



Optimist's top cop: Farmington Hills' Charlie Rozum "understands how to recognize situations," says Hills Police Chief Bill Dwyer.

Veteran officer shines on night shift

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

Call him nocturnal, but Charlie Rozum is one police officer who likes working the midnight shift. Working at a time when he's been able to make some key arrests has brought satisfaction to the 14-year veteran of the Farmington Hills police force and recognition as the 1994 Optimist Police Officer of the Year.

"It's more satisfying working at night and arresting people instead of taking reports during the day, after the fact," he said. "People appreciate seeing you make an arrest instead of telling you so you can make a report after the fact."

And if a happy patrol officer is a good officer, Rozum is Mr. Congeniality. This is the second year in which the father of

two has been so honored. He was Optimist officer of the year in 1992 as well.

Rozum joined the department in 1981 after working as a safety officer for the Wayne County Road Commission at the Willow Run Airport. He's worked in the traffic section and detective bureau, but it's as a patrol officer that Rozum really excels.

"He (Rozum) is gifted with an instinct of being able to anticipate difficult situations and being able to react," Hills Police Chief Bill Dwyer said. "He understands how to recognize situations — intuitively."

Those talents have led Rozum to a distinguished career that includes a merit citation for a concealed-weapon and cocaine-possession arrest that netted \$900 in drug forfeiture money; 10 departmental

citations; four departmental unit citations; three certificates of commendation; and several letters of commendation recognizing his outstanding police work.

In addition, Rozum has received a Lifesaver Award from Mothers Against Drunk Driving in 1990, and a Merit Award from the Michigan Anti-Theft Campaign in 1991. The awards recognized Rozum's work in arresting drunken drivers and recovering stolen cars.

In 1994 alone, Rozum earned a unit citation in January for arresting a person with a concealed and a loaded 9mm pistol. Also in January of 1994, Rozum was part of a critical entry team that successfully disarmed a man who had barricaded himself in his home during a domestic dispute.

In June of 1994, Rozum

earned a citation for the arrest of a break-in suspect. In that incident, Rozum was responding to a burglar alarm when he noticed a car leaving the scene that matched the description of one involved in a Redford break-in. That led to the arrest of the suspect, who confessed to several burglaries in the area.

In August, Rozum, who is a field training officer, was awarded a certificate of commendation for the arrest of another break-in suspect. Rozum and his trainee learned of a break-in on the west side of Southfield and tracked fresh footprints in the area that led to the suspect, who was later convicted of several break-ins.

Rozum, who has a bachelor's degree from Madonna University, is married with two children.

Timbercrest landscaping plan OK'd

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

The Timbercrest development at 12 Mile and Middlebelt has cleared its final hurdle with the city of Farmington Hills.

The final landscaping/open space plan was approved by the city planning commission at its regular meeting June 29.

"All they need now are their building permits," said City Planner Ed Gardiner.

The project, which will include a shopping center and 160 single-family houses on 92 acres, had generated a good deal of opposition from the start.

In August of 1993, developer Gary Janna submitted, and then withdrew, a plan that would have included a super retail store. More than 100 residents living in neighboring subdivisions showed up to that planning commission meeting to protest the development.

In the following months, in planning commission sessions

and joint city council/planning commission sessions, the developer, city staff, council, commissioners and citizens organized as Voters' Voice to oppose the plan, wrangled over the plan during the spring and summer of 1994.

The lot size, store size, open spaces, potential traffic problems, effect on surrounding property values and the environment were among the issues contested in packed council sessions.

The council approved, reconsidered and then gave final approval to a much-altered plan that did not include a grocery store and included 24 fewer houses than the plan first approved.

But Voters' Voice members, who felt betrayed by six of the seven members, launched a recall drive against the six. They fell short and never filed the petitions that would have required more than 6,000 signatures.

Hills police seek teens' extradition

An 84-year-old Farmington Hills man was shaken, but uninjured, after two teens posing as repairmen forced him into his bedroom, took his keys and stole his car July 3.

The man, who lives in the Fairmont Park Apartments off Nine Mile, told police that two males came to his apartment at 11 p.m. and told him they wanted to check the air conditioning unit. After the man let them into his apartment, they forced him into his bedroom, took his keys and then stole his 1990 Buick.

Hills police attempted to catch the pair, who had driven west on I-696, but lost them near the Kent Lake Road exit near South Lyon.

Ohio State stopped two teens, 15 and 16, after a high-speed chase near Cincinnati on July 4. The troopers checked the plate and found that Hills police had reported the car as stolen.

