

Police stats: They can be deceiving

By Casey Hana
staff writer

Major happenings in a small community can cause drastic shifts in police statistics.

Farmington's first bank robbery in 20 years upped Farmington Department of Public Safety (FDPS) report of annual property stolen by robbery during the past 12 months to \$45,766.

This compares to a robbery take only \$1169 during the preceding 12 months, according to information from the department's quarterly report published in September. Of the latest 12 month total, \$42,600 came from the

robbery and all was recovered.

FDPS Director Frank Lauhoff looks beyond statistics when managing his department. Actual crime numbers are more significant to him when addressing a problem. He seeks trends and tries to foresee problem areas.

"We allocate our people resources to different areas," he said.

SCHEDULING CHANGES for problems, such as the more than 30 reports of recent demolition of car windows, are discussed at squad meetings. FDPS vehicles involving 17 patrol personnel were routed heavily through residential areas while detectives investigated the cases.

The management tools Lauhoff uses

for the FDPS include monthly, quarterly and annual statistical reports, detailing 12-month activity periods in his department. The FDPS handles law enforcement and firefighting for the city. Quarterly and annual reports are presented to the city council.

September's quarterly report shows a doubling of commercial burglaries, while residential burglaries were reduced by 37 percent. A key arrest was made this year accounting for 12-18 of the 40 commercial burglaries on the report, Lauhoff said.

DURING THE past 12 months, a 7-percent increase in total requests for FDPS services was noted. This type of

statistic is important when considering personnel needs, Lauhoff said.

Property theft increased 71 percent, according to the report, with recovery of property by the department increasing 195 percent. Increases in amounts of property stolen and recovered are attributed to increases in auto theft throughout the area, according to Lauhoff. Farmington recovered \$200,000 in stolen vehicles during the past 12 months.

Lauhoff sees trends in serious misdemeanor statistics, such as drunk driving violations and domestic quarrels, reported to the department. "We get a feel for what's going on in a community," which he feels is an important function of the FDPS.

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Felonious assault alleged

A former security guard is accused of allegedly holding a gun on a security guard to win the release of a companion outside Bob Sellers Pontiac-GMC 38000 Grand River, early Monday.

Arraigned Monday before District Court Magistrate Dennis Phoney, Pierre Rene Bonds, 19, of Detroit pleaded no guilty to two counts of felonious assault and one count of receiving and concealing stolen property in excess of \$1000. Bonds was set at \$1,000 pending a preliminary examination in 47th District Court.

Conviction of felonious assault carries a maximum penalty of four years in prison. The other charge carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison and a \$2,500 fine.

Bonds had been a security guard at the dealership as recently as a few weeks ago, Farmington Hills Office David Lee said.

ACCORDING TO Farmington Hills Police, two uniformed security guards were on patrol in a car about 12:10 a.m. Monday when they noticed a suspicious car on Hathaway, just north of the dealership.

As they neared the car, they spotted a man jumping a dealership fence. After catching and cuffing the man, one of the guards returned to his car to call police.

In the meantime, a second man appeared from near the suspicious car. That man shouted he would be right back, then ran into the darkness. When

he reappeared, he had a revolver and ordered the guards to release the cuffed man. The guards complied and both suspects fled on foot, north on Hathaway, according to police.

Officer C.J. Van Meter located a suspect, Bonds, running near Grand River and Sinclair Court. Bonds matched the description of the gunman, police said.

Police said they confiscated from the suspicious car a prep radio believed stolen from the dealership two weeks ago. Near the fenced area, police also found a bumper jack they believe belonged to the suspects.

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