



Officer Anthony Gubacz of the Farmington Department of Public Safety checks out the mobile data terminal — used to send and receive law enforcement messages — in his patrol car.

Gubacz top cop

25-year vet wins Officer of Year award

By Casey Hens
staff writer

Veteran public safety officer Anthony Gubacz was lauded for his 25 years of service with the Farmington Department of Public Safety, and was recently named 1989 Officer of the Year.

Gubacz' activities throughout the year as part of the Southwest Auto Theft Prevention Team also earned honors as the "most valuable team member" by the Oakland County Sheriff's Department, said public safety director Frank Lauhoff.

"Officer Gubacz has represented the Farmington public safety department in a professional and diligent manner, which reflects positively on his reputation and that of the department," Lauhoff said in giving the award.

The Officer of the Year award is part of the city's annual public safety awards presentations, held March 8 at city hall.

OTHER commendations and awards for police and fire activities during 1989 included:

● Distinguished Service Medal, Commander Michael Wiggins — On March 11, 1989, Wiggins responded to a family disturbance call, facing a

woman with a knife. After moving another family member out of harm's way, he convinced the individual with the knife to back away and de-escalated the situation.

● Unit Awards: Wiggins, Sgt. Michael Madigan, (West Bloomfield Township Police); deputy public safety director Gary Goss, Officer James Madigan, Officer Mark Worch — All arrived on the scene mentioned above, involving a woman with a knife. They aided in negotiating with the woman for eight to nine hours, until she could be taken into custody without serious injury.

● Life Saving Award, Officer Mark Worch — On April 29, 1989, Worch was dispatched to Chatham Hills Apartments for medical assistance to a woman who had reportedly stopped breathing. The victim had no pulse or respiration and her heart had stopped. He began immediate cardiopulmonary resuscitation until ambulance personnel arrived and used a defibrillator to start her heart beating again.

● Departmental Commendation, Officer Daniel Dellar — Through hundreds of hours of investigation in the detective bureau, Dellar identified and obtained warrants charging a man with a rape that occurred at the Drakeshire Apartments on Sept.

21, 1989. "Dellar showed determination and a thoroughness that enhances his image and the reputation of the department," said Lauhoff.

● Departmental Commendation, Officer Hilton Hyde — This officer took the extra step, using his police training, to track a person who had attempted a break-in near the Grand River/Drake Road area on May 29, 1989. Twenty minutes after the attempt, Hyde observed a subject running from a party store near Grand River and Lakeway. Hyde eventually captured the man in a nearby yard.

● Departmental Commendation, Officer Vincent Ziegler — After a break-in was reported on March 11, 1989, Ziegler lifted fingerprints from the scene, developed a suspect, and was able to interview the person and obtain a confession. He then prepared and executed search warrants, recovering most of the property stolen. He was able to solve this crime in a two-day period.

● Departmental Commendation, Officer James Madigan — Using interviewing skills and determination, Madigan was able to obtain confessions to some two dozen crimes following a larceny arrest in the city on April 15, 1989. Eventually, those arrested were linked to larceny from vehicle crimes in Farmington, Farmington Hills and Novi.

● Certificate of Appreciation, Gayle Haenke — This longtime reserve officer retired from the Farmington department in 1989 after eight years of service. Since 1977, Haenke gave more than 1,000 hours of her time riding with officers on patrol, fought hundreds of fires in the community and participated in civic events requiring an officer's presence.

● Longevity Awards: Officer Anthony Gubacz, 25 years; Commander Charles Lee, 20 years; Commander Thomas Cox, 20 years; Officer James Madigan, 15 years; Commander John Coyle, 10 years; Commander Michael Wiggins, 10 years; Officer Duane Cowger, 10 years; Of-

The Officer of the Year award is part of the city's annual public safety awards presentations, held March 8 at city hall.

ficer Daniel Dellar, five years; and dispatcher Karen Sutherland, five years.

● Safe Driving Awards: Commander John Coyle, five years; Officer Maria Putt, five years; and dispatcher Karen Sutherland, five years.

Irate florist goes after con artist

By Alice Collins
staff writer

The coin-roll con man has apparently struck again in Southfield. But this time it didn't pay off.

"I know what I did was stupid, I could have been killed. But I was too angry to stop and think about it," says a Southfield flower shop owner, shaking his head in amazement.

What James Chambers did Saturday afternoon, March 17, was go after a man who had just conned him out of \$40, cutting the criminal off in busy Northwestern Highway traffic three times before forcing him to stop, then demanding his money back. And he got it.

The con — a familiar one to police — involves the exchange of faked coin rolls for bills.

Chambers was waiting on customers in his store, Unicorn's Garden at 29540 Northwestern, around 1:30 p.m. when the man came in.

"He said he was from Domino's Pizza down the street and asked if I'd give him \$40 in bills for the rolls of dimes he had," Chambers said. "I was kind of busy so I gave

it to him. Then he told me someone would come down and buy them back in 15 minutes.

"Well that sounded kind of funny, so I walked to the back of the store, cracked one of the rolls and found it was filled with pennies instead of dimes.

"I GRABBED my keys, ran to my van and took off across the parking lot. I'd caught a glimpse of him getting into a car that was driven by someone else and it was still waiting to get out onto Northwestern.

"I was too mad to be afraid."

The car with the con man headed north in the Northwestern traffic and Chambers followed, pulled ahead and cut him off three times. But each time the other driver managed to get out of the trap.

