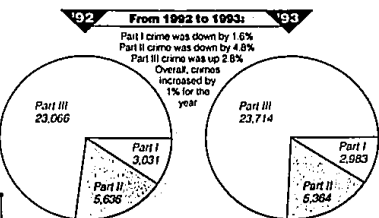


Farmington Hills crime

A 1992-1993 comparison



- Part I crime** - Murder, criminal sexual conduct I and II (penetration and attempted penetration), assault with gun, knife and attempted murder, burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft and arson.
- Part II crime** - Criminal sexual conduct III (contact and attempted contact), assault and battery, stalking, forgery, fraud, embezzlement, possession of stolen property, vandalism, concealing a weapon, indecent exposure, narcotics violations, gambling, child abuse and neglect, drunk driving, liquor law violations, disorderly conduct, loitering (17 and under), unlawful entry, kidnapping and civil rights violations.
- Part III crime** - Juvenile complaints, runaways, traffic violations, parking violations, hit and run personal injury accidents, suicides and suicide attempts, animal complaints and suspicious circumstances.

Source: Farmington Hills Police Department

Serious crime dips in Hills — again

By BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

For the third-straight year, serious crime has declined in Farmington Hills.

Hills police chief Bill Dwyer released crime figures that show fewer reported crimes, despite an increase in the city's population in recent years. In fact, 1993 marked the 10th consecutive year in which break-ins were down. In 1993, there were 1,022 B&Es, compared with 544 break-ins in 1993.

"I think because of our efforts in crime prevention and directed patrols, we've done well considering the number of residents has increased," Dwyer said.

There were 2,983 part I crimes, which include murder, rape, robbery, auto theft and arson, compared to 3,031 cases in 1992 and 3,109 in 1991. That's a decrease of 1.6 percent decrease from 1992 to 1993 and a 4 percent decrease since 1991.

There was one murder in 1993, compared with none in 1992; there were two more part I criminal sexual conduct crimes reported, 12 more robberies and six more arsons in 1993.

"There were no major arson

cases reported in the city," Dwyer said.

The chief said part of the increase in CSC reports was due to people being more willing to come forward and report the crime, which has in the past often been difficult for victims to report.

"The criminal justice system is treating victims better (than it used to)," he said. "We try to assign female officers in those cases. It's a difficult assignment, but it makes it easier for the victims."

Dwyer, who has extensive drug law enforcement experience with the Detroit police before coming to Farmington Hills, said about 80 percent of armed robberies in the city last year were drug related and about 90 percent of them were committed by criminals from outside of Oakland County.

"A lot of these take place at fast food restaurants, convenience stores and 24-hour gas stations late at night," he said. "They're located along the highways and main roads so these criminals can strike and get away quickly, and there is usually only one employee or a few employees late at night."

The department is stepping up its programs to get more video

cameras in patrol cars, continue to expand its community police program that assigns officers to a given area so they are more familiar with it, and continue its program to train police in the use of pepper gas as an alternative to other means of force, Dwyer said.

But the chief added that despite, for the most part, good news, the department needs more officers.

"I'm cautiously optimistic that the (Farmington Hills City) council will understand our need for more officers," he said. "We're falling behind."

A 5-year plan developed by the department in 1987 projected 106 officers for the city by 1991/92 and a population of 75,000 residents, Dwyer said. The population has exceeded that amount and there are now 101 sworn officers.

Dwyer will make his presentation to the city council later this spring.



Chief William Dwyer

'Tis the season when crooks spring scams

In the spring, scams come into full bloom. Farmington Public Safety Department is asking residents to be wary, especially when a deal sounds too good to be true.

One scam works like this: People claiming to be salesmen or utility employees get inside a home. Once inside, one will distract the resident while the other steals cash or other valuables.

A similar ruse has a person willing to do improvement work such as painting or driveway sealing.

"I think a lot of people who are doing transient crime move north when the weather is nice," said Farmington Public Safety detective Dan Dellar. "Also, they know

people like to get things done in the spring.

"It's the kind of thing if residents were thinking about it they can avoid it."

Police suggest refusing to open the door for anyone if unsure about their identity. Legitimate salesmen and utility workers carry proper identification. Otherwise, people can call police or the company they claim to represent.

Also, police advise residents to be cautious when hiring people to work around their home. Legitimate business people will provide identification and references.

If repairs cost more than \$600, the contractor must be licensed by the state.

Easter "bunny" Brunch

Family traditions grow from shared experiences. Easter at the Kingsley. Sumptuous buffet served 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom. Adults \$10.95, children \$6.95 (includes beverage). Easter Bunnies bearing gifts. After 12:00, dinner is served in all dining rooms. A Bloomfield Hills tradition. Call for reservations.

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