## Hills crime down

## Police plan more improvements in '93

BY BILL COUTANT
FATP WARE:

Farmington Hills Police Chief
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William Dwyer lan't shy when it
leomes to patting his force on the
back for its part in fighting crime.
And he hopes the city's leaders
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90 percent or more were commit-ted by outsiders," Dwyer said. "For the most part they (robbers) were from outside Oakland Coun-

"But along with the 4 percent overall drop in major crime, Dwy-ac pointed to several programs and innovations the department instituted in 1992, including many that were financed with ddug forfeiture money, not tax dollars:

dollars:
The department started its Business Watch Program, which offers seminars to area business people on ways to recognize and

prevent crime.

The department bought 125

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The Wassen semiattomatic pistols, with 15 rounds

per clip, to replace 357 Magnums,
with six round clips.



"We have to keep pace with the criminal element," Dwyer said.

A new crime lab, bought with \$40,000 in drug forfeiture money, will help police with preliminary procedures such as finger print-

procedures such as mage, periodical ing.

A cultural diversity training program added in 1992 will make police more aware of cultural differences and language bariers.

A new computer added dispatch system was installed along with a citywide radio band.

"We had too many cities on our one band," he said. "We also purchased a complete new radio system.

tem.
While those and other programs have improved the department, Dwyer said Farmington Hills Police have a busy agenda

**™** 'When you're out there, sometimes you're going to make mistakes. But we don't have a blue curtain. We'll protect an officer who's innocent. But we're not going to tolerate misconduct.'

William Dwyer police chief

lice will be phased in depending on available city money. The system helps protect officers and the city from liability concerns.

Training will begin on a new small gas cylinder, carried by officers, that will replace the use of billy clubs and other methods of restraint. The gas temporarily disables but does not harm the person being restrained.

The department plans to hire more minorities beginning this year.

year.
"We want to be more representative of our community," Dwyer

■ Build a new garage behind the

city complex, financed with gam-

city complex, financed with gambling forfeiture money.

Decrease with the community relations will be a top priority in 1993. That will involve providing speakers to the community, including service organizations, even if it involves evertime.

organizations, even if it involves overtime.

"That's a biggie," he said. "It's essential that the community knows what we're doing and has access to speakers."

Dwyer, 52, who has been chief of police for the past eight years, said lawsuits against the city have decreased at a time when ill-igation in general has increased. That, he said, is a part of keeping the public's trust.

"When you're out there, some times you're going to make mistakes," he said. "But we don't have a blue curtain. We'll protect an officer who's innocent. But we're not going to tolerate misconduct."

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Although the chief's wish list is extensive, he said most of the goals are within reach by year's end.

"I want to continue to make our

"want to continue to make our department one of the most professional in the nation," Dwyor said. "That requires a high degree of training, good working conditions and good equipment."

## Honorer Soronen becomes honoree

The 1993 Farmington Jaycee Distinguished Citizen Award went to someone who has been instrumental in helping select past winners.

Jody Soronen, executive di-rector of the Farmington Area Chamber of Commerce, said she was surprised by the selec-

"I've usually worked to help select the award recipient," said Soronen. "I'm really surprised and honored."

Soronen is active in many organizations, including the YMCA, DDA, Farmington Beautification Committee and has twice served as mayor of Farmington Hills.

The award presentation was part of the 26th annual Farmington Jaycee Community Leadership Frayer Breakfast attended by about 75 people, including civic leaders, clergy and business leaders.

The Rev. Terry Prisk, executive director of Contemporary Communication, was the guest speaker for the event. Prisk, who travels throughout the



Tables turned: Jody Soronen was surprised to be named this year's honored citizen.

country as a motivational speaker, is a former director of ministries for the Youth for Christ program in Farmington. He spoke about the importance of God, priorities and prayer in everyday life.





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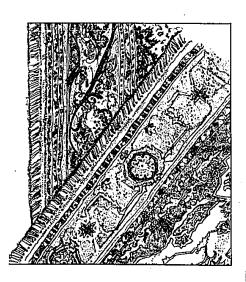
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