

Hills man pleads guilty to loitering in gambling case

A Farmington Hills man and three Livonia residents, defendants in a long-running illegal gambling case, signed plea agreements Friday, moments before a jury trial was to begin in 16th District Court.

Charles Burke, Arthur A. Savoie, Sam Salvatore Donato of Livonia and Anthony Jacobson of Farmington Hills pleaded guilty to one count of loitering, a misdemeanor punishable by a maximum 90 days in jail and/or \$500 fine.

Misdemeanor charges of registering bets were dropped against all four in an agreement with the Wayne County prosecutor.

Each defendant was sentenced by Judge James R. McCann to six months of non-reporting probation, a \$100 fine and \$9 in court costs.

Nine others had previously signed plea agreements in the case, which came out of a Livonia Police investigation into an alleged high-stakes football pool involving area businessmen and attorneys, most from Livonia.

"None of us took a bet from anybody and when it came down to it they couldn't prove that we did," said Burke, a Livonia attorney.

Larry Roberts, the assistant prosecutor handling the case, said the agreement offered authorities "a certain conviction" in the nine-month-old case.

"Although the charge doesn't say 'gambling,' at a minimum we got the same (sentence) we would have with a trial."

Roberts said he will continue to press an appeal of McCann's December ruling dismissing felony gambling charges against six of the defendants, including all four sentenced Friday.

The felony charges, if reinstated, could result in a maximum five-year sentence upon conviction.

Livonia Police and prosecutors had alleged the defendants took part in a high-stakes football pool during 1992. As much as \$250,000

changed hands during lunch meetings at the Washington Knights of Columbus hall on Farmington Road and elsewhere in Livonia, they believed.

During their investigation, police uncovered evidence that former city finance director David Preston was also gambling illegally.

Preston, fired last July as a result of the investigation, pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor gambling charge.

He is awaiting a second trial on felony embezzlement charges. A mistrial was declared in January when the first jury failed to reach a verdict.

Serious crimes take dive in Farmington

By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

If crime statistics were any lower, those in the Farmington Public Safety Department might have to start wearing scuba gear.

Serious crimes — murder, criminal sexual conduct, robbery, aggravated assault, arson, burglary, larceny and auto theft — dropped 3.1 percent in 1993, according to an annual report released by the department.

Also down 5.1 percent were Part II offenses, which includes such crimes as assault and battery, drunken driving, vandalism and threatening and harassing complaints.

"These numbers alone should be enough to make a police chief happier than a porcupine in a pen filled with pin cushions. Still, Farmington Public Safety direc-

tor Gary Goss sees areas for concern, though.

Auto parts theft and items stolen from vehicles are continuing to rise. Most are crimes of opportunity, which Goss said could be prevented if people would lock up or hide valuables.

Last year, there were 68 reported thefts from vehicles — seven more than in 1992. Most are cars, phones, radios and other items visible to an opportunistic thief.

"When someone presents them with an opportunity, they lose their belongings," Goss said.

"Farmington is a safe place to live . . . but we can be smarter, too."

Other things such as stolen bikes and thefts from buildings also increased.

Overall, larcenies dropped 3 percent. The most notable decline

came in shoplifting incidents, 54 compared to 97 in 1992.

Robbery drew the most attention last year, though there were only four.

That was mainly because of a well-publicized incident on Slocum Street June 23 where a homeowner was terrorized when two men tied him up and robbed him at gunpoint.

The robbers, who drove off in the man's 1989 Ford Probe, were never caught. The robbery shook up the normally quiet neighborhood.

A tanning salon was held up with a BB gun, but police made arrests in that case. Two other robberies involved fast-food restaurants, one of which was foiled by a store employee.

Burglaries increased 31 percent, 67 cases compared to 51 in

1992. However, at least 10 of those were believed to be committed by one person who was going through unlocked homes and stealing purses.

"That's going to happen," Goss said. "When you're dealing with numbers so small, one person can make a lot of difference."

In a 10-year study, the number of burglaries has declined. This coincides with an increased involvement of the department's Neighborhood Watch program.

Farmington residents agree they haven't seen crime increase, according to a poll taken by the department's crime prevention unit. There's still plenty of apprehension.

While 66 percent said crime hasn't increased in their neighborhood, 58 percent replied that they are worried about becoming victims.

Gunplay results in charge for Harrison student

"Playing" with a gun has gotten at least one Harrison High School student in trouble.

A 15-year-old is in Children's Village on a felonious assault petition after a gun he took from

home was taken by a 16-year-old friend and held to the head of a 14-year-old girl after a volleyball practice at the school Feb. 22.

