

Hills resident sworn in on reserve force

Farmington Hills resident Frank Galea is the newest member of the Farmington Department of Public Safety's reserve force.

Galea graduated from the Oakland Police Reserve Academy on Friday, May 8, after completing 101 hours of training. He previously completed more than 150 hours of training at Schoolcraft College in Livonia where he received certification as a Fire-fighter I.

The public safety department encompasses both police and fire agencies for the city.

The 22-year-old Galea is a 1988 graduate of Farmington High School and holds an associate degree in criminal justice from Oakland Community College. He plans to attend Madonna College to pursue a bachelor's degree in criminal justice, leading his career interest of full-time police work.



Frank Galea

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Ruling has boats off the docks

By PAT MURPHY
STAFF WRITER

West Bloomfield Township does indeed have authority to limit the number of boats docked on its inland lakes, according to a ruling by the Michigan Supreme Court.

In a ruling issued Friday, the high court said the township acted within its legitimate scope of authority when it denied a request from the Pine Bluff Estates Association to expand mooring capacity from two to 11 boats.

"This is a big win victory for the township," said Supervisor Sandra Drauer. "It means we have zoning and police power when it comes to

the number of docks on a lake."

The case, commonly known as Hess vs. West Bloomfield, was argued before the high court in December. It involves Charles Hess and 10 other backlot families that belong to the association. They sought a special use permit to expand mooring privileges on a commonly owned lot.

That request was denied in October 1989, however, by the township, whose lawyers said authority to regulate docking privileges is included under the Township Rural Zoning Act.

The families and the association filed suit in Oakland Circuit Court

and, in May of 1990, with an initial ruling from Judge Robert Templin, who ruled the township acted without authority.

West Bloomfield, with support from the Michigan Townships Association, took the case to the Supreme Court after the court of appeals, in late 1990, denied the township's initial appeal.

In an opinion written by Justice James H. Brickley and supported by five of the other six justices, the high court said a township does indeed have the authority under TRZA to regulate mooring privileges, such as the docking of boats, as part of its zoning power.

Land bounded by a natural watercourse is defined as riparian, the court noted in a summary of its opinion.

"The TRZA permits townships to regulate activities to promote the general welfare of the public and to protect the character and natural resources of a township community; paramount concerns under the constitution," the high court said in its ruling.

"Local communities do not require an expansion of the zoning power to confront the need to control overuse of waters by backlot owners in funnel developments, the ruling continued.

MILITARY NEWS

If you have military news with a Farmington area connection, send it to: Military News, Farmington Observer, 21838 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336.

COMPLETES COURSE

Pvt. Kevin D. Fryover of Farmington Hills has completed a multi-channel communications equipment systems operator course at

Fort Gordon, Augusta, Ga. He is a 1989 graduate of Walled Lake Western High School.

Army Reserve 2nd Lt. James Sweeney Jr. of Farmington has

completed the field artillery officer basic course at Fort Sill, Okla. He is a 1986 graduate of Harrison High School and a 1991 graduate of Michigan State University.

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