

Robberies, burglaries top list in city's crime report

By YVONNE B. DEVLIN

Robberies and burglaries are the crimes that are most frequent in the City of Farmington according to the Farmington Department of Public Safety's semi-annual report for 1977.

The report, which covers from January 1 to June 30, 1978, shows six armed robberies compared to two for the same period last year. There were also 67 burglaries with eight attempted burglaries with the highest incidence occurring in private residences.

Larcenies are continuous problems in the city including shoplifting and theft of parts and car accessories — primarily return band radios — says Police Chief Dan Byrnes.

Shoplifting arrests totaled 54 up from 21 last year, while bicycle thefts have decreased from 18 last year to 15. The most dramatic increase is noted in auto parts and accessories where the num-

ber of thefts almost doubled from 36 to 68, with only one arrest made.

Vandalism is down 97 per cent which is encouraging from the 43 per cent increase that the city experienced last year, says Byrnes. There were 118 cases of reported vandalism this year compared to 126 last year.

Both drug violation arrests and driving under the influence of alcohol have decreased, though 14 juveniles were found in possession of liquor up from none last year.

Traffic accidents totaled 352 which is only three more than 1975.

Miscellaneous complaints have in-

creased 17 per cent over the same period in 1975. These include domestic disputes, runaways, drug overdoses, peat attacks and traffic accidents.

The increases are normal, explains Byrnes, as the population of the community increases and the traffic volume increases due to area development.

"We can expect continuing rises for demands for services that fall in the category I think it would be safe to say that we will see no relief in this area in the future," he says.

"Overall total complaints and offenses increased nine per cent over the same six month period in 1975 according to the report."

Seniors plan summer events

Farmington area senior citizens whose center is "The Gathering Place" at the American Legion Hall on Grand River have several special events scheduled in the coming weeks.

On July 24 at 10:45 a.m., there will be a shopping trip to Fairlane Center and on July 25, there will be a big Sunday dinner at 4:30 p.m. The charge for the shopping trip is \$4.50 and \$2.50 for the dinner.

On Aug. 7 the seniors will attend an af-

ternoon baseball game between the Tigers and the Cleveland Indians.

Discount pictures will continue to be taken for the discount program from 1-4 p.m., July 19 and July 21.

A hot lunch is served at noon on week-days at the center in the American Legion Hall at 31775 Grand River.

Those new to the program may contact Karen Ross, 674-4115 for additional information on the senior program.

Task force probes district's choices

(Continued from Page 1A)

Approval of the task force also guaranteed the opportunity for interested residents to attend various meetings of the committee during its study of declining enrollments.

The district has been faced with a parallel situation that has plagued most state districts for years. Schulman says that pending decisions about the problems only lead to the deterioration of morale in staff and the continuation of the apprehension that exists in the minds of the public.

"I'm certain that once the facts become known, the community will understand and respond appropriately. Parents and children don't welcome the possibility of closing schools or changing boundaries but the district can't afford to waive its responsibilities."

FOR THE FARMINGTON district, the loss of student enrollment has had several direct effects on the operation of schools, according to Schulman.

"Enrollment figures for 1975-76 indicate a decline of 1,886 students from the 1971-72 school year. Official estimates for 1976-77 reflect a further loss of 500 additional students. It is expected that this additional

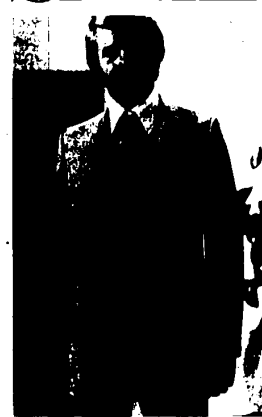
loss will continue for the next several years.

"It becomes fiscally impossible, especially at the secondary level, to continue with low enrollment elective offerings."

"It also results in a higher per capita instructional cost which was \$820.35 in 1971-72, \$1,328.29 in 1974-75 and \$1,541.06 in 1975-76. As enrollments drop, per pupil expenditures increase despite attempts to reduce overall expenses proportionately. This is further complicated because state aid is distributed on the basis of the number of pupils. The new formula, which compensates the district for declining enrollments, is at least a step in the right direction."

"Elementary enrollments have dropped significantly, creating a substantial number of empty rooms. This makes it possible to properly house programs that were formerly crowded. But the question of cost efficiency arises during this situation."

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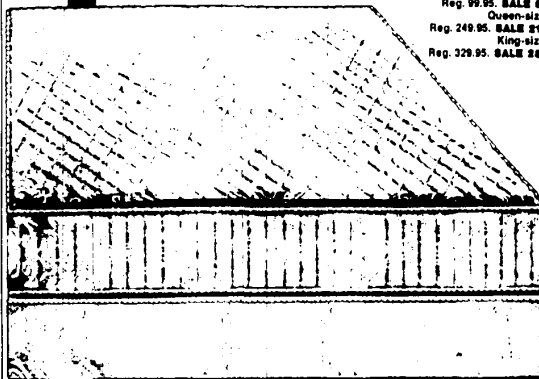
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