

# Increase in robberies blamed on freeways

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THE MAJORITY of larcenies were of items from vehicles, auto parts and accessories. Larcenies of bicycles and larcenies in buildings decreased in 1989.

"The majority of larcenies are with young people involved in taking radar detectors, hubcaps and hood ornaments," Dwyer said.

Arsons doubled to 25 in 1989 compared to 1988. "We had an increase in building fires because of suspicious arsons," said Detective Darnel Krause.

Police department fire investigator, "Arson is one of those crimes done by people in a financial bind and who have an opportunity. It's one of those crimes that goes up and down with economic times."

For the sixth consecutive year, burglaries decreased in 1989 as Neighborhood Watch programs continued throughout the city and police officials continued to redirect patrols into subdivisions, Dwyer said.

Auto thefts continued to decrease in 1989 with 328 incidents compared to 410 in 1988. The decrease, Dwyer said, is due to efforts of the Southwest Oakland Auto Theft Team, on which Hills officer Brad Schwartz serves.

"More people also are becoming aware. They are locking their vehicles. More people are getting the anti-theft equipment installed in their autos," Dwyer said.

SEXUAL ASSAULTS also decreased to 14 from 18 in 1988. "I don't think the police department can take credit for that decrease. Ninety-percent (of sexual assaults) are between people related or acquainted," Dwyer said.

Aggravated assaults, which run in "peaks and valleys," decreased in 1989 to 96 incidents from 101 in 1988.

Arrests for serious crimes also increased 4.8 percent in 1989 with 399 arrests compared to 372 in 1988. The majority of arrests, 224, were made for larcenies, followed by 54 for burglary and 45 for aggravated assault. Thirty-three arrests were made for auto theft.

"We will continue to see arrests increase," Dwyer said.

The department's mobile data terminals, or in-car computers, in 20 patrol cars have helped to increase particularly warrant arrests. From their cars, officers can tap into state and federal crime computer systems for information.

## School staffers pitch in for charity

Farmington Educational Support Personnel, the collective bargaining unit representing Farmington Public Schools' office personnel and paraprofessionals, is again sponsoring its annual baby shower to help Neighborhood House, a Salvation Army outreach program for area babies.

Neighborhood House is at the corner of Inkster and Shilawasse in the

Salvation Army building. All schools in the district are participating in the event, through a "silent shower" or an "active shower."

In a "silent shower," cash contributions can be made to a building representative. An "active shower" hosted either before or after school, collects unwrapped donations of baby clothing, furniture, formula, food or diapers.

Each school will conduct individual showers, and transport their gifts to Neighborhood House between Wednesday and Saturday, March 14 and 17.

Last year, the success of this event enabled Neighborhood House to be known as the distribution center for baby needs for all Farmington and Farmington Hills families. The center distributed an average of 10 layettes per week.

## Farmington Hills crime

Offense	1988	1989	%
Murder	0	0	-
Criminal Sexual Conduct	18	14	-22.2
Robbery	26	43	+65.4
Aggravated Assault	101	96	-5
Arson	13	26	+100
Burglary	713	671	-5.9
Larceny	1,755	2,080	+18.5
Auto Theft	410	328	-20
Total	3,036	3,259	+7.3

While serious crimes increased in 1989, less serious Part II crimes, such as weapons, narcotic drug laws, vandalism and liquor law violations, decreased 3.2 percent. Part II incidents totaled 5,352 in 1989 compared to 5,527 in 1988.

DESPITE THE decrease in less serious crimes, certain offenses, such as weapons, narcotic drug laws and liquor law violations, increased.

"We're seeing more automatic weapons in the city. They are related directly or indirectly to narcotics," Dwyer said. In 1989, there were 53 weapons complaints compared to 38 in 1988.

In 1989, narcotic drug law violations increased to 103 from 90 in 1988. The majority of the violations, 72, were for marijuana possession, and 20 were narcotics possession. Two incidents involved the sale or manufacture of narcotics and three the sale or manufacture of marijuana.

Liquor law violations also increased to 181 from 143 in 1988, as undercover police crackdowns on licensed establishments continued to battle the sale of liquor in minors.

Overall, arrests for serious crimes and the less serious Part II and Part III crimes and complaints increased 17.3 percent.



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