

Farmington uses high-tech advances to make city safer

By Casey Hens
staff writer

UPDATED TECHNOLOGY is bringing better police and fire protection to Farmington citizens, in an atmosphere where seconds can make a life or death difference.

An improved dispatch center was recently completed, paving the way for Oakland County's Enhanced 9-1-1 emergency service scheduled to come on line later this year.

And for the past six months, an integrated computer/video training system has provided up-to-date techniques for public safety officers in a variety of situations.

Also this year, officers will get mobile data terminals in patrol cars, allowing them to check computerized information on lists without radioing dispatch.

This enhanced technology cost the city of Farmington more than \$100,000 for the dispatch center alone. The training system that includes computer, color monitor, video recorder, television and printer, cost several thousand dollars. The mobile data car terminals will cost an estimated \$800 to \$1,000 per year on a seven-year lease.

These changes are necessary to bring the city up-to-date as the rest of the county and state march forward into a world of technological advances, said public safety director Frank Lauhoff.

THESE CHANGES are necessary to bring the city up-to-date as the rest of the county and state march forward into a world of technological advances, said public safety director Frank Lauhoff.

The city of Farmington could barely keep time with an old dispatch console for which parts had become obsolete.

The new console includes police and fire dispatch, mirrored parabolic lighting, which is adjustable and easier on the eyes, and room for the emergency 9-1-1 system, Lauhoff said. The console also allows space for dual-dispatching, in cases where more than one dispatcher is needed.

Officers and reserves can be called at a single touch, which also updates the department's technology for contacting firefighters. The city's public safety department handles both fire and police protection for the city of nearly 12,000.

A new computer in the dispatch center also gives "better formatting" for access to Oakland County's CLEMIS — the Court Law Enforcement Management Information System, which centralizes information for those who fight crime, he added.

Dispatchers who handle all radio transmissions will be freed from routine calls and able to handle more pressing emergencies when mobile data terminals are installed later this year.

The terminals will also speed the information-gathering process for officers who can get immediate information about drivers and vehicle registrations, officials say.

APPROVED BY the Farmington City Council last December, this system is tied into another area-wide law enforcement effort. Officials are hoping more than 200 terminals will be activated throughout Oakland County. Since Lauhoff does not expect installation until later this year, council members agreed to budget the cost into the upcoming 1988-89 fiscal year.

Already bought and being used is the department's video training system, which briefs officers on up-to-date techniques in areas such as self-defense, deadly force situations or how to handle fleeing felons.

Following the viewing of situations on the video screen, officers must correctly answer questions on the computer. Their answers are printed and eventually a final score is given.

Not only is the system cost effective by keeping officers on the premises while training, Lauhoff said, but also standardizes the process by making sure all officers receive training in necessary areas.

"And it's entertaining. That's good, because you always learn better when things are entertaining," he added.



RANDY DORST/staff photographer

Dispatcher Claudia Jump works with the new equipment recently installed in the Farmington Department of Public Safety's communications center.

Teen is latest victim in series of sex assaults

By Alice Collins
staff writer

A man wearing a ski mask and armed with a knife accosted a 17-year-old Birmingham girl in the garage of her home on Puritan last Tuesday night, forced her upstairs and sexually assaulted her.

The attack was interrupted by a friend of the victim who happened to come to the house at the time. The assailant fled, apparently on foot.

The assault is similar to at least eight other incidents of rape or attempted rape in Bloomfield Township, Birmingham, West Bloomfield and Farmington Hills since

April.

A common link in the series of attacks is the rapist's physical description, the ski mask, the weapon and the method of attack. He is believed to be white, about 5 feet 11 inches tall, with a thin to medium build.

"We don't know enough at this moment to tie it in," Birmingham Capt. Millard Squire said Wednesday. But Bloomfield Township officers involved with the investigation since the series of attacks began April 8 were already meeting yesterday morning with Birmingham investigators regarding the latest incident.

TUESDAY'S INCIDENT began around 9

p.m. at the house on Puritan in northwest Birmingham.

The assailant was inside the victim's garage waiting when she returned home, said Squire. "When she got out of the car, the man wearing the ski mask and carrying a knife confronted her. He forced her into the house, took her upstairs and sexually assaulted her."

The attacker asked the victim for money and jewelry, "but at this point we don't know whether he got any," Squire said.

The victim was treated at William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak. Police investigating the series of attacks believe the man they are looking for stalks his victims before assaulting them. Robbery

is involved in most of the cases.

In one of the rapes, the assailant punctured the victim's jaw with the knife.

THE LAST INCIDENT before Tuesday's attack was on Thanksgiving night when two women were raped and robbed at a house in Farmington Hills.

Police in Bloomfield Township and Birmingham reported three sexual attacks in adjacent subdivisions during April. On April 8, a woman in her 40s was raped and robbed in a house on Berkshire near Lahser and Maple.

On April 24, in the same house, another woman in her 40s was the victim. On April 15, a woman about 40 had just

parked her car in her garage near Lincoln and Westchester in Birmingham when a man grabbed her, pressed a knife to her throat and demanded sex. In this case, the assailant fled after the woman began screaming.

On May 9 in West Bloomfield, a woman in her 40s was attacked and robbed at a residence near 14 Mile and Orchard Lake.

On Sept. 19 a baby sitter in her early teens was raped in a house on Wedgewood near Lincoln and Lahser in Bloomfield Township.

