

# Peers honor firefighter

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But when the fire alarm rings, he and Kurzeja are of one mind. "It's gotten to the point where we don't even have to talk anymore. We just do things automatically. I'm a technician. Wally will exert the technical knowledge and when it comes down to interpreting it to the layman, that's where I come in."

For St. Clair's many efforts, he was also awarded a Nomex leather fire helmet, a trophy of sorts in his field.

St. Clair was a paid call-back firefighter for eight years before being hired full-time 18 months ago. "Since I was in this for a number of years, it was just a matter of going from part-time to full-time," St. Clair said.

"PROBABLY THE most significant impact this individual has had on the community and the department has been in the area of public fire education," said Fire Chief Richard Marini in his speech at the fifth annual Farmington Hills Fire Department awards banquet Sept. 26 at Glen Oaks Country Park. "He has provided public fire education programs for a variety of audiences and businesses, including

Boisford Hospital, Little Caesar's, K mart, Pace Warehouse, among others."

St. Clair "is proud of innovation," Marini said. "He has developed a stage and script for our fall assembly program at all of the elementary schools."

A Novi resident, St. Clair lives close to his workplace, Fire Station No. 1, near 10 Mile and Grand River.

He and his wife, Dyanne, have two children, Christina, 6, and Daniel, 5.

St. Clair is founder and catalyst for the fire department's clown troupe, which was well received during the Farmington/Farmington Hills Founders Festival and the Franklin Fire Department parade. "It's fun because you get the opportunity to hear people laugh. It's a nice change," said St. Clair.

## Award winners listed

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● Firefighter of the Year — Don St. Clair, for showing "great commitment and dedication in all areas of the fire service."

● Career Firefighters of the Year — Michael Kish and Bill Wallace.

● Career Firefighter of the Year — Denny Hughes (his second such award for dedication to "the fire service, the department and the community").

● Station Members of the Year — David Chirico (No. 1, Industrial Park), P.J. Cusack (No. 2, Wheeler), Jim Cheyne (No. 3, Middlebelt) and

Gerald Milles (No. 4, Drake). Bill Mulrooney of Station 2 won the Highest Response Percentage and Highest Incident Response of the Year awards for answering 691 of 794 alarms, or 88 percent.

Awards of Merit went to:

● Ron Schwartz — for teaching Firefighter I.

● Larry Henderson — who successfully performed CPR on an infant not breathing.

● Kevin Borsche — for teaching Emergency Medical Technician.

● Station 4 — for handling 79 calls for assistance over 14 hours during the June 21 downpour.

## 2 killed in separate crashes

Two motorists died from injuries suffered in separate traffic accidents last week in Farmington Hills.

The victims were Dale James Bowers, 33, of Warren, and Robert Ferris Cole, 47, of Livonia.

On Thursday, Bowers died after pulling in front of a Jeep on rain-slickened Orchard Lake Road, south of 13 Mile, police said.

Bowers was pronounced dead at Boisford Hospital at 7:15 p.m., less than two hours after the crash. He died of multiple injuries, the Oakland County Medical Examiner said.

The other driver in that accident, Marc Anthony Seay, 25, of Pontiac,

was treated at Boisford for a head cut and released.

While trying to turn onto southbound Orchard Lake Road at 5:30 p.m. from a shopping center driveway, near Burbank, Bowers pulled into the path of Seay's northbound Jeep.

Bowers' Chevrolet was struck on the driver's-side door. Farmington Hills firefighters used their Jaws of Life to free Bowers.

Seay was not at fault and had no time to avoid the Chevrolet, said officer David Stasch of the Farmington Hills Police Department Traffic Section.

Seay was wearing a seat belt. Bowers was not, officer Don Fradette said.

At 3:25 p.m. Friday, Cole died after his car left eastbound Nine Mile, a quarter mile east of Farmington Road, and ran into a ditch.

Cole was pronounced dead at Boisford Hospital at 4:30 p.m. He died of a ruptured spleen resulting from the crash, the medical examiner said.

Police continue to investigate why his Ford left the road. He was not wearing a seat belt, the medical examiner said.

## police/fire calls

Listed below are some of the Farmington-area police incidents, fire calls and court cases reported during the past week:

### ● LIQUOR VIOLATION

A bartender at J.W.'s Saloon, 31425 12 Mile, was ticketed for furnishing alcohol to a minor younger than 21 at 10:30 p.m. Thursday.

The 33-year-old Westland woman was ticketed after she served a bottle of beer to a 19-year-old undercover cadet without asking to see identification, said Farmington Hills police officer Douglas Anderson, who witnessed the transaction.

The illegal sale will be reported to the state Liquor Control Commission, police said.

### ● CAR RECOVERED

An 18-year-old Detroit man faces receiving and concealing stolen property charges in connection with the recovery of a car reported stolen from West Bloomfield Oct. 4.

According to a Farmington Hills police report:

At 5:35 p.m. Oct. 4, a West Bloomfield man saw a 1989 Buick Park Avenue swerve into the lot of United Savings, 31731 Northwestern Highway. The driver parked under a carport, then got out and ran east toward Middlebelt.

When Officer David Glowacki found the steering column damaged, he looked for the driver. About 5:40 p.m., he found a man matching the suspect's description walking along Northwestern Highway.

The car, valued at \$20,000, was reported stolen from 15 Mile and Orchard Lake Road at 5:30 p.m.

### ● TWO BREAK-INS

Two Farmington break-ins, one residential and the other commercial, netted thieves \$10,100 in cash and other items during the past week.

A personal computer, linens, jewelry and other items valued at \$5,900 were reported stolen from a house on Merritt Court on Oct. 1 or before. A window was broken in the incident.

At the Wash Hut, 31200 Grand River, a bill-changing machine containing \$1,000 in coins was stolen.

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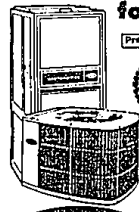
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