

Detectives depend on public's help

By BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

Police detective work is not much like what you see on TV.

The branch of police work has become more and more specialized and the case loads bigger over the years.

"We depend on people in the business community to help us solve crime and stop crime," Nebus told a group of business people at a recent Crime Watch meeting.

Although police agencies have many sophisticated tools and methods for solving crimes, such as polygraph (lie detector) machines, LEADS and other information networks, crime labs and computers, a case load of 50-60 cases per detective at any given time stretches resources of the department.

That's where the public and business community can go a long way in helping prevent crime.

"We'll have a bad check come in where if someone would have

spent 8-10 seconds to ask for a driver's license and check the credit card there would not have been a problem," he said. "People will go on a three, four or five-thousand dollar shopping spree."

Nebus was preaching for the most part to the converted, business owners and managers who had gathered at Mr. Sports for breakfast for a business crime prevention seminar.

Although Hills detectives depend on help from other agencies, they will pursue a case well be-

yond the city limits if need be. "We go anywhere," he said. "We've had detectives go to Florida for a case. We don't stop at Eight Mile, 14, or Haggerty borders if that's our case."

No matter how busy, Nebus said detectives will always find time to return calls.

The business crime prevention seminars are sponsored by the Farmington Hills police crime prevention section. For further information, call 473-9640.

Flu shots available at health department

The Oakland County Health Division will be offering flu and pneumonia shots from 1-3 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 12, at the Marian, Oakland-West, 25250 W. 10 Mile Road, Farmington Hills.

The flu vaccine is recommended for people over 65 years old or adults and children with chronic illnesses because they are at increased risk for complications of influenza. These high-risk persons are more likely than the general population to require hospi-

talization if infected.

More than 40,000 unnecessary deaths attributed to pneumonia and several recent epidemics and approximately 80-90 percent of these deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza were among people 65 years of age or older. Influenza vaccine is also strongly recommended for household members who may have close contact with high-risk persons.

This year's flu vaccine protects against three viral strains: A/Texas, A/Beijing, and B/Panama; the pneumococcal vaccine protects against streptococcus pneumoniae. Medicare covers the cost of the flu vaccine. Senior citizens are reminded to bring their Medicare cards to the flu clinic with them.

For people who do not have Medicare, a minimal fee will be charged to those able to pay.

In addition, both influenza and pneumococcal immunizations will be available at the Health Division offices in Pontiac and South-

field, from Tuesday, Oct. 5, through the end of December. The clinic hours are: Monday, noon to 7:30 p.m.; Tuesday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Getting a flu shot before next winter can reduce the risk of infection and lessen the severity of disease if infection occurs. Take advantage of this worthwhile and convenient program for your health's sake. For more information call: Marian, Oakland-West at 474-7204.



MIKE GARR

On alert: Farmington Hills police and firefighters, department of public works personnel and members of the Western Wayne County Hazardous Waste Management Team took part in the mock disaster and evacuation drill Sept. 30 at the Ingersoll Rand parking lot.

Hills officials learn from mock disaster

Farmington Hills officials learned a lot about handling disasters after completing a realistic disaster exercise Sept. 30.

Farmington Hills police and firefighters, department of public works personnel and members of the Western Wayne County Hazardous Waste Management Team took part in the mock disaster and evacuation drill at the Ingersoll Rand parking lot on Industrial Park Drive in Farmington Hills.

The drill is a state requirement. But unlike other years, the city made it more realistic, said Hills assistant city manager David Call.

"This one was very realistic," Call said. "It gave us a more accurate time frame for when things happen and how they unfold in a disaster."

Call said in many previous drills, city administrators would simulate disasters only on paper. "With an actual physical drill in


progress, members of the city's command team at the city complex sometimes found they had to wait for a communication from the field before taking the next step. The drill imitated a hazardous waste spill.

"Since we have a lot of trucks that go through our city carrying chemicals and other hazardous materials, we thought this would be a good thing for us to try," Call said.

Wally Kurzejn, a hazardous materials specialist with the Hills fire department, said there were a lot of lessons learned, including how to respond more quickly, how to get protective suits on faster and how to gauge wind conditions that could affect the behavior of hazardous wastes.

Call said the city will use a less cumbersome communications scheme in the future, thanks to lessons learned last week.

"That's the idea," Call said. "You find out where your weak points are."



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