

# Burglaries down, vandalism up, police say

By Casey Hens  
Staff writer

Residential burglaries decreased 23 percent, vandalism increased 56 percent and drug violations nearly doubled in the city of Farmington during the first nine months of 1988.

That's according to a third quarter Farmington Department of Public Safety report, which compares nine-month figures with the same time period in 1985.

Director of Public Safety Frank LaHoff recently presented the information to the Farmington City Council.

— the department's last quarterly report before the annual report is presented in January.

LaHoff cited a 5 percent overall reduction in major crime in his report.

Public safety officials attributed the reduction in neighborhood burglaries to the city's three-year-old Neighborhood Watch program, which now has more than 50 percent participation from city residents, according to Commander Chuck Lee, who coordinates the program.

Residential burglary incidents dropped from 48 to 37 in single-family dwellings and from seven to four in apartments. Figures also decreased from 48 to 34 for commercial, industrial and miscellaneous burglaries, according to the report.

Higher vandalism figures are due to several incidents in the city during 1988 when 30-40 vehicle windows were shattered with BB guns or slingshots, LaHoff said.

Malicious destruction of property incidents rose from 94 in the first nine months of 1985 to 147 during the same period in 1988.

Drug violations logged in the department nearly doubled, from six incidents to 11 in a one-year period, according to the report, which LaHoff attributes to "self-initiated activities" by officers. He said "small amounts of cocaine and marijuana" were found in vehicles during routine traffic stops for other violations.

It appears residents of Farmington have taken a more active role in their own public safety, according to the third quarter report.

Public nuisance reports more than doubled from 61 complaints logged in 1985 to 141 this year. Also up this

year are harassment complaints and threats reported by citizens, which went from 32 in 1985 to 84 this year. Citizens reporting suspicious vehicles and persons also increased from 272 to 340.

Numbers of citizens reporting traffic complaints rose from 375 to 406, and those reporting animal complaints grew from 75 to 97. Public safety officers assisted citizens 1,359 times, compared with 1,325 last year.

In the medical area of public safety, 19 more sick residents were cared for this year and nine additional injured residents helped. No suicides, attempted suicides or drug overdoses were reported this year, compared with a total of five logged last year.

Total criminal offenses reported to the state by Farmington, including major crimes such as robbery, aggravated assault and larceny were

reduced slightly, according to the figures, which showed 410 incidents reported in 1985 and 391 reported this year.

In other offenses, including vandalism, drug violations, driving under the influence, weapons violations and fraud, totals increased by 92, from 780 last year to 872 this year.

The largest total increase logged was 335 incidents under miscellaneous complaints, which include juvenile, medical, natural disaster, fires, domestic disputes and warrants and arrests for other agencies. During the first nine months of 1985 a total of 5,994 complaints were listed compared with 6,329 during the same period this year.

In the fire department report, 87 total fire runs were logged this year, two more than in 1985. Actual number of fires were down by 10 to 37 for the year, the report said. Loss totals were down considerably from \$166,707 to \$34,935.

## College students can win cash

Penny for your thoughts? Honeywell is offering 300,000 of them to learn what college students are thinking about the future.

Honeywell wants college students to imagine the year 2011 and write essays about the technological developments they foresee. This year's Honeywell Futurist Award Competition will offer 10 winners cash prizes of \$3,000 each and the chance to work for Honeywell next summer.

Students need to call soon for official entry forms because they won't be available after Dec. 31. Students can receive contest rules by writing Futurist Rules, Honeywell Telemarketing Center, Honeywell Plaza MN12-4164, Minneapolis, MN 55408, or by calling toll-free 1-800-328-5111, Ext. 1581.

Just for calling to request an entry form, Honeywell will send student free pair of "future socks." T deadline for entering the contest Jan. 31, 1987.

Last year, 450 students, representing 325 colleges and universities in 47 states, entered the competition.

The contest is open to all full-time students at any accredited college in the United States.

Students are asked to leap 25 years into the future and write an essay predicting developments in one of six technological areas: elec-

tronic communications, energy, aerospace, computer science, manufacturing automation or office automation.

A second essay must address the societal impact of the technological predictions. Each essay must be no longer than 1,500 words.

Completed essays must be postmarked no later than Jan. 31, 1987. In February, a panel of top

Honeywell scientists and engineers will judge the essays on the basis of creativity, feasibility, clarity of expression and legibility.

Winners will be announced in early March, and each of the 10 winners will receive a two-day, all-expense-paid trip to Honeywell's headquarters in Minneapolis.

Honeywell is a Minneapolis-based international corporation that works

together with customers to help them achieve their goals through the application of computers, communications and controls. The company has 94,000 employees worldwide, with 1985 revenues of \$6.6 billion and net income of \$281 million.

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