

VFW names top firefighter

Tom Mitchell has been named 1994 VFW Firefighter of the Year for Farmington Hills.

Mitchell, 26, began his career with the Farmington Hills Fire Department Feb. 15, 1988. During that time, he has demonstrated dedication, commitment, aptitude and a great attitude toward firefighting, according to the VFW.

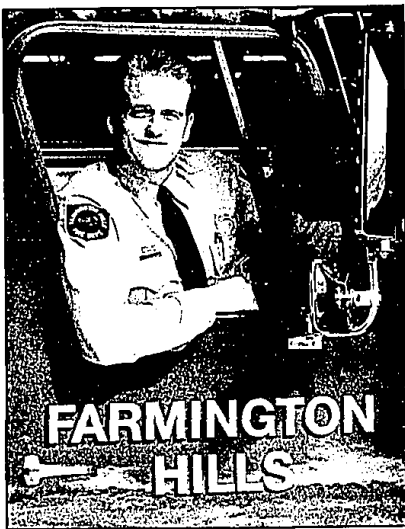
In addition to receiving all required basic training, Mitchell voluntarily pursued additional programs. He earned a paramedic license in the past year, which exceeds the department's minimum requirement.

Mitchell has volunteered to be a member of the Special Emergency Response Team, attends all training programs, and has responded when the team has been called to an incident.

He is an active participant on public fire safety education programs and has assisted in school programs, taught CPR, and played an important role in planning and preparation for some of the department's events such as the open house and Children's Day in the Park, according to the VFW citation.

Mitchell has shared his knowledge with other members of the departments, assisting with training.

Mitchell has developed a reputation as a firefighter who will



SHARON LA MICHIELL/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Top firefighter: Tom Mitchell was named Firefighter of the Year by the local Veterans of Foreign Wars.

help out in any way he can and do so in a professional and competent manner, according to the VFW. Mitchell was cited for excelling at dealing with the public and has received many complimentary letters and commendations from Farmington

Hills citizens. In addition, Mitchell has earned two life saving awards. In both cases, Mitchell and his colleagues were directly responsible for the revival of heart attack victims. Both patients recovered.

Mission accomplished: Hills, sisters bless sale

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills and the Sisters of Mercy shared the limelight at Monday's regular city council session to mark the sale of more than 27 acres of Mercy property to the city for just more than \$3 million.

"We're delighted this worked out both for the Sisters of Mercy and the city," said Mayor Larry Lichtman.

Lichtman presented members of the sisters' leadership team and Robert McQuaid, who chaired the committee that studied and made recommendations on the center, with "ambassador medals." The sisters, in turn, presented the city with pictures and a history of the property.

Sister Gretchen Elliott, president of the Sisters of Mercy Regional Community in Detroit, said the city's plan to continue using the center for senior programs as well as cultural events, educational programs and recreation were in keeping with the center's tradition and the sisters' mission.

The sale of the property, which includes a wing of the building and an additional 20 acres of land, was closed March 2.

"We were, as a council, very happy our prayers were answered and you didn't ask for more money," quipped councilman Terry Sever.

In other action, the council:

■ 'We were, as a council, very happy our prayers were answered and you didn't ask for more money.'

Terry Sever
councilman

■ Approved a Planned Unit Development to allow McDonald's Corp. to build a restaurant on Orchard Lake at 14 Mile. The construction will eliminate a driveway near the busy intersection and provide curb cuts as called for in the master plan.

■ Accepted a low bid of \$89,800 by Remacon Inc. of Southfield, to renovate and rebuild Fire Station 2. The bid was one of 20 submitted. The improvements will triple the width of the front of the station on Middlebelt north of 12 Mile and double the size.

■ Approved up to \$50,000 in engineering fees for additional improvements to the Founders Sports Park on Eight Mile. City manager Bill Costick said although the city had been successful in obtaining several grants for parks, including one for \$2 million to buy the old farm property for Founders Sports Park, it would not have enough grant money to complete work on the park. Other means of paying for those improvements would be considered during budget discussions in April, he said.

■ Adopted a resolution support-

ing the goals and mission statement of the Farmington/Farmington Hills Multicultural/Multicultural Community Council. The statement reads:

"The Multicultural/Multicultural Community Council, representing schools, government, clergy, business, service groups and residents, wishes to enhance the basic human dignity of all people, and to ensure that all residents of Farmington and Farmington Hills feel welcome and comfortable in their city, schools and neighborhoods.

"The council will promote community awareness and acceptance of diversity through the development and implementation of appropriate action plans."

The council's goals include improving race relations in the community.

■ Voted to meet in a joint budget session with Farmington to discuss the library, court and symphony at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 4.

■ Set Saturday, March 26, as the day council members will tour area ice arenas.

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