleacher work to be done at the district's three high schools and acceptance of a gift to the Farmington Training Center from the Knights of Columbus.

## election '86

A brief look at what's happening on the election '86 trail involving Farmington-area candidates:

Frank Brock, Republican candidate for the state Senate and mayor pro-tem of Lathrup Village, was the guest of honor at a champagne reception Sept. 4 at the 5000 Town Center in Southfield.

State Sen. Richard Posthumus, R-Lowell, Senate Commerce Committee chair, was the featured speaker at the 550-a-person fund raiser.

Posthumus discussed the importance of retaining the Senate Republican majority.

Brock, Southfield Chamber of Commerce past president and Providence Hospital Foundation executive director, is running for Michigan's 15th Senate District against four-term Democratic incumbent Jack Faxon of Farmington Hills.

The 15th State Senate District includes Farmington and Farmington Hills.

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