"Then I cut him off again and a ditch stopped him from getting out of it."

"He got out of the car and said, 'What are you doing?'"

"When I told him he said he didn't know they weren't dimes. 'Here's your money back,' he said. 'I'll come to the store and pick up the rolls later.'"

Hills cops hunt con man

Continued from Page 1

He said he'd come back later and buy the coins back, which he never did. The store lost \$62 in the exchange, police said.

LESS THAN one hour later, a man approached an employee of the Tivoli Restaurant in the Clarion Hotel next to the Marathon station. He also said he was from JW's and wanted to exchange excess coins for bills.

He handed the employee a brown paper bag with 10-15 "dime" rolls. She took the bag to the back room, but when she opened two of the rolls, she found each had pennies. When she refused to make the exchange, the man left.

In Farmington Hills on March 3, One-Hill Martinizing, 27893 Orchard Lake Road, north of 13 Mile, was taken when 16 rolls of dimes actually containing \$9.02 were ex-

changed for \$80 in cash. The con man said he worked nearby and his boss asked him to request the exchange, police said.

IN LIVONIA on March 15, the con man went right to the source and tricked a Michigan National Bank branch out of \$177.

Four Livonia businesses fell victim to the scheme in February; two were taken for a combined \$170. Alert employees at two other stores refused to make the exchange.

The con man has been described as very calm and professional. He is black, 5-0 to 5-4, in his 20s and 180-210 pounds.

Police recommend that merchants not accept coin rolls from strangers, call the business a person claims to represent to confirm identity, or inspect at least some of the rolls before accepting them.

MARRAKESH CALLS

Curry and paprika, harem stripes and golden dangle beads...shades of Morocco by Mondri. Sizes 4 to 14. Short sleeve sweater of cotton/polyester, \$350. Full-leg, full-cut pants of cool cotton, \$150.



Jacobson's

We welcome Jacobson's Charge, MasterCard® and VISA®. Shop until 9 p.m. on Thursday and Friday. Until 8 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday.

2 civilians lauded for lifesaving efforts

Two area residents received Civilian Citations for their acts of lifesaving in the city of Farmington during 1989.

Both Jan Hengsten of Livonia and Timothy Waker of Farmington were lauded for performing cardiopulmonary resuscitation at the scene of a winter accident in downtown Farmington, saving the life of a 79-year-old Farmington man.

At about 8:45 a.m. on Dec. 18, 1989, Hengsten and Waker stopped at the scene on Farmington Road near Alta Loma, separately, to aid the resident who had suffered a

heart attack and ran off the road in his car, hitting a pedestrian light pole. They immediately began CPR and continued applying it until medical assistance arrived. The victim was taken to Botsford General Hospital, where he received lengthy treatment in the coronary care unit before returning home.

"As a result of your actions, the person you assisted is alive today," said public safety director Frank Lauhoff, in giving the two awards. "Therefore, you are hereby presented with a Civilian Citation for your lifesaving act."

Farmington has own karate kid

Continued from Page 1

SELF-DEFENSE. Not fighting, is a theme and attitude carried throughout the classes. "They don't allow fighting. It's for defense. The first move is always a block," Jennifer said.

Nonetheless, Tony mentions that his skills aren't a bad thing to know. "If you're walking home one day and you get jumped, you'll know what to do."

Dedicated to his skills, Tony explains that he and the kids in his Choi Kwang-Do class are like the "Karate Kid" character, not the "bad guys" the movie character eventually fights — and wins.

The creed Tony has little trouble reciting also makes him promise to obey his parents, to take pride in everything he does, to learn all he's taught and to keep himself healthy.

"They have to maintain a certain grade point average

to go to class," Jennifer said.

And if there's any problem with behavior or anything else, the kids' blackbelts can be taken away, she added.

SELF-DISCIPLINE, SELF-CONFIDENCE, appropriate social adjustment and proper manners, rather than sports competition, are stressed in Choi Kwang-Do.

Tony's enthusiasm has infected his family. Two years ago, his father, Richard, joined him. Of course, his father must address his blackbelt son as "sir."

And Tony is convinced his 2-year-old brother, Nicholas, is already getting the hang of Choi Kwang-Do. "He's already punching," Tony said, imitating his brother's little fists.

Jennifer, however, is content to sit on the sidelines and watch her family. "I couldn't do the tests. You're constantly out there performing. I'll stay in the background."

Area glider pilots are back home

Area glider pilots Tom Drake and Bill Abernathy returned home from Nevada recently, after flying higher than ever in their motorless, two-seater sailplanes.

Although they didn't set a world record, they set a personal flying record and earned upwards of \$800 in pledges for the Farmington Area Advisory Council, said Drake, a Farmington resident and chief pilot.

Attempting to break the world

gliding record of 44,255 feet, Drake said they were only able to reach 23,500 on their best day, during the effort they called Project Soar.

"The (air) wave wouldn't push us any higher," he said, calling the trip "the most exciting thing I've ever done in my life."

"By no means do we consider what we did a failure."

Betty Arnold, director of the FAAC, said she was grateful for the unexpected money, which came the

agency's way due to the duo's efforts. They took pledges based on how many feet they were able to go into the air, and wanted the money to go to an agency which works with youth drug addiction and other problems.

The trip was sponsored by Paul Sakmar, a resident of Rochester and founder/owner of Steel Industries of Redford Township, where Drake is employed.