



**YOUTH ACTIVITIES** representatives included (front row) Laurie Payne and Steven Hill, from the YMCA; James Robbins, Cub Scouts; Brigit Dowd, Brownies; Linda Neill, Girl Scouts and Frank DiPomil, Little League. Second row: Kathy King, Junior Achievement; Kim

Pogue Brownies; Pam Rivers, Girl Scouts, and Brian Collar, Farmington Flyers. Third row: Claudia Plusky, 4-H; Douglas Nolestine, Boy Scouts; Skip Cole, DeMolay; Janene Ellis; Jobs Daughters; and Patty Williams, Youth Employment Service. (Evert photo)

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**Dan McCosh writes**

# Is The Law Tough?

"It's a jungle down there — you throw them up against the wall and the guns and knives fall out — that's the only way you handle them."

It was the kind of remark that sets a few heads nodding up and down and some other eyes rolling towards the ceiling, an off-hand lunch-hour comment on one guy's reason why cops should get tough in Detroit.

Violent neighborhoods demand tough police tactics, right?

When the cops get tough, the crime rate is bound to go down.

It is one of those unquestionable axioms: straight thinking applied to one of life's irksome problems in the big city.

At which point my mind drifted to crime in downtown Farmington.

Practically speaking, there isn't any.

Not just days, but weeks go by without a break-in, let alone a robbery or mugging. Farmington's city streets don't echo with screams in the night.

Obviously the cops get tough in Farmington.

If a police department free from handcuffs, allowed to "do their job," reduces crime, then Farmington's force must be a master of up-against-the-wall techniques.

Motorists along the side of the road with their hands on top of their cars, getting frisked; late-night break-ins without warrants; bruised prisoners and long confinement before arraignment must be part of the price the community pays for its low crime rate — right?

Wrong.

In fact, just the opposite is true.

To make an unfair comparison, the Farmington force is superior to Detroit's in the following ways:

- There are a lot more of them, about five times as many per capita. (Although the local force also handles fires, one can imagine what this means in terms of officers per reported crime.)
- They handle nearly every case that comes into the office, whether it is an old lady locked out of her car or a robbery.
- They follow professional and legal procedure, without relying on "street tough" reputations. One result is a high clearance rate on prosecutions.
- They know most of the people in town.
- The administration has a tight control over the operation of the whole department.

This may have the appearance of a joke, trying to compare the 26-man force of a town of barely 10,000 middle-class folks to an urban center trying to cope with most of the nation's social ills.

It does nothing to explain what goes on in someone's head to make him suddenly decide his victim is excommunicated from the human race and somehow deserves a knock on the head or a bullet.

But if the goal is law and order, it would seem worthwhile to look at areas where a system works, rather than indulge in Mickey Spillane-type fantasies of police violence.

## Fire Damages Florist Shop

FARMINGTON  
A minor fire damaged Mayer's Florist, 3364 Grand River. The shop was open for business the following day.

The fire, apparently caused by a dryer in the back of the store, was extinguished about 7:30 p.m. by the city fire dept., according to Capt. Dan Byrnes of the city police. Damage was mainly due to smoke and heat.

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## Harrison Plans Art Exhibit

FARMINGTON  
Harrison High School will present a student art show June 4 and 5.

It is hoped that this will be the first of an annual student exhibit, according to Mrs. Barbara Horwitz, director.

The student work will be on display on Monday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and on Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Some pieces will be for sale.

"Purpose is to give the students experience in selling up a show and in displaying their works," Mrs. Horwitz said.

Also on display will be projects by winners of the Scholastic Art Awards contest. Students displaying in the contest were Sheryl Grose, Lori Johnson, Paul Giltner, Lisa Levit, Kathy Kurth and Ellen Weschler.

Judges will be Harrison art teachers, Grace Campbell, art department head, William Harmon and Mrs. Horwitz.

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