Hills police are waiting for a ruling on their extradition requests. The two also face charges in Ohio.

Farmington dispatchers to get 10.5% pay hikes over 3 years

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Public Safety dispatchers will see a 10.5 percent increase in pay over the next three years.

The raise is part of a new agreement with the Police Officers Association Michigan and the city of Farmington. City Council OK'd the deal Wednesday.

Dispatchers receive a 3-percent increase in January 1996; a 3.5-percent raise in 1997; and a 4-percent hike in 1998.

"This is slightly above other contracts we have settled," City Manager Frank Lauffhoff said.

"We're taking the approach: If it's justified, we will correct the situation."

The pact concludes the first series of union contracts settled since Lauffhoff became city manager in 1993.

Wage increases agreed to in three-year pacts have included: Public Safety commander officers: 6.5 percent; Public Safety officers: 11.6 percent; and Public Services workers: 10 percent.

Public safety officers and the city went to arbitration to get their contract settled. Command officers took lower wage increases for better pension benefits.

In all four cases, the city was able to negotiate an increase in prescription co-pays from \$3 to \$10. That will save the city \$20,000 in health care costs, Lauffhoff said.

Employees are also offered a \$120 monthly payment in lieu of taking the city's health insurance coverage. As a result, \$15,000 was saved last year.

"When you look at a quarter-million dollars in health care costs, you look for savings where you can," Lauffhoff said.

Other parts of the dispatcher's agreement include a uniform allowance and a \$3,000 increase in life insurance coverage.

Down to business

What type of new businesses would you like to see in downtown

Farmington? Farmington's downtown Development Authority has been asking Observer readers that question for the past couple of weeks. The DDA will discuss the responses at an informational meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, July 11, at the Farmington City Hall, Grand River and Liberty.

The meeting is open to the public.

Funds raised for group

Cromwell Family Chiropractic will raise funds for Farmington Families in Action, an anti-drug group, during the Farmington Founders Festival, Thursday-Saturday, July 13-15.

A contest and pop sale will be conducted by Dr. John Cromwell's staff at two sidewalk booths on Grand River during the festival.

"It is important that people understand the tremendous effort that Farmington Families in Action is giving to raise our community awareness about the real drug issues facing us today," said Cromwell.

Flyers with information about FFIA will be distributed at the Cromwell booths. For more information about the group, call 477-1492 or 851-8555.

Benefit golf outing

The Optimist Club of Farmington/Farmington Hills will host its fourth-annual Golf Outing Monday, July 17, at Twin Beach Country Club in West Bloomfield.

Funds raised from the event will be donated

FARMINGTON FOCUS

to the Farmington Public Schools to help high-risk students avoid substance abuse.

The afternoon event will include a four-person Texas scramble, lunch, a putting contest, prizes, a hole-in-one contest for a new car and a dinner.

The Optimist Club is seeking players, hole sponsors and prize donors. For more information, call Rusty Soronen (661-0607), Judge Fred Harris (477-5630) or Jim Brady (258-5690).

Anyone wishing to learn more about the Optimist Club is invited to attend the group's weekly breakfast meeting, 7:30-8:30 a.m. Wednesdays at On The Tee Restaurant at the San Marino Golf Club on Haled Road.

Memory Lane

From the July 14, 1955 edition of the Farmington Enterprise:

■ From an editorial: "The time has come when action should again be taken to enlarge the present two-man Township Police Department."

■ Ground beef was advertised at three pounds for a dollar, and sliced bacon was offered at 25 cents a pound at Farmington Meats, 33419 Grand River.

■ Short item: "Nothing can cheer you as much as a friend's smile — except your own."

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 33411 Grand River, Farmington 48335; faxed to 477-9722; or dropped off at the newspaper office. For the computer literate, the Internet E-mail address is: pachykoenline.com.

Giggie GANG

FEE-FI-FO-FUN!

Henry K. Martin Productions presents:

Jack and the Beanstalk

Wednesday, July 12

Peanut Butter Jam-boree

Wednesday, July 19

Cinderella

Wednesday, July 26

Join the Giggie Gang! Kids ages 10 and under can sign up for Oakland Mall Kids Club after the show and receive an official membership button.

KIDS EAT FREE

On performance days, all kids accompanied by adults, eat FREE at these Oakland Mall restaurants:

Arby's • A&W • Burger King • Bruschetta • Pretzel Paddler • Sbarro • Ruby Tuesday

(Two free kids meals per adult, please. Some restrictions apply.)

OAKLAND MALL

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