Police are still investigating. No names were released because

all involved are juveniles.

Police discovered the gun in the back log of the 14-year-old cousin of the 15-year-old Feb. 25. All four are students at Harrison.

The gun, a small .32 caliber

Derringer, was unloaded when police discovered it. Police said the girl whose backpack held the gun was unaware that it was there and had readily agreed to empty the backpack. She is not implicated.

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LEGAL NOTICE
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CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS
Community Development Block Grant Program
Program Year 1994-95

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has advised the City of Farmington Hills that it is entitled to receive \$445,000 for the 1994-95 Community Development Block Grant Program Year. These funds have been authorized by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 and 1977, as amended. In addition, The Housing Rehabilitation Program will have a fund balance of \$183,285.00 and an estimated \$60,000.00 will be received in program income from the Housing Rehabilitation activities. Notice is hereby given that on Monday, March 28, 1994, at 7:30 P.M., Eastern Standard Time, in the Council Chambers of the City Hall, 31555 Eleven Mile Road, City of Farmington Hills, Oakland County, Michigan, at which time and place the Farmington Hills City Council will conduct a Public Hearing to discuss the proposed use of Community Development Block Grant funds.

The proposed statement of Community Development Objectives and Projected Use of Funds for the 1994-95 CDBG Program Year is as follows:

PROPOSED STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM 1994-95
 City of Farmington Hills

The City of Farmington Hills has considered the various eligible projects which may be undertaken with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. These activities range from construction of sidewalks, storm/ sanitary sewers, water lines, and street paving to public services, code enforcement, historic preservation, etc. After careful evaluation of these projects, it has been determined that the highest priority of needs for low and moderate income areas in the community would be achieved through the following expenditure of CDBG funds:

	1993-94 BUDGET		PROPOSED 1994-95	
Housing Rehabilitation	\$ 212,000.00*	60%	\$ 282,285.00*	43%
Capital Improvements	106,500.00	33%	320,500.00	45%
Code Enforcement	24,500.00	5%	25,500.00	4%
Administration	39,000.00***	11%	43,000.00***	9%
TOTAL:	\$172,000.00*	100%	\$702,285.00*	100%

* Includes \$40,000.00 in program income and estimated fund balance of \$183,285.00
 *** Includes \$1,500.00 for Fair Housing Activities

Capital improvement projects for possible consideration include:
 Linden Drainage/Paving Improvement (Section 28)
 Estimated Cost: \$100,000.00
 Middlebelt Road/Eldon Out-Fall Drainage Improvement (Sections 25 and 28)
 Estimated Cost: \$60,000.00
 Grand River Avenue/Eight Mile Road Right-of-Way Improvements (Sections 38 and 33)
 Estimated Cost: \$10,000.00
 Gill Road Sidewalk (Section 33)
 Estimated Cost: \$15,000.00
 Independence Road Intersection Improvement (Section 38)
 Estimated Cost: \$35,000.00
 Kimberston Park Street Lights (Section 28)
 Estimated Cost: \$1,000.00

Please note that only a portion of these projects could be completed due to the funding levels. It is felt, however, that an opportunity for public discussion should be given on these projects.

All projects proposed with the use of the 1994-95 CDBG funds, as noted above, will benefit low and moderate income areas or persons defined in the 1990 Census.

All CDBG activities have been designed to avoid the displacement of persons. In the event displacement becomes necessary, the City will assist displaced persons in accordance with the Federal Uniform Relocation Act.

The 1994-95 CDBG Program - the Final Statement of Community Development Objectives and Projected Use of Funds for 1994-95 Program Year included the above distribution of funds. It is anticipated that on May 31, 1994, the end of the Program year, the status of the expenditures will be as follows:

HOUSING REHABILITATION: 85% EXPENDED OR COMMITTED
 (Approximately \$48,000.00 will be carried over for future rehabilitation activities.)

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS: Randall Drainage Improvement completed with 100% expended (\$104,500.00).
 Olds Town Street Lighting completed with 100% expended (\$2,000.00)

CODE ENFORCEMENT: 100% EXPENDED (\$74,500.00)
ADMINISTRATION: 100% EXPENDED (\$19,000.00)

Also, no persons will be displaced by the above activities.

The public is invited to comment on the proposed use of Block Grant funds and the City's participation in the Community Development Block Grant Program. Further information regarding the previous and proposed CDBG Program may be obtained at the City of Farmington Hills Community Development Office, 31555 W. Eleven Mile Road or by calling (810) 473-8341.

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