

# 5 new reserve officers join safety force

By Casey Hans  
staff writer

With congratulations from city officials, five new reserve officers were sworn in Feb. 3 to the Farmington Department of Public Safety. The addition brings to 21 the number of volunteer reserve officers to serve the city.

Following 100 hours and 16 weeks of training at the Schoolcraft College

Police Reserve Academy in Livonia, the five graduated last December. They include James Dale, Earl Showalter and Colleen Lane of Farmington and Douglas Proctor and Curt Graber of Novi.

The five will receive advanced first aid training with the current staff and will also become familiar with emergency equipment and patrol cars. They will take a firefighting Phase I course this fall to learn

that area of public safety, according to Commander Chuck Lee, who coordinates the reserve program.

**THEIR REASONS** for volunteering for the force varied. Some had some type of public service background — others said a strong feeling of community service drew them to the program.

"Farmington is within a metropolitan area, but is like a small commu-

nity," Showalter said. "I've always participated in civic affairs. I checked it out before deciding to apply. . . and peers spoke quite highly of it."

Dale — a 25-year veteran fire chief who recently moved from the area and is now in sales for IBM Corp. — said he hopes being a reserve will not only be rewarding, but fun.

"I found I really missed it," he said. "It was a way to come back and be of service."

Proctor, Graber and Lane are pursuing, or have an interest in, a criminal justice career.

Having done security work for the past eight years, Proctor holds 52 credit hours in law enforcement and has worked with the Walled Lake and Wixom fire departments.

"I heard it (Farmington) was a really good outfit," he said.

GRABER is close to completing his associate's degree in law enforcement and is a security officer for 12 Oaks Mall in Novi. The variety of a public safety department is what drew him to apply, he said.

As a dispatcher for Farmington's public safety department for the past year and a half, Lane said she "decided I wanted to see the other side of the radio" and is thinking about pursuing a criminal justice career.

This is the largest addition to Farmington's reserve force in several years, Lee added. It brings the force to a comfortable level — officials like to have a minimum of 20 reserves, according to Lee.

Reserves receive annual payment for firefighting and training sessions, but police work is strictly volunteer. They are part of the four platoons formed by regular Farmington Department of Public Safety members

and reserves responding to fires and emergencies based on areas of coverage.

They also serve as additional pub-

lic safety manpower at local parades and activities in the city where crowd control and extra safety measures are needed.



RANDY BORST/staff photo

Five new reserve officers for the Farmington Department of Public Safety were sworn in recently. They are (left to right), Douglas Proctor, Curt Graber, James Dale, Colleen Lane and Earl Showalter.

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