

Optimists salute top officers, citizens

Farmington/Farmington Hills Optimists Club honored two officers and two civilians May 14 on Law Day of National Law Enforcement Week.

Officers singled out were Alan Soderlund in Farmington Hills and Thomas Cox in Farmington. Civilian honorees were Sharon Chilson of Farmington Hills and Jeannie Liming of Farmington.

"Even though our main thrust is service to youth, honoring officers and citizens is in keeping with that. We can hold up these pillars of the community as role models," said Robert Reed, Optimists Club president.

Soderlund is a member of the Farmington Hills Police Department's Special Patrol Operational Team, a surveillance unit. He joined the department in 1980.

On March 14, 1985, SPOT officers were outside the Taco Bell at Grand River and Eight Mile when it was robbed by three men at gunpoint. Officers were staking out the restaurant because it had been the target of several robberies.

"Officer Soderlund was responsible for apprehending two armed felons alone, without incident," Farmington Hills Police Chief William Dwyer said in introducing Soderlund during the Optimist Club's breakfast award ceremony.

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— Robert Reed, Optimists president

Pointing out that Soderlund displayed "a great deal of courage in a dangerous situation," Dwyer said: "It gives us a lot of pride to honor him today."

COX, A commander, is a 14-year member of the Farmington Department of Public Safety. Earlier in the year, he received the department's first "Professional Excellence Award."

The Optimists recognized him for his role in coordinating the investigation that led to the conviction of both suspects in the February 1985 robbery of the Bloomfield Savings and Loan on Orchard Lake Road.



Alan Soderlund
Hills officer



Thomas Cox
Farmington commander



Sharon Chilson
Hills resident



Jeannie Liming
Farmington resident

The \$42,000 taken during the robbery was recovered.

"Commander Cox was placed in charge of the case and as a result of his diligent efforts, gathered and produced in court 104 exhibits for evidence and coordinated the appearance of 39 witnesses," Farmington Department of Public Safety Director Frank Lauffhoff said.

CHILSON was honored for her efforts as founder and president of Citizens for a Decent Community.

"Mrs. Chilson, during the winter months, led picketing at various raided locations in sub-zero weather in order to deter and discourage any illegal activities," Dwyer said.

Chilson's group also made the police department aware of any suspicious activity at the four sites that

eventually closed, Dwyer added.

Liming was recognized for her active support of Farmington's 2-year-old Neighborhood Watch Program. She helped bring the home security program to Farmington Meadows and helped recruit many of the subdivision's 300 participants.

"During the process, Mrs. Liming attended many of the block meetings, helped in sign placement, field-

ed problems that arose and served as a liaison between the public safety department and subdivision residents," he said.

Lauffhoff called Liming "an invaluable assistant, giving of herself and her time."

All award winners received a certificate. Each department received plaque.

Award winner

Hills man honored for community work

A Farmington Hills man has been honored for community service by both Detroit, First Church of Nazarene and Garden City Osteopathic Hospital.

First Church of Nazarene in Farmington Hills gave Donald J. Edwards Jr. its Emmaus Road Award, given annually to someone who has provided a spiritual example to the congregation.

Edwards — "D.J." to fellow congregants — is founder of the church's "We Care" ministry. He also is a board member and on the missions and evangelism committee.

"D.J." has displayed the spirit of Christ to hundreds of people through compassionate ministries. He has also helped open doors of ministry for many people at First Church through volunteer help in the "We Care Ministry," reads an excerpt in the church newsletter, The Orchard.

IN THE newsletter, Pastor Richard Parrott, praised Edwards for

such good deeds as:

- Loading his car with groceries for delivery to families at Thanksgiving and Christmas
- Persuading the board of stewards to pay the utility bill of a needy family.
- Befriending and caring for many people, including the hospitalized.
- Loading trucks with used clothing for delivery to needy inner-city families.
- Visiting prison inmates.

"We congratulate Don Edwards and praise the Lord for this kind of example that the Lord has set before us," Parrott said.

THE GARDEN CITY Osteopathic Hospital gave Edwards a plaque in appreciation for his 20 years of service on the board of trustees. He has served as board chairman, finance committee chairman, strategic long-range planning committee consultant-adviser and corporate treasurer.



Pastor Richard Parrott (left) of the First Church of Nazarene with Emmaus Road Award recipient Donald J. Edwards Jr.

Edwards is a home missions board member for the Eastern Michigan District, Church of the Nazarene, Brighton, and vice president and secretary of the Gileads International Oakland Southwest Camp. He is finance chairman of the Prison Fellowship Inc. Detroit Care Committee.

His secular involvement includes

membership on the Greater Detroit Area Health Council trustee advisory panel, which develops and conducts trustee orientation and education programs.

Edwards recently retired from the Ford Motor Co. Controller's Office as supervisor, tool analysis and control, cost estimating.

Jobs for elderly are declining

Jobs for older Americans are in shorter supply, says a member of the Governor's Task Force on Employment Opportunities for Older Citizens.

Farmington Hills resident Kathleen Needham addressed the Rotary Club of Farmington at its luncheon meeting of May 20. The speech was part of Rotary International's Senior Citizen Month.

The newly appointed task force member chairs the gerontology program at Madonna College, Livonia.

"It is particularly necessary to be concerned about employment oppor-

tunities for older adults because of the predicted declining labor force for those over 55,"

Needham said. "According to the U.S. Census Bureau, by the year 2020, 31 percent of the population will be over the age of 55. In 1982, 15 million adults over the age of 55 were employed in the work force or were looking for work. It is projected that by the year 2020, only 14.7 million in



Kathleen Needham

that age group will be part of the work force."

THE TASK force, responsible for making recommendations and reports on employment and opportunities for older citizens, is preparing a report to be presented in September at the Governor's Aging Conference.

Concentration will be on program development, legislation, policy changes in job development and training opportunities.

Prolonged unemployment and lack of training and retraining offer few alternatives to full-time work

for the older adult, Needham said.

Her involvements include: commissioner, Michigan Commission on Services to the Aging, chairwoman, Task Force Member, Minimum Service Definitions and Standards for the state of Michigan. Also: committee member, United Community Services; member, Gerontology Society of America; and board member, Michigan Society of Gerontology.

She has studied the elderly in China, Canada, the United Kingdom and the Soviet Union. She has authored training modules on aging, as well as produced audiovisual presentations.

Ride for children

Many Children's Hospital of Michigan patients wouldn't be able to ride a Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority bus during SEMTA's "Ride for Children" promotion, so a SEMTA bus stopped by the Detroit Hospital beforehand to take them for a ride. On May 17, all fares of riders boarding SEMTA buses traveling throughout the Detroit area were donated to Children's Hospital. Pictured with Children's Hospital patient Shaun Trent is Farmington Hills City Council member JoAnn Sorenen (left), SEMTA board vice chairman. "Ride for Children" was a one-day promotion for the Detroit-based Children's Hospital in honor of Michigan Transportation Week.



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