On Oct. 15, there was an aborted attack on a woman in her 40s who drove into her garage in West Bloomfield, near Maple and Inkster.

business briefs

If you recently opened a shop, captured an award, earned a promotion, are planning a new venture or project, or have information about other business-related happenings — and you're a Farmington-area connection — we'd like to hear from you so we can share your news item with other Observer readers. Send items to: Business Briefs, Farmington Observer, 32303 Grand River, Farmington 48024.

NEW VP

Farmington resident David Cornwell was promoted to vice president and senior real estate officer for Manufacturers National Bank of Detroit.

Cornwell is the officer-in-charge of the Private Bank Department Real Estate, Mineral and Operations Division of the bank.

He joined the bank in 1981 as second vice president and trust officer. He was promoted to vice president and trust officer in 1984.

He is a member of the National Association of Corporate Real Estate Executives, the National Association of Realtors, the Michigan Association of Realtors, the Western Wayne Board of Realtors and the American Association of Certified Appraisers.



David Cornwell

SWEET SUCCESS

Appeal to the tastes of your audience and you're sure to have an advertising promotion that works." So says Selessa Pheasant and Gary Holmberg, owners of Images Design, a Farmington Hills graphic communications company. To prove it, they've created a self-promotional piece that they feel is too sweet to ignore.

Catering to the senses of sight, smell and "good taste," Images Design, with the help of a local gourmet chocolate shop, developed a chocolate replica of a portfolio for promotional mailing. Using an advertising slogan term for portfolio, an accompanying brochure says, "A Sweeter Corporate Image is in the Bag." It invites the reader to sample both the chocolate version and later the real thing via a sales representative.

"We wanted to create a piece that would stand out among a busy executive's daily mail. When they open the box to reveal the thick piece of chocolate, we feel they'll be compelled to read the brochure overlooking the company," Pheasant said. "Also, since our logo is molded into the chocolate, our name is continually before them as they nibble it."

Images Design opened its doors six years ago and has since then outgrown its original Farmington Hills studio. Even its second and larger studio, also in Farmington Hills, has become too small.

Should a third move become inevitable, Images Design will remain in Farmington Hills since the two owners and three of the employees live in the community.

Images Design handles a variety of corporate collateral materials to serve communication needs, including sales literature, brochures, catalogues, posters, annual reports, corporate identities, ads and innovative promotional ideas.

It also can handle concept development, design, copywriting and complete production — all in-house. "For customers, this eliminates inconsistency and high cost involved with having a project scattered among design firms specializing in only one or two areas," said Pheasant, an advertising designer who oversees all creative production.

For more information, contact Selessa Pheasant for Gary Holmberg at 855-8800.

NEW APPOINTMENTS

The Holiday Inn in Farmington Hills has announced two new appointments.

Marlene Asselin was named sales director. She previously served as sales director for area hotels, including the Quality Inn, Farmington Hills; the Ann Arbor Inn, Ann Arbor; and the Ramada Inn at Detroit Metropolitan Airport.

She began her career in hotel sales after leaving the real estate industry in 1981 by working as a conference coordinator with the Marriot/Host at Detroit Metropolitan Airport.

Asselin was honored as supplier of the month by the Meeting Planners International, of which she is a member. She is also a member of the Michigan Society of Association Executives and the Hotel Sales Management Association.

Her duties include marketing and promotion through group room sales to corporate accounts, associations, conventions and travel agents.

Nelson "Buzz" Cummings was appointed head chef at Maxwell's, the Holiday Inn's restaurant.

Cummings comes to the Holiday Inn of Farmington Hills from the Fox and Hounds, Bloomfield Hills, where he was head chef from 1983-87. He is a graduate of the Culinary Arts Program of Schaeffer College, Livonia. Cummings will emphasize lighter fare, such as seafood, chicken and pasta to conform to trends toward more healthful dining.

NURSING DIRECTOR

Judy Hrlie, a registered nurse from Walled Lake, has been named nursing director at Oak Hill Care Center, Farmington.

She will be responsible for managing the nursing staff, overseeing patient care and continuing to meet state and federal nursing home care standards.

Affiliated with Care Centers of Michigan, Oak Hill Care Center is a 163-bed comprehensive care facility providing skilled and basic nursing care, specialty programs in respiratory care, sub-acute care and hospice support, and Oak Hills Annex, a group home for the elderly.

JOINS INDUSTRY GROUP

McCabe Funeral Home, with locations in Farmington Hills and Detroit, was elected to the National Selected Morticians, an international association of leading independent, privately owned funeral homes.

In announcing McCabe's selection, Fred Bates, NSM executive director, pointed out that membership is granted by invitation only after a thorough investigation and evaluation of the prospective member firm. Review includes standards of service, reputation and facilities.

McCabe Funeral Home president L. David McCabe, third generation of the family to guide the 95-year-old firm.

As licensed funeral directors, both David and his son, Kevin, are active in the Michigan Funeral Directors Association. David is the state association's recording secretary. Kevin is treasurer of MFDA's District No. 6, which includes Oakland, Macomb and St. Clair counties.

BID AWARDED

Sunset Excavation was low bidder at \$75,142 for the Ruth Avenue Sanitary Sewer Project Special Assessment District.

The Farmington Hills City Council has authorized the city manager and city clerk to sign a contract with the firm for the project.

The low bid was 18 percent below the engineer's estimate of \$90,100. It was competitive with current prices in today's market, city manager William Costick said.

VALENTINE AZALEAS
Pick your sweetheart a garden of lasting beauty. Pretty potted azaleas with delicate polyester/silk blooms always look fresh. 15-inches tall. White or pink, \$35.

Jacobson's
Gifts for the Home

Shop until 9 p.m. on Thursday and Friday
Until 6 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday