

Officer of year

Ray Cranston always ready to help others

By Jonina Maliszewski
staff writer

He's just the kind of guy who is willing to help anyone and everyone. Take not too long ago one of the women with whom he works asked Sgt. Ray Cranston to try on for sizing an apron she was making. The supervisor of the Farmington Hills Police Department's traffic section obliged. "He looked quite elegant with an apron over his uniform," said traffic officer Don Fradette. "He's always willing to help someone."

Cranston, an 18-year police department veteran and four-year traffic supervisor, is the 1990 officer of the year and with good reason. Over the past four years, Sgt. Cranston has created within his command a unique atmosphere which encourages activity, recognizes abilities and allows for constant job enrichment of each of his subordinates, police Chief William Dwyer said.

That's not to mention the many awards his section has received, including two first-place awards for traffic safety in 1989 and 1990.

People working with them and helping them seem to make Cranston's world go round. He readily admits that a favorite part of his job is the "growth and success" he sees in the people with whom he works.

"SOMETIMES PEOPLE reach a point in police work where they develop a level of complacency; the job is the job," Cranston said. "But with the people I've been working with, they enjoy coming to work."

"I've been blessed with a group of supervisors who have confidence in my decision-making ability. Because of that we've been able to deal with a lot of interesting things," Cranston said.

In Cranston's world, that flexibility translates into a lot of hard work and dedication. His 11 fulltime employees, including six road patrol officers, get to be involved in different kinds of projects, like the new handicapped parking enforcement program or research efforts, for example.

"He's a very astute individual," Fradette said. "He's quite demanding. He expects excellence and he supports his people."

Besides supervising the traffic section, Cranston also is in charge of the police auxiliary unit, which includes about 24 officers. And that's not to mention the volunteers under his supervision as well as his volunteer work with the American Red Cross and the Farmington Hills Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council.

Cranston is a longtime friend of the Red Cross, for whom he worked



Sgt. Ray Cranston, supervisor of the Farmington Hills Police Department's traffic section, meets with staff members Arthur Schwartz (left), auxiliary officer, Gail Murdock, traffic aid, Jean-

nette Hayward, traffic field technician, Alda Larson, volunteer handicapped parking program, and Ed Fitzpatrick, traffic officer. Cranston is the department's 1990 officer of the year.

for a couple of years following graduation from Michigan State University in 1969. He was the one who trained trainers in aquatics and small craft safety.

Despite his entrance into police work, he continues to work closely with the Red Cross. He's now chairing a \$1.7 million educational project for the Red Cross, an effort that has taken him all over the country.

ORIGINALLY, CRANSTON wanted to be a physical education teacher. But when he got a taste of law enforcement with the Genesee County Sheriff Department's marine division, he was hooked.

He graduated from the Oakland Police Academy in 1971 and joined the Farmington Township Police Department in 1972.

"There has been an opportunity to do some educating along the way," Cranston said of law enforcement. In fact, Cranston believes his involvement with Red Cross, especially the

opportunity to teach aquatics and safety, is the educator side of his personality.

No doubt though, water and swimming continue to play a major role in Cranston's life. A competition swimmer himself, he's been an aquatics director with the Red Cross and officiates at high school swim meets.

And then there's the other aquatic avenue in his life, his 36-foot sailboat. "He is quite a busy man. I think the only time he relaxes is on his

sailboat," Fradette said.

If you talk to Cranston in the summer, he'll tell you his vacation time is coming up and that's when he and his wife, Candy, move into their sailboat on Lake St. Clair.

But law enforcement, traffic, the Red Cross and his sailboat aren't the only things that fill Cranston's life. He is a licensed pilot, too. This month he will be attending instrument ground school. He also belongs to a pilot's club at Oakland-Pontiac Airport.

Employee of the year

McCarthy likes challenges

By Jonina Maliszewski
staff writer

It's not unheard of for Kevin McCarthy to take photographs of bridges, piers and bridges while he and his wife, Amy, are vacationing.

"It is a nice bridge. I take a picture of it," said the Farmington Hills traffic engineer, the 1990 employee of the year.

That's not to argue that he's fascinated with his work and the components of his job, including the street signs, roads, traffic and yes, interesting bridges.

Besides the diversity of his job, which he has had for five years, McCarthy likes the people aspect. At first he was surprised with Farmington Hills residents' involvement.

"I get a call, and then you get a call who calls and says, 'Thank you' at the Egan Lake resident."

"The people will call if a street sign is missing or an aggressive town."

McCarthy is a 4th floor employee of the

year, his co-workers call him "professional and hardworking," and they like his demeanor and his ability to work well with his colleagues and the public.

"HE WAS fresh into his career in traffic engineering," city manager William Costick said, recalling when McCarthy began his work with Farmington Hills. "It's done a marvelous job."

He graduated in civil engineering from Michigan State University with a specialty in traffic.

