

Northland beefs up force to increase mall security

PETER KULBABA
By JACKIE KLEIN

Twenty year's worth of chewing gum is imbedded in the well-worn sidewalks of Northland Shopping Center.

Millions of footsteps have rutted those walks since the dynamic center opened in 1954. Along with the chewing gum has been sticking an image of a massive area that attracts crime as well as tourists and shoppers.

Chief Peter Kulbaba, security manager of the Dayton Hudson Properties eastern region, is aware of the problems and he's not stagnant.

"We will be adding five new officers to our 23-man security staff to supplement our growth program," he said.

"We have already ordered a telephone communication system for the parking lots and closed circuit television to monitor the center."

"We are increasing the lighting in the mall and parking areas, and

we expect the enclosure to have a broad effect on security."

ALSO BEING evaluated, Kulbaba said, are mounted security divisions, observant towers and electronic motor scooters in the mall.

Exterior doors will be equipped with alarm systems, and personnel will respond within seconds when electronic surveillance indicates trouble, he said.

"Electronic devices are of no value if there's nobody to respond," he said.

"We are relocating our security offices in a strategic location to offer the best protection possible. Our present facility is 900 square feet, and our new one will be just under 5,000 square feet in size."

Despite the impression that has been created, auto thefts decreased 33 percent in the first six months of 1974 from the same 1973 period, Kulbaba said. Overall

crime has shown a 28 percent decline, he said.

He claims 70 percent of all incidents are rumors.

KULBABA, WHO manages security in all five Dayton Hudson Properties shopping centers, said security officers were deputized under a state act in 1967. In 1968, the act was amended to prescribe 85 hours of training for the officers and to give them powers of arrest.

"About 25 percent of the Northland security officers attend college to get associate degrees in police administration," he said. "The company pays for and encourages continuing education."

"In-house security officers are hired and trained in shopping center detail by the company after being interviewed and tested. Southfield police train the officers in general police work, and we have an excellent working relationship with city law enforcement agencies."

"We have a total of 86 officers in our five centers, and we don't hesitate to bring our own mothers to any one of the malls. We're in business to protect our customers, tenants and properties and to prevent crime."

PATRICIA HOBAR, center manager of Northland Center, pointed out the natural northwest migration in the early 1950s and the easy accessibility to Northland created a new downtown

MD carnival

Two brothers, Michael and Steven Berger, 10 and 7 years old, are sponsoring a carnival for muscular dystrophy at their house Thursday, Aug. 1.

The boys, who live at 29523 Meadowland Drive in Southfield, near Twelve Mile and Evergreen roads, sent for a carnival kit from Channel 30 TV, especially prepared for the muscular dystrophy campaign.

The carnival will be 5-8:30 p.m. at their house.

"There will be games, refreshments and books for sale," said Michael.

emerging out of the metropolitan Detroit area.

"Northland is a burgeoning, thriving entity with pressures," she said. "We have 138 stores and 1.3 million square feet of leasable space on 165 acres."

"When our \$25 million expansion is completed, we will have 1.7 million square feet of leasable space

and 22 new stores. On a busy day, 100,000 people pass through Northland. A certain amount of crime is inevitable.

"Dayton Hudson is committing space for new tenants, remodeling Hudson's, adding a J.C. Penny's and enclosing the center. The company wouldn't make this commitment to the community and the future if it weren't prepared to expand security."

"THE ENCLOSURE will have an effect on the total image. People tend to behave more discreetly in an enclosed carpeted mall. They

feel as though they're in their own living room instead of outdoors."

When the center is enclosed, Miss Hobar contended, the tenants will act as the eyes and ears because they will be able to walk outside in inclement weather.

"We're spending money to provide a lovely atmosphere where shoppers can come in rafts. We are a dynamic, viable, corporate tenant of Southfield, and we want what's best for the community, including safety."

"We don't want people to say every time a motorcycle backfires at Northland, 'Someone's been shot.'"

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