

Heavy pedal pushes patrols

BY WILLIAM COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

If you thought you saw a police officer on a bicycle this summer, you probably did.

Farmington Hills police are working a bike patrol into their regular routine as much as possible and hope to have it as a regular part of the department's effort at community policing.

Hills officers began using bike patrols on a limited basis last year. But an injury to one of the officers, and uncertainty about the program's future depending on the public safety millage, put the program on hold.

This summer, three officers regularly rode through subdivisions, parks and business complexes in an effort to personalize police patrols, get to know residents and business people on a one-to-one basis, and go to areas harder to patrol in cruisers.

"We've had a lot of retirements and promotions over the last two years," said Hills Police Chief Bill Dwyer. "That has made it hard to have officers regularly assigned."

But Dwyer said the department isn't giving up on the idea.

This summer, the department's two school liaison officers, Pat Sidgo and Duane Fox, rode much of the time since school was out.

Dwyer said that now the new public safety millage is on line, with regular additions of officers planned over the next five years and most of the departments likely retirees already gone, the program should become permanent during the warmer months.

"We'll have two more officers working on the bike patrol by the spring of 1997," Dwyer said.



STAFF PHOTO BY SHARON LAMBERT

Well spoken: Hills police officer Duane Fox takes time to chat with parade onlookers during the Farmington Founders Festival. Fox is one of several officers who has taken a tour of duty on two wheels. Hills police plan to increase the popularity community policing program next spring.

Veteran Hills police officer takes different career path

Jeff Anderson would have liked to continue his career as a police officer, and his fellow officers in Farmington Hills would have been happy to keep him.

But Anderson is leaving the department after 10 years and 13 years as a policeman to become a financial planner.

"Jeff is really a people person," said Hills Inspector Marty Bledsoe. "He came into the detective bureau this summer and it's like he had been there for years." Anderson, who had worked as a patrol officer, in crime prevention and as a school liaison officer, was injured in a traffic acci-

dent that kept him from patrol work. He spent his last months on the department in the detective bureau.

A Farmington native, Anderson had worked well with young people, targeting gang graffiti problems and working with students at North Farmington High School.

"I'm overwhelmed," he said at a special farewell given by officers and friends Aug. 9. "It's a funny feeling after being a 13-year police officer, with 10 of them here, to leave. Everybody here has contributed to who I am."



Jeff Anderson

Boy Scouts brush up on good deeds for seniors

While thousands of volunteers helped in Detroit's "Paint the town" project, a handful of Boy Scouts took on their own house painting project in Farmington Hills.

On Saturday, Aug. 17, volunteers led by David Lemmon, a Boy Scout from Troop 288, painted the house belonging to senior citizen in Farmington Hills' Olde Town neighborhood.



Another coat: David Lemmon, a Clarenceville High student and Boy Scout, paints a Hills' resident's house as part of his Eagle Scout requirement.

Lemmon, a Clarenceville 10th-grader, organized the project as part of his community service requirement to earn his Eagle Scout Award, the top award in American Boy Scouting.

When Lemmon was looking for a project, he talked with Rick Lampi of the Farmington Hills Community Development Office.

Lampi suggested the possibility of a house painting. When Lemmon agreed with the idea, Lampi helped the young man find an Olde Town house.

Lemmon recruited volunteers, gathered supplies, and directed the work.

"I thought it was a real opportunity," Lampi said. "We had a house that needed attention and a good group of volunteers willing to help."

"The homeowners and the neighbors are happy with the results."

David Lemmon is also happy.

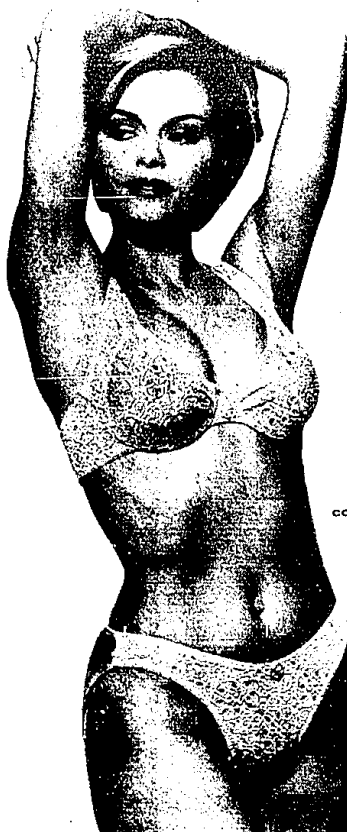
"I thought the project went smoothly," he said. "I had enough help and there was a lot of cooperation with the city."

David's father, Glenn, was also one of his son's recruits for the project.

"I'm really proud of David," he said. "This is just one example of the many things he's done."

"It was a good partnership between the city and the Boy Scouts."

In all, 19 people contributed to the project including the Boy Scouts of Troop 288, parents, and kids from the Olde Town neighborhood.



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