

# Unit looks for a few good men

By RON GARDINER

The Farmington Public Safety Department Reserve Unit is always looking for new recruits.

But to qualify for the squad, a person has to be tough. Since it is the only department in the state that trains its members for both police and fire fighting duties, it is selective in its choice of recruits.

"Our reserve unit has become recognized as one of the best run and organized units in the state," says Public Safety Director Daniel Byrnes.

"It is a demanding job in which officers must be willing to give 100 per cent and be able to handle both the police and fire fighting aspects of the job. We are always looking for the man or woman that can meet the requirements."

When someone applies to be a reserve officer, he applies for a role as both fireman and policeman because Farmington integrates both divisions into a Public Safety Department.

According to Byrnes, this is what eliminates many of the applicants. They either are unwilling to work both functions, or are physically unable to endure the stress and pressures of the job.

"The unit is very selective in who they bring into the organization and there are two major reasons for this. First of all, they have pride in the organization they have built over the past several years.

"Three years ago, the squad underwent its greatest change. It developed a rank structure and enforced rules and regulations. Possibly the biggest change was when the department turned operation of the unit over to the reserves themselves."

SINCE THEN, the unit has become more effective, says Byrnes.

"They don't overlook a thing," he continues. "Whereas we might overlook some things in our department, the reserves really get down on one another and try to eliminate problems immediately."

Another reason for its selectivity is the group's desire to maintain its credibility.

"We don't want to bring someone into

the group that is unwilling to give up his free time. This is a voluntary public safety force and the reserves must really want to do this type of work," explains reserve Captain John Glin.

"We have about 20 reserve officers now and they come from every walk of life. There are lawyers, bank managers, construction workers and many others who are really dedicated to the unit and its service in the community. They donate a lot of their spare time to police work and take pride in their community," he says.

Each reserve officer is on call 24 hours a day. They are required to ride patrol at least two nights per month and go through the same in-service training as regular public safety officers. They also work parades and other special functions.

The law enforcement training reserve officers receive at Schoolcraft College is less intensive than the preparation police academy graduates receive. It is geared more to teaching the reservist how to act as an assistant at an emergency scene.

"They are assistants and not individuals

when on the scene. The reason for this is that the reserves aren't full-time public safety officers and usually don't have the same experience regulars do. Their training is a little different because reserves and regulars have different roles during emergencies," comments Byrnes.

"Reserves are trained to be the second man in the patrol car. Whenever you see a two-man car at night, you know the second officer is a reserve. And that is one of the biggest advantages to having a well-trained reserve unit. Since our budget prohibits us from hiring more full-time officers, the reserve squad is a great source of police protection for the community," he explains.

EACH OFFICER receives more than 20 hours of public safety training before becoming a reserve. After he is awarded his badge, he will receive about 20 additional hours of training per year.

The public safety department has 18 reserve officers. Byrnes says that an optimal number of officers would be somewhere between 24 and 26 reserves. If the unit can maintain that many volunteers, then it will be better able to serve the community's need for additional police and fire protection.

When the number drops below 20, the effectiveness of the unit also begins to drop, Byrnes says.

"This job is entirely different than the reserve's professional work and what he does during the day," adds Glin. "They must like this type of work or they wouldn't be doing it. It is a good way to meet friends and also a better way to get involved in the community."

The unit has never had a female member. Several have applied to the public safety department as regulars, but they failed to show up for testing.

"I really doubt that women would want to perform this type of duty. Since it is a public safety department, women reserves would have to function both ways, just like the men are required to do," the director continues.

Right now the reserve unit is reviewing its first female application. If she meets all the requirements and tough standards that the unit has set for itself, then she will be admitted to the squad.

"Being a public safety officer, whether a regular or reserve, is a demanding job, especially if you have to fight fires. It requires a lot of stamina and endurance to hold your ground under the strains of a fire. Since a lot of men have trouble doing it, I think most women wouldn't be interested in this line of community service."

The department won't allow special privileges for women. Either they make it as a public safety officer or they don't make it at all. If it made exceptions for one, it would have to make exceptions for all women wanting to become either a reserve or full-time officer.

"If that came about, we would lose the concept of a totally integrated public safety department and that's the last thing we want to happen," Byrnes concludes.



Rochelle Reagan, wearing the scarf around her neck, attempts to make a comeback as the Shirley Temple of the 70s, working on her toe.

## How beginners enjoy tap dancing lessons

By ROCHELLE REAGAN

Hop Shuffle-Chance  
Dig Dig  
Toe-Hop  
Flip-Ball-Chance

For the uninitiated, or for those who are better singers than dancers, the above are lyrics to a set of dance one. But the music, beat and nimbly leaping bodies are the real attraction for the audience. The record player churns out "Manhattan" and the sound of Supertone tape striking the hardwood floor click the catchy rhythm.

