



Poster guy: Hills Police Officer Mike Ciaramitaro put extra time and effort into the design and production of 250 posters that should get the point across that police will not tolerate drinking and driving.

SHARON LEMLEY/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

It's no accident Hills officer won award for poster

BY BILL COUTANT
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Farmington Hills Police Officer Mike Ciaramitaro has made enough drunk driving arrests to know that won't solve the problem.

So in keeping with the idea of prevention as the cure, the traffic officer put extra time and effort into the design and production of 250 posters that should get the point across that police will not

tolerate drinking and driving.

The poster, which includes a picture of Hills Officers Ron Shankin, Madeline Zimmer, John Markey and Charlie Rozum in front of a jail, says "Drunk drivers meet your new bartenders." The Royal Oak Jail, which has the bars needed to get the message across, was used in the photo.

Police have circulated the posters to restaurants, taverns and convenience stores in the

hope that those buying alcohol will be reminded of the "gray-bar hotel" that awaits them if they're caught.

For his efforts, Ciaramitaro received special recognition from the Mothers Against Drunk Driving at the Law Enforcement Life Saver Awards ceremonies in East Lansing Nov. 20.

"We had other volunteers help, but Mike did all the leg work and

really made sure this project turned out as it did," said Ciaramitaro's supervisor, Sgt. Dennis Green. "We can't measure the effects of it, but I do get a lot of comments from people who notice it."

Lt. Ray Cranston, who had been Traffic Division supervisor, had seen a similar poster and suggested the idea. Ciaramitaro began work on the project without

knowing how it would be financed. After he began on it, the department received a grant from the Allstate Foundation to pay for it.

"I think it's like a little reminder to make people think," Ciaramitaro said. "If it got the message across, then it was worth the effort."

Apparently MADD representatives liked the idea. At the awards

ceremony recognizing life saving efforts from all over the state, they chose to recognize Ciaramitaro's efforts to prevent life-threatening situations as well.

"It's nice to see this type of an award for our department," Green said. "You always see police officers recognized for making arrests and that sort of thing. This recognizes something that goes a long way toward prevention."

Police officers earn citations for exceptional performance

Farmington Hills Police Chief Bill Dwyer announced police department award winners based on recommendations of the Department's Citation and Award Board.

Board members include Dwyer, Deputy Chief Mirl Spencer, Inspectors Richard Niemisto, Tom Godwin and Dick Murphy, representatives from the Command Officers' Association and the Police Officers' Association. The board meets quarterly to review outstanding performance by department members and makes recommendations for special recognition.

Officer James Kase won a life saving award for initiating CPR on a man on Hamilton Street on Feb. 23 who had stopped breathing. He was assisted by a fire department medical technician. The victim began breathing on his own and survived.

Officer Michael Farley won a citation for his work in the arrest of three men at a Detroit Newspaper Agency strike scene on Crestview in Farmington Hills Aug. 3. Farley observed a suspicious vehicle cruising the area and pulled over the vehicle. Radio equipment was found and charges of a conspiracy to commit malicious destruction of property were filed.

Officers Mark Mostek and Damian Woodmore won citations for their work on Aug. 4 when they stopped a vehicle for an improper plate. The driver was arrested for a suspended license. A search of the vehicle resulted in the recovery of a loaded pistol. A carrying a concealed weapon warrant was issued the next day.

Officer Jon Haupt won a citation for helping in the arrest of a robbery suspect on Aug. 25. Haupt, saw the unarmed robbery in progress at the Independence Green Apartments and broadcast a description. An off duty sergeant heard the description, saw the subject on foot and made the arrest.

Officer Mark Mostek won a citation for responding to a reported home invasion at the Polo Club Apartments Sept. 17. He saw the suspect fleeing in a car with its lights out and stopped it. The driver fled on foot. Mostek caught and arrested him.

Officer Eric Buckberry won a

FARMINGTON HILLS POLICE

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citation for the arrest of three suspects in the early morning hours of Oct. 16 for several auto break-ins. Buckberry was patrolling an area that had been hard hit with auto break-ins when he saw the three men returning to a car. He noticed stolen property in the car and arrested the three who were later convicted of the larcenies.

Officer James Worthington won a professional service award for his work in processing crimes scenes in August and September, including photos of fingerprints, that resulted in felony warrants for larceny from an auto.

Professional service awards also went to Sgt. Gary Mailloux, Sgt. Patrick Monti, Officers William Duffey, Daniel Herrick, James Jarrett, James Kase, John Markey, Michael Mostek, Charles Rozum and Kathleen Tiano for their service in the department's honor guard for the past two years.

Unit citations went to Sgt. Gilbert Kohls, Sgt. Timothy Swanson, and Officers Wayne Beerbower, Mathew Koehn, Douglas Miller and Bradley Schwartz for their handling of an armed robbery report at the Radisson Hotel on May 26. Within three minutes of the robbery, a description of the suspect was broadcast and the suspect and vehicle were stopped at Grand River and Colgate by the officers and he was arrested.

Inspector Thomas Godwin, Lt. Martin Bledsoe, Sgt. Douglas Anderson, and Officers Patrick Comini, Ronald Shankin, Alan Soderlund and Robert Tiedington won unit citations for their work on Aug. 24 of developing information that led to the arrest of the man involved with a missing woman whose body was discovered in a high profile murder case.

Sgt. Gilbert Kohls won a commendation for his work in the arrest of a robbery suspect on Aug. 25. Kohls, who was off duty, heard a police broadcast of an unarmed robbery in progress at the Independence Green Apartments. Based upon the description given by Officer Jon Haupt, a search of the complex resulted in the suspect being observed on foot and arrested.

Sgt. Patrick Monti won a commendation for arresting a suspect in the theft of an airbag taken from a vehicle at a car dealership on Sept. 4.

Officer Daniel Herrick won a commendation for radioing undercover officers about a suspicious vehicle cruising businesses on Sept. 28. The occupants were seen stealing a car in Westland and arrested for a break-in, auto theft and cocaine possession.

A commendation was also given to an officer from another agency, the Farmington Public Safety Department. Officer Vincent Ziegler was cited for assisting Hills police in the capture and arrest of an armed robbery suspect on May 26.

Dispatchers Jackie Lindberg and Vicki Szczepanski won civilian citations for their work in helping officers respond to an armed robbery of Farmer Jack at Nine Mile and Farmington on Oct. 23. Farmington Hills officers spotted the suspected car and gave chase. The dispatchers' "cool professionalism" helped in the arrest of the suspects. Cindy Loveland and Sheri Miller also received civilian citations for assisting officers on the scene of an injury accident at 12 Mile and Helsted by giving comfort and minor first aid to the victim and her children.