

Public Safety dispatchers get their space back

By TIM SMITH
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Wiring is still exposed and the counter is only half-finished. But Farmington Public Safety dispatchers Wednesday moved from cramped, temporary quarters to their permanent location across the corridor at city hall.

The department's roster of four full-time dispatchers soon will be joined by police officers, detectives and administrators such as Director Gary Goss, his executive secretary, Carol LeBlanc, and Mike Wiggins,

deputy director.

According to Frank Lauff, Farmington city manager, the rest of the department would return from the Department of Public Services facility on Nine Mile in mid-to-late March.

"It's coming along," said Lauff, about the \$800,000 renovation to the public safety facilities.

Corinne Brazzil, records communications supervisor, said the dispatchers are "much happier in a larger environment," even though the day shift will be forced to work amid the noise of

FARMINGTON

ongoing construction for the next few weeks.

"Unfortunately, they'll have to deal with a little more construction around them," Brazzil said. "It's not 100 percent done yet. Finishing touches need to be done, and they'll complete the rest of the building around them."

Moving out of the tiny, temporary booth makes any inconvenience worthwhile, she noted.

"The only positive thing about it was they had everything at their fingertips."

Dispatchers had been stationed in a small, temporary booth since last summer, when renovation began.

Those finishing touches referred to by Brazzil include covering exposed dry wall, completing the front counter and installing retractable, bullet-proof glass.

"We'll have to repair the ceilings and walls that had to be modified" for the temporary dispatcher's station, Lauff said.

■ Until the full department returns, however, the exterior doors to the building will remain locked to the general public as a safety precaution. After the department's return, citizens will have access 24 hours a day.

The front desk is expected to be completed by the end of this week.

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safety precaution, said Cmdr. Maria Putt. After the department's return, citizens will have access 24 hours a day.

POLICE AND FIRE NEWS

The following are police and fire incidents that occurred in Farmington and Farmington Hills during the past week.

SUSPICIOUS PAIR

In Farmington Hills: Police talked to two teens who told officers they were "killing

time" between classes while sitting in a 1989 Pontiac Grand Prix outside a Bunkerhill residence around 10:25 a.m. Feb. 24. An anonymous caller told police the teens looked as if they casing the area to commit burglary. Police think they may have been waiting for computer equipment

to be delivered to a Bunkerhill residence. On Feb. 23, someone reported \$4,000 of computer equipment ordered on a stolen credit card. However, Federal Express stopped the delivery.

THEFT
In Farmington Hills:

A portable CD AM/FM cassette stereo was stolen from a hangar room at Holiday Inn on 10 Mile between Feb. 23-24. Other items stolen included a pair of blue jeans, calculator, color TV and VCR. On Feb. 24, a security guard's jacket containing \$42 cash, keys and a can of mace was stolen from the hotel.

Someone stole 14 cellular phones worth \$2,800 from Bearcom on Hathaway between Dec. 28-Feb. 24.

BURGLARIES

In Farmington Hills: Burglars stole a cordless phone after breaking a kitchen window to get in a Hystone Drive residence between Feb. 21-24, causing \$100 damage.

Thieves forced open a front door and stole assorted jewelry from a Mulwood Apartments residence between 3-8:19 p.m. Feb. 24. They rifled through bedroom dresser drawers.

Burglars didn't make a distinc-

tion on city limits, breaking into two homes on the Novi side of Haggerty and one on the Farmington Hills side Feb. 23. Thieves kicked in the door at the Farmington Hills home. It was uncertain what had been stolen.

CRACK POSSESSION

In Farmington Hills: Police arrested a Garden City woman, 41, after they found four rocks - 1 gram - of crack cocaine and a pipe in the 1987 Ford Crown Victoria she was driving on Grand River and Pearl Feb. 24. Police stopped the car for only having one headlight. The driver didn't have a valid driver's license. After taking her to the station, an officer found a fifth rock of crack in the patrol car's backseat.

BREAK INS

In Farmington Hills: Someone broke the passenger window and stole 150 compact discs, a cellular phone and two speakers from a 1994 Jeep

Cherokee parked at Harrison High Feb. 25.

THEFT

In Farmington Hills: Someone pilfered two rear cargo doors from a 1998 Ford Econoline van parked at Broe Rehabilitation on Eight Mile Feb. 25. A 1998 Chevy Lumina in the same lot had its two air bags stolen, causing \$300 damage.

MARIJUANA

In Farmington Hills: A 17-year-old North Farmington High student who was caught smoking cigarettes had something else to puff. On Feb. 25, an assistant principal hauled him into the office where he admitted having a plastic bag of 2.5 grams of marijuana. He was also carrying a marijuana pipe. He told the assistant principal he was holding the marijuana for a friend.

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