

# Hills police reserves spruce up on tactics

By MAURIE WALKER

The reserve police officer has come a long way since the day of the posse and the deputy appointed end-of-post.

Today the reservists are getting the same basic course as a regular policeman, but in a modified version.

It all started three years ago in Redford when reserve Capt. Al Stewart and Police Chief Edwin Gliza decided formal schooling was needed for the men who were accepted as police reservists.

In the current class held every Thursday evening at Schoolcraft College, there are 18 men from departments in Canton, Garden City, Redford, Northville, Livonia as well as Farmington Hills.

Canton Supervisor Robert Greenstein is one of 12 persons from Canton, including two women, who are attending the 30-week, 180-hour course.

Stewart said that the first school held in Redford in 1973 had 360 officers graduate. When word of the school spread throughout the area, applications for the course grew so numerous that arrangements were made with Schoolcraft College to hold the classes there.

Handling public relations for the council is Fred Peterson of Northville Township.

INSTRUCTORS come from all fields of law enforcement including local officers as well as state and county officers. Judges and prosecutors also serve as instructors.

Stewart said the instructors volunteer their time. Students pay \$15 each to cover the cost of material used in the course. Each department or the individual pays the tuition.

The course includes road patrol duties and functions, arrest procedure, communications, community relations, crime scene, search, evidence preservation, bombs and explosives, narcotics and dangerous drugs and crowd and riot control.

Weapons training is another facet of the course. The students receive a complete NRA (National Rifle Association) basic pistol course and a police combat course conducted on a firing range.

All must pass this phase of the test or they aren't graduated. Stewart said.

All weapons teachers are NRA police fire arms instructors.

The training council is recognized by the Michigan Law Enforcement Officer Training Council and is accredited throughout the state by various police organizations.

"WE NOW get applications from not only Wayne County police departments but Oakland and Macomb as well," Stewart said.

Last year's class graduated 127 reserve officers.

In the three years we have conducted the school, less than 10 per cent have dropped out," Stewart said.

It's a tough course though. An average of 28 per cent fail.

A student is allowed to be absent only three times before being dropped.

In some cases the person may have to drop out due to a change in his work schedule. Then there have been cases where a person figures the course is more than he wants to take on," Stewart added.

While there are only two women in this year's class, there were 16 in the class last year and seven in the first year.

The school is put on by the Michigan Police Reserve Training Council, made up of a 10-man board of directors from nine police departments in conjunction with Schoolcraft College.

Stewart is executive director with Lt. Eugene Stout of Redford a director of training.

Advisors include Chief Robert Behrendt of Garden City, Chief Edwin Gliza of Redford and Sheriff William Lucas of Wayne County.

WOMEN WHO enter the course receive the same training as do the men, Stewart added.

This includes training in personal defense and use of the night stick.

Debra Murray and Barbara Unger, two Canton students, said they joined the reserve because they were interested in police work.

Ms. Murray said she hoped someday to become a regular policeman.

Ms. Unger said she felt this was a good way to get involved in the community. Both said they are enjoying the course and expect no quarter because they are women.

Stewart said he believes it is vital for all reserve officers to have basic police training.

In most instances today a police department won't put a recruit on the road until they have basic law enforcement training.

The training sessions run from 7:30 to 11 p.m. each week. This class will graduate Sept. 18 when those who have passed the complete course with an average of at least 70 per cent will receive diplomas recognizing them as qualified reserve officers.

So strong is Stewart's feeling that all reservists must be trained that next week he and Peterson are going to Lansing to meet with State Sen. Carl Purcell to discuss proposed legislation requiring mandatory reserve training statewide.

## Downtown still popular with folks

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from the downtown area, say some shoppers.

"I prefer the mall, myself," Dorvil Robinson of Farmington Hills says. He and his wife, Betty, occasionally shop in Farmington but usually go to Tri-11 Mall or Northland Shopping Center.

If more stores were added to Farmington's shopping area, they might shop there more often. "It probably wouldn't be as crowded as the malls," he says.

The main malls along Grand River complete with the city's central shopping area. Luther Wilkes of Farmington usually goes to the Highland Shopping Center because it's nearer to his home than the downtown stores.

He admits he probably wouldn't come downtown more often if there were more stores added.

Terry Fuller would like women's apparel shops come to Farmington. "There ain't any clothing stores here," she says. A resident of Garden City, she works in Farmington and makes small purchases such as post cards, in the city.

Most shoppers who have been to Birmingham's shopping area have enjoyed it. But Mrs. Townsend added, "I enjoyed Walnut Street in Birmingham. I didn't spend as much money there as I do here. I couldn't afford it."



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