Such is the atmosphere every Tuesday from 12 p.m. at the Farmington Community Center where Shirley St. Mary has her tap dancing for adults session under way for the winter term.

A comeback for Shirley Temple and the 1930s.

Most definitely yes for the young middle-aged and the young at heart. With more than 100 students of all ages shapes and sizes enrolled in her weekly classes, this energetic woman also has another life as the owner of the St. Mary's School of Dance in Detroit. She has been teaching for 15 years.

"In addition to dancing," says Ms. St. Mary, a 14-year resident of Farmington

Hills, "I enjoy breathing, eating, sleeping and living life to the fullest."

HER ENTHUSIASM demonstrates the dedication and professionalism of a person who has made an avocation her vocation.

A native of Pontiac and a descendant of the Power clan of Farmington, she began her career at age three in the traditional children's dance classes. As a teenager, she and her brother entered an amateur Jitterbug contest in Battle Creek, but were disqualified.

The judges insisted that she danced as a professional must be a professional and was therefore ineligible in amateur competition.

However, her mother's worn out living room carpet and scuffed up kitchen floor were vain sacrifices. At 18 she began to make her dreams come true by seriously studying dance with the goal of teaching tap.

With talent and ambition in tow, her dream was just short of reality. Her dancing school opened in Southfield moved to Farmington and is now at its present location.

While instructing hundreds of youngsters and adults over the years, she had managed to sandwich into her active schedule a long list of community projects.

Several years ago she put together the Southfield March of Dimes Variety Show. Dance programs for the VFF and Scouts and Christmas spectaculars for orphans

and convalescent homes are added to her list of accomplishments.

Every year she arranges a musicale for the Michigan State Fair.

Shirley also has a personal life which includes her husband, Frank, and her daughter, Andrea, who teaches dance at a school in Millington Mich.

DANCE SEEMS TO BE both a hereditary and an environmental factor in her family, she says. Her mother began studying dance at an early age, having spent two years at the National Academy of Ballet in New York City.

Tap dancing, she feels, has for many years been wasted on the young.

The revival of tap dancing for adults is in line with the health and physical fitness concerns of the 70s, she says. "It is fantastic exercise which develops muscle tone, plus tap dancing is fun."

But the young also can enjoy the benefits of tap dancing, she says.

Four year olds are ready to begin dancing lessons. Tap dancing teaches them to think, to count and to follow instructions.

They learn balance and coordination and in addition, they are subjected to relating to and working with their peer group.

The tap classes will conclude their activities with recitals on June 8 at one of the local high schools.

On June 11 and 15 at Mercy High School, in Farmington Hills, pupils from her own studio will perform.

## City removes familiar 'stop' signs from streets

City of Farmington residents' eyes won't be deceiving them if they notice some familiar "Stop" signs missing from local roads.

In an attempt to meet the Michigan Department of State Highways and Transportation Department's criteria for major streets, the city will be taking down some signs.

Complying with the state criteria is important in receiving road funds from other governmental agencies.

Stop signs will be removed on Shawanaw at Lakeside and on Summit at Fredrick. The city is asking for an exception for the sign on Shawanaw at Prospect.

Also to meet the criteria, parking will be prohibited on the east side of Liberty, from Grand River to State.

"In the interest of providing a major street network throughout the state that

will serve the cities and villages within the state, they (highway department) believe it is important that the cities make every effort to improve their major street system," City Manager Rob Deadman told the council this week.

The city has been informed by the state that streets not complying with the criteria shall be deleted as major streets. The criteria says that stop signs placed at intersections must be to the favor of the traffic on the major street.

In the event that a major street is disallowed to function as a through street, the street is subject to be reclassified as a local street.

There are some exceptions allowed to this criteria, says Deadman, due to impaired sight distance or other characteristics which mandate four-way stops.

"We believe it would be difficult to defend the stopping of Shawanaw for Lakeside, as there isn't any cross traffic at this point," he said.

"As for Prospect, we believe it should remain a four-way stop, because of the proximity to Farmington High School, which causes heavy vehicular and pedestrian traffic at this location."

Deadman also felt it would be difficult to defend the stopping of Summit for Fredrick.

"On Liberty, the criteria allows for parking to be permitted on one side of a 25-foot street. We would therefore recommend that parking be removed from the one side of Liberty," he said.

The recommendations were made to city council after a study was made by Director of Public Services David Jones.



Tip-top condition

Chief Paul Buttons of Farmington Hills Fire Station 4 checks over engine No. 42 to make sure it is in top notch running condition. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

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