

## Community Corner

### This week's question:

What unusual Valentine's Day gifts have you given or gotten?

We asked this question at the Farmington YMCA.



"Once I got a dozen roses and I was picked up in a limo."  
— Chris Hart  
Farmington Hills



"I gave boxer shorts — red with little white hearts."  
— Margaret Price  
Novi



"Usually my gift is some kind of champagne."  
— Nancy Allen  
Farmington Hills



"Once I got a pair of tie-dye socks with white jarts on them. I try to remember to wear 'em every Valentine's Day."  
— Louis Gelsling  
Bloomfield Hills



"I can't remember."  
— Nancy Gelsling  
Bloomfield Hills



"It was a hand-made heart made of worny cherrywood. It had an arrow going through it."  
— Mike Dixon  
West Bloomfield

# Serious crime up in Hills after record '90 drop

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the city's first double homicide in the city's history.

All five of the homicides were investigated and arrests were made almost immediately," Dwyer said. "The homicides were between people who were related, acquainted or had some type of conflict."

In other words — as with the criminal sexual conduct incidents — the homicides were not street or random crimes.

FELONY SEXUAL offenses decreased in 1991, down to 11 from 18 in 1990. In fact, in 1990, sexual of-

fenses were the only type of serious crime that increased from 14 incidents in 1989.

"All were between people who were related or acquainted," Dwyer said.

Robbery also increased in 1991 to 39 from 29 the previous year. 1990 robbery totals represented a decrease from 1989 when robberies topped 43. Robberies decreased to the mid-to-high 20s in 1987 and 1988.

Of the 39 robberies in 1991, the majority, 14, were what is called strong arm robberies, followed by 11 robberies with a firearm. Strong arm robberies last year actually in-

creased from nine in 1990. Last year also saw six attempted strong arm robberies compared to none in 1990. Robberies with a firearm decreased from 17 in 1990.

"Thirty-nine robberies isn't out of proportion with the number of businesses located in this city," Dwyer said. Oakland County also experienced a 5.2 percent increase in robberies.

"We find in many cases when it is a business (robbery), it's actually the previous employees committing the robberies or employees who are not on duty at the time of the robberies," Dwyer added.

BURGLARIES JOINED criminal sexual conduct as the only two serious crime categories with decreases. Burglaries decreased to 577 last year from 618 in 1990. Last year, was the eighth consecutive year of decrease in burglaries. Consider that in 1988, burglaries topped 841. Meanwhile, burglaries increased in Oakland County in 1991 to 7,492 from 6,944 in 1990.

Larcenies made a healthy jump in 1991 to 2,116 from 1,770 in 1990. Of the various types of larcenies, shoplifting increased from 137 incidents in 1990 to 213 in 1991. Larcenies of auto parts and accessories, such as

hub caps and hood ornaments, also jumped from 476 in 1990 to 668 in 1991.

"I think the recession does have something to do with some of these increased categories (of crime)," Dwyer said. "We're concerned anytime we have increases in serious felony crimes. There's a number of factors to consider when you analyze the 1991 stats with 1990s."

Dwyer believes there is a parallel between increases in certain types of crime and the poor economy. There's also a correlation between increased crime and increased population and traffic through the city, Dwyer said.

Motor vehicle thefts totaled 250 in 1991, up from 187 the previous year. Countywide, those thefts increased less than a percent from 4,857 in 1990 to 4,888 in 1991.

In 1990, motor vehicle thefts decreased 41.5 percent to 192 from 328 in 1989. And even with an increase in 1991, auto thefts are less than in 1986-1988 when they ranged in the 400s. "We've seen more of an auto thefts trend centered at auto dealerships," Dwyer said.

Surprisingly, aggravated assaults in 1991 were a carbon copy of the previous year with a total 91. Arsons, however, increased to 29 from 13 in 1990.

# Plan to restrict prep athletes rules parents, coaches

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COMPLICATING THE issue is the MHSAA recommendation that such groups not be allowed to use school facilities, such as pools and fields. If they disagree with the philosophy that variety is better than specialization. It stresses that school athletics is designed to "help educate boys and girls and not prepare students for college sports."

An Ad Hoc Committee on Non-School Athletic Programs for the MHSAA met in September for recommendations the following state rule be adopted: "Any student who participates on an interscholastic team for their school may not represent any other organization or compete in

any outside competition in that sport during the school year."

Athletes would be allowed, however, to participate in community sports of other types. The proposal also would permit a maximum of four contests in a sport out-of-season during the school year. Current rules prohibit a student from competing during the school season, but allow him or her to compete with a community club during the off-season.

The proposal stems from a poll taken last year of school athletic directors statewide who are members of the Michigan Interscholastic Administrators Association. The poll showed that 70 percent of directors favored a change. But a number of athletic directors in southeastern

Michigan have spoken against it.

"I haven't spoken with anyone in favor of the proposal," said Jim Feldkamp, athletic director for the Troy schools, who is campaigning against the changes.

FARMINGTON ATHLETIC director Ron Holland said he believes the MHSAA should take another look at the recommendation and maybe even postpone a decision for a year. He said the entire issue stems from an incident at one outstate Michigan school district in which students specializing in one sport hurt other athletic programs.

Holland said he and the high school principals are scheduled to meet with the Farmington Board of

Education on Tuesday, March 3, to address this and other athletic issues facing the district. Other school boards, such as Berkeley, have already taken a stand against the proposed changes.

"There are pros and cons to it," Holland added. "With all the talk of choice schools an parents making decisions, I think they're where it lies. I don't think the district or the association should really be the ones to make that choice — especially in the '90s."

MHSAA director Jack Roberts said he believes increased is "likely to take a small step in the direction of more restriction" and added that "no state has become more liberal than Michigan in this regard." Michigan

previously had more restrictions in place, but the association rescinded many rules in 1982.

Even though the MHSAA council is taking a "small step," Farmington-area parents are taking the threat of restrictions seriously and encouraging phone calls and letters to the MHSAA. Community sports have boomed in recent years in southeastern Michigan, making the threat of restricting sports activities worse than in past years.

The Farmington Soccer Club has already taken a stand, calling the effort "misguided."

"I think it's a major infringement on the decision of my son and myself," said Tim Zajaros, a parent and president of the Farmington

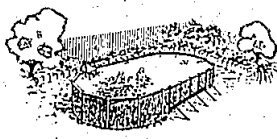
Soccer Club. "Frankly, it's none of their business."

Roxanne Fitzpatrick, a parent who heads up the South Farmington Baseball Club, said other parents in her club are also concerned. "I think we're going to do a mass mailing, or target our parents with tournament ballplayers," she said. "They're the ones who are going to play high school sports." About 150 of the 1,200 kids who play for South Farmington each year are tournament players.

The ruling is expected to impact a number of other sports as well, including church leagues, amateur golf and tennis competitions, volleyball, swimming and a number of others.

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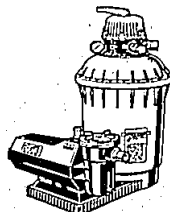
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