"I've always been interested in construction. But traffic was an elective (course) in college. I liked it and stuck with it."

Yes, working as an engineer in the private sector — which he did for a Southfield consulting firm — is more profitable. But McCarthy prefers the public sector.

"In the private sector you're always cutting corners to make money. While here you have to be penny-

Hills employees receive awards

The following Farmington Hills employees were honored at the 15th Annual Recognition Awards, Night Jan 7.

• Employees of the year: Kevin McCarthy, traffic engineer, Sgt. Ray Cranston, police department traffic section, Kevin Bersehe, fire department (awarded in October).

• Outstanding employees: Carolyn Elliott, public works; Susan Johnson, finance department; Betty Hunnells, engineering division; Shari Stuphan, finance department.

• 25-year service awards: Thomas Godwin, Melvin Hall, Peter Larson, Raymond Marchewitz

and Richard Niemisto, all with the police department.

• Twenty-year service awards: John Kohls, Jerry McKenzie, Richard Murphy, Joseph Rebb, Brad Schwartz and Edmund Worniak, all with the police department.

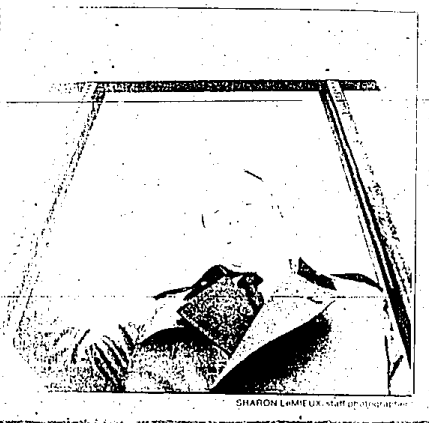
• Fifteen-year service awards: DPW employees Dale Bogay, Robert Boyd, Larry Dabberg, Paul Ignash, Walter Lay, Robert Malloy, Ford Price, Edward Smidak, Wayne Smith, Fire employees Jean Cook, Stephen Humes, Tom Shortliff. Special service employees: Loretta Conway, David Justus, Andrew Lang, Police employees Debra Hodnek, Christine Martin, Engineering employees Arthur

Russak, Lorraine Schmidt, Building department John Wad, Finance Sandra Weiss.

• Ten-year service awards: DPW John Chalfour, Police Wayne Beerhower, Bert Cook, Timothy Connor, Jeannette Hayward, Rita Brown, Gilbert Kohls, Daniel Lottus, Gary Malloy, William Mehaluk, Patrick Montu, Joyce Sherman, Alan Soderlund, Wendy Thierion, Penelope Trikes, Dorothy Wigton, Fire Kevin Bersehe, Terry Heinane, Richard Lysme, Lea Strickfaden, Daniel Walker, Finance Susan Johnson, City clerk's office Sue Rose.

• Five-year service awards: Police Leslie Amato, William Dwyer, James Kase, Margaret McParlane, Fire Craig Bowles, Christine Gebhard, Martin Knorp, Michael McKinnon, Gerald Miles, Lee Panouschek, Allen Rupprecht, Ronald Sill, Engineering William Buell, John Eckler, Kevin McCarthy, Paul O'Meara, DPW Doreen Collins, Carolyn Elliott, Jerry Vandyke, James Warner, Barbara Whaley, Planning and community

development Dale Courtegan, City clerk's office Kathy Dorman, Building department Thomas Williams, Daniel Irwin, William Paquette, General government Diane Scott, Assessing, Susan Smith.



Streets, roads, guardrails and bridges are Kevin McCarthy's canvas. He is Farmington Hills' 1990 employee of the year.

Expert raps 'secretive' testing

By Gray Hahn
staff writer

Severe palms, nervous stomach, all night cramming sessions with large doses of caffeine.

"They add up to one thing for many students: final exams."

And one national consultant is convincing secondary educators in Farmington schools to break away from the traditional routine of chapter by chapter, textbook teaching and giving one final exam which will determine most of a student's grade.

"Conventional views of testing" have hurt us, not helped us," said Grant Wiggins, a New York consultant who did an all-day workshop

on how to measure student assessment and learning with Farmington teachers Wednesday.

"It's what you do, in a quick and dirty way, to shake out a grade or score to give to parents and put on a transcript."

Instead, he advocates building blocks of learning and thought-provoking hands-on projects so a student comes out of a course not having memorized a bunch of facts, but can put the information to use and have a real, intellectual understanding of the subject.

"Secretive" final examinations do not teach the subject — they do nothing more than discourage and bore many students, Wiggins said.

"We have to realize how foolish we're being by mystifying and making tests secret," he said. "A one-shot, secretive test is not a reliable measure."

He uses a music class as a good example of how to do it right. "The people in that music room are not going to wait until the last day to know why they're going to play." They master the musical piece by building on knowledge throughout the course, he added.

Another positive example, he said, is a Russian history teacher in another state who using a chronological history sequence, having students

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