

Cop's action rewarded

By RON GARRINSKI

Officer Raymond Lardie of the Farmington Public Safety Department is an unusual cop.

Making his own life, the officer chased after a speeding car away from the congested I-90 expressway last December and saved an elderly woman from possible death.

And he never told fellow officers about his heroic deed.

"Officer Lardie ran after the car," a witness to his frantic actions told Lardie's command officers after his close call with fate.

"The doors of the passenger side were locked and he had to cross in front of the car and open the door from the driver's side," Robert Cain revealed to city officials after witnessing Lardie's dash to save a life.

"He literally had to climb over the driver to turn off the ignition. All this time the motor was racing wide open and the rear wheels were spinning. If they had burned through the ice and snow, Officer Lardie could have been seriously injured," Cain continued in disbelief.



RAYMOND LARDIE

AND CAIN, left Director of Public Safety Daniel Byrnes' office the following day with an appreciation for the men who protect the streets of Farmington.

If it wasn't for Cain, Farmington probably wouldn't know what brave actions were carried out that cold day last winter.

Lardie's bout to avert tragedy merited him the Farmington Public Safety Department's highest honor—a departmental citation.

Lardie was among 18 Farmington officers recently honored by their director for meritorious actions during the past two years.

Along with Lardie, Officer Charles Lee was honored as he received the most awards bestowed upon one officer during the department's recent commendation ceremony.

Lee was awarded four merit citations and a special recognition honor.

He was praised by fellow officers for his actions while responding to a traffic accident.

Lee and Sgt. John Maxwell, who also received a merit citation, saved an accident victim who showed no visible signs of life.

Lee also received honors for capturing two burglary suspects inside a building. Officer Gregory Wilson was awarded a merit citation for assisting Lee in the arrest.

LEE'S OTHER honors were for apprehending another suspect near a burglary scene and stopping a thief attempting to enter a building through the roof.

Lee was recognized with a special citation for lifting a fingerprint from a crime scene that proved to be the only evidence.



CHARLES LEE

In a case that cleared 30 burglaries from Farmington's unsolved robbery list, Officer Wilson received a second merit citation, a special recognition honor and a unit commendation.

His second merit citation was for his quick thinking and astute observation which led to the arrest of two suspects wanted in connection with a rape charge in Florida.

Sergeants Murray Switzer and Marvin Snider, along with Officers Frank Lauboff, Neil Vorbeck and Vincent Ziegler each received merit citations from Byrnes for their outstanding actions and good police work.

Officer Peter Amato ranked among the most honored as he was presented with two merit citations.

Detective Officer Thomas Daniels received a merit citation and a letter of commendation while Officer Carl Swanderski was presented with a merit citation and a unit commendation.

Sgt. John Santomuro was awarded two unit commendations and Officer Hilton Hyde a unit commendation and a special recognition.

Officer Anthony Gubacz was granted a unit commendation and Officer Joseph Schmuck was given a special recognition certificate.

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Man enters innocent plea

Carl Kuttil, Milford, pleaded innocent in 1st District Court Friday afternoon to a hit and run accident charge in which Randall Kelly of Farmington Hills was killed.

Kelly, 34, of 3021 Grand River, was struck by a car as he was riding his bicycle eastbound on Grand River in Nov. the evening of April 29.

Kuttil was arraigned Friday and later released on \$5,000 personal bond after winning a preliminary hearing in district court.

A trial date has been set for June 7 in Oakland County Circuit Court.

The charge is a felony offense punishable by five years in prison.

Kelly was riding his bike off the roadway, but directly next to the pavement when struck by a passing car, police said.

He was hit by the front of the vehicle, thrown up against the windshield and then tossed to the side of the road.

The driver of the vehicle continued driving without stopping to see what happened to Kelly, police reported.

Kelly was pronounced dead at Stanford General Hospital the next morning.

Oakland County Prosecutor L. Brooks Patterson said several witnesses volunteered information last week that led to the arrest of Kuttil.

Kuttil surrendered to police last Wednesday, Patterson said.

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