

Police dispatcher enjoys her call to duty

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

She is the calm reassuring voice settling the waves of panic and anxiety crashing through the telephone receiver.

Farmington police Dispatcher Chris Linemann is used to answering the phone with people calling distressed on the other end. Her skill in dealing with emergencies over the phone and attention to detail earned her the Farmington Public Safety Department's first-ever Dispatcher of the Year honors.

"When you're upset, you don't always think rationally," said Linemann, who has been with department for two years. "That's what we're here to do—help them think rationally instead of emotionally."

The soothing Southern inflection in her voice—the product of growing up in South Carolina—helps. Her extensive on-the-job training is an asset, too.

Linemann started with the sheriff's department in Columbia, S.C. where she worked three months before moving north to be with her fiancé. In that short time, she was able to go on a drug raid and watch sheriffs detonate a pipe bomb.

Since joining Farmington's department, Linemann's experiences have included the mundanes of a person locking keys in their car to the mayhem associated with an emergency medical run.

"You really have to take control of the situation with the caller," she said. "You have to make sure you have to get the information . . . Sometimes you have to use verbal judo."

Then there's the plain unusual.

Recently, Linemann received a frantic call from a woman who said a burglar was rummaging through her home. The woman, who was calling from a neighbor's house, wanted to return to her home.

"I told her, 'Don't go back to the house whatever you do,'" Linemann said.

As it turned out, the burglar



STAFF PHOTO BY SEARON LEBLANC

On call: Farmington police dispatcher Chris Linemann was the first dispatcher to be honored by the Farmington Public Safety Department at its annual awards ceremony. She has been cited for her meticulous detail and compassion on the phone to people calling for help.

was an overzealous pizza delivery man who walked inside the house looking for the person who ordered the pie. Linemann is happy she can laugh about it later.

Linemann's superiors are sim-

ply happy to have her.

"Her fellow employees describe (her) as the type of dispatcher I would like to talk to if I had to call in an emergency," said Gary Goss, Farmington Public Safety director.

"The dispatcher is the often the first contact a citizen has with our department. Their behavior and attitude will set the stage for what the officers will encounter when they arrive on the scene."

Linemann is honored to be the first dispatcher recognized by the department. She describes her colleagues as a great bunch to work with, she said.

However, she doesn't aspire to trade places with the public safe-

ty officers.

"They've got a hard job," Linemann said. "They have a lot of responsibility and it's dangerous on top of that."

"I'm happy where I'm at."

Roommate's rampage leaves gas station attendant fearful

A bust up between roommates left a Farmington Hills gas station in pieces June 15.

Hills police were called to the Amoco station on Grand River and Halsted at 10 a.m. after a woman threatened to blow up the place and was trying to break in. Officers found a woman at the rear door when they arrived. She immediately put her arms behind her back to conceal an object.

The rear door was missing a handle and other metal parts. Police later found the door handle in a 1993 Toyota Camry

parked nearby and a two-foot long "black jack."

A Farmington Hills woman, 27, was arrested at the scene.

The woman looked inside, an employee at the station, said she called police after an argument with her roommate over the phone. The victim said her roommate has beaten her many times in past and threatened to come to the gas station after a dispute over money.

The roommate reportedly became angry after being told by the attendant that she only had

\$50 to lend her.

As the employee called police, the roommate pulled up in a car. The attendant locked