

Open-door policy



Love that truck: Nigel Mitchell, a Farmington Hills 2-year-old who loves fire trucks, gets to sit behind the wheel of one as firefighters Eric Lulloue and Steve Beibel (back) look on.

Residents get a look at police workings

BY BILL COUTANT
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Farmington Hills police put their best "feet" forward and were rewarded with a strong turnout at the annual open house Sunday.

"We had a really good turnout and the weather was good," said Hills police Chief Bill Dwyer, estimating that about 2,000 people came to the event that ran from noon to 4 p.m.

"It was pretty steady from about 12:30 until 4," said Crime Prevention Technician Mary Kay Miles.

Miles said the event usually conflicts with graduations and other activities during one of the busiest times of the year, and Dwyer said last year's turnout was a little low.

But changes at the open house, including moving games and other activities into the bays be-

hind the station, were well received.

Two additions to the events were popular with the kids. A "Dragon Tank" provided by the Oakland County Sheriff's Department attracted plenty of attention. The vehicle can travel at up to 70 mph.

Even more popular was a softball throw with a speed trailer that tracked its velocity. Farmington Hills police use the trailer at various locations to show motorists how fast they are going. But on Sunday, kids had a chance to throw a softball and see how hard they could throw. There were no Nolan Ryans. Nothing approached 90 mph.

"But it was very popular," Miles said. Displays that feature police work were again popular. The jail continues to attract crowds and the target range drew plenty of interest.



STAFF PHOTOS BY SHARON LEMIEUX

Bagging a prize: Nine-year-old Robert Thomas of Farmington Hills hopes his bean bag toss is accurate.



Checking out the gear: Bill Seibel (left) and his son Derek, 8, of Farmington, and Chris Bridenstin and his dad Bill, of Farmington Hills, look over police gear with Sgt. John Sherman, commander of the Western Wayne County Special Operations Team.



Speed checker: The device usually tells the speed of passing cars, but at the Farmington Hills Police Department Open House it listed the speed of thrown baseballs. The photo was snapped from a fire truck bucket.