

He keeps watch on the city

By Casey Hens
staff writer

Farmington officer Robert Schulz is alert to what's going on in his community both on and off the job.

The 25-year-old was recently named the public safety department's 1988 Officer of the Year for his active patrol work and dedication.

Although he works a regular shift, Schulz said he always keeps an eye on his community.

"I still have the tendency to always... look for things," he said. He was selected by a panel of his peers, and received a commendation from Mayor Richard Tipper on March 6.

Schulz said he is comfortable in the Farmington community, and recently bought a house in the city on Violet Street.

"I plan on staying here for quite a while," he said. "I enjoy working here. All the departments I've worked for have been smaller. It's a good feeling to come in every day and work with the same guys."

A SAGINAW native, Schulz attended Delta College and Ferris State College, receiving his bachelor's degree in 1986. He worked for two other departments, including the city of Pleasant Ridge, before coming to Farmington two years ago.

Schulz comes from a family of two sisters and one brother; his

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— Officer Robert Schulz

brother lives in nearby Farmington Hills. Schulz is single.

He developed an interest in police work after watching a friend of the family become involved with it.

"Just from being around him got me interested," he said.

ONE OF the notable statistics given by Tipper was the 165 arrests made by Schulz during 1988.

Many routine traffic stops lead to other violations, and sometimes the discovery of drugs and weapons, he said.

"There's not really a lot of bad crime, so you've got to keep busy."

WORKING IN a department like Farmington's, which handles both police and fire protection, is a plus, according to Schulz. Although he has yet to experience a big fire, he maintains a healthy respect for it and his responsibility.

During his spare time, Schulz enjoys bird hunting and fishing, and is looking forward to playing on a department baseball team this summer. The rest of his time is spent fixing up his house.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Farmington public safety officer Robert Schulz, shown in his patrol car, was named the department's officer of the year.

Officer of Year Schulz tops list of annual award winners

Officer Robert Schulz was named Farmington's Officer of the Year for 1988.

Schulz received his award during a city council presentation March 6, for his active work — including 165 arrests — during the one-year period.

Other annual awards were also given by the Farmington Public Safety Department during the same ceremony.

According to information from the department, awards included:
• Ronald and Catherine Dead-

man were lauded for their quick work when they aided a heart attack victim last April. Both received a civilian citation.

• David Mueller also received a civilian citation for an incident last August, in which he witnessed a purse snatching at Frank's Nursery and gave chase. Mueller held the subject until police arrived.

• Two officers and one reserve officer received departmental commendations for a May 2 fire at Farmington West Apartments, in which an elderly man was pulled

from the burning building to safety. These included officers Maria Putt and James Madigan and reserve officer Paul Beale.

• As a result of the same fire, eight public safety employees received unit citations for their response and quick action at the scene. They are: deputy director Gary Goss, Commander John Coyte, Commander Michael Wiggins, PSO I Duane Cowger, PSO I Joseph Schornack, Officer Maria Putt, Officer Vincent Ziegler and dispatcher Lisa Gloss.

• Longevity awards were given to five-year veteran Officer Maria Putt; 10-year veterans Gary Goss, deputy director, Laura Harper, records supervisor; and Officer Daniel Potter, 15-year veteran Officer Carl Swanderski; and 20-year veteran Commander Charles Lee.

For safe driving, Madigan and Officer Anthony Gubacz were lauded. Public safety reserve Charles Zimmerman also received a certificate of appreciation from the department.

Recycling key to trash disposal — Deadman

By Bob Sklar
staff writer

An aggressive recycling program is essential to combating the problem of solid waste disposal, Farmington City Manager Robert Deadman told community leaders Friday.

"We're looking at a program where you can recycle just about everything you can possibly imagine that has worth," Deadman said.

Deadman made the remarks at the Farmington-Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce State of the Cities breakfast.

"We're looking to implement state guidelines calling for a reduction at the front end to reduce the solid waste stream. But that will take many years. We'll need new laws and changes in the way goods are packaged and produced," Deadman told 157 community leaders who gathered in the Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Co. of America auditorium.

Deadman pointed to the East Coast, where many communities pay \$100 a ton just to have solid waste delivered to a landfill. Farmington, in contrast, pays \$20 a ton to have it not only delivered to a landfill, but also picked up.

Because of full landfills and the inability to site new landfills, Deadman said, the East Coast has been forced to truck some of its solid waste to Michigan and other states.

FARMINGTON AND Farmington Hills are both members of a six-city consortium looking at solid waste pickup and disposal in southwest



Robert Deadman
Farmington city manager

Oakland County. The consortium's drawing board includes an incinerator and a landfill.

Taking part in the county solid waste disposal plan, which calls for three incinerators and a landfill, hasn't been ruled out, Deadman said.

"We're reviewing plans for a recycling facility to be built somewhere in this six-city consortium in which we will recycle just about everything that has potential to be marketed: glass, plastic, paper, metals," Deadman said.

Success of such a program will hinge partly on the marketplace — on available markets for recycled goods.

"We're hoping the state and federal governments help provide these marketplaces — and they've already

begun to," Deadman said.

THE STATE has ordered all departments to develop plans to use recyclable goods. Federal officials are considering a 10-percent premium on goods made from recyclable goods.

The object is to reduce the amount of materials going to landfill sites and the amount of materials headed to incinerators — neither of which are "very welcome facilities," Deadman said.

"In fact, everybody wants us to pick up their rubbish but nobody wants us to set it down," he said.

BOTH FARMINGTON and Farmington Hills contract for rubbish removal. In Michigan, landfill sites not only are filling up but also becoming harder to site.

"In the near future, the crisis of the East Coast could be occurring here," Deadman said.

Both Oakland County and the six-city consortium, which also includes Southfield, South Lyon, Walled Lake and Novi, are looking at composting to recycle summer yard waste.

Consortium members visited composting facilities in other states and found "this material was very usable," Deadman said.

"In fact, it's probably desirable over some other type of material, like humus, for plant growth. We were impressed with how far other states have come to composting materials."

"The potential is here. It's not a difficult technology. It doesn't appear to be an expensive technology."

Hills building rose in '88 but not at a record pace

Farmington Hills didn't break any construction records last year.

"But we came close," city manager William Costick told 157 community leaders at the Farmington-Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce State of the Cities breakfast Friday.

The building department issued 462 occupancy certificates for new single-family homes, up 57 from the year before. It issued 1,005 for new apartment dwelling units, up 390 from the year before.

Occupancy certificates also were issued for 18 office buildings, 13 commercial buildings and eight industrial buildings.

The planning division reviewed 64 site plans, 43 rezoning requests and three subdivision plats.

Construction permits were issued for 616 multiple and single-family dwelling units, 800,000 square feet of office development, 250,000 square feet of industrial-research development, 225,000 square feet of commercial development and 48,000 square feet of industrial development.

"One of the biggest challenges our city council and our staff has is to try to maintain the kind of community we enjoy in Farmington Hills, the reputation we have," Costick said.

Meeting that challenge will include building "the needed infrastructure to deal with this kind of growth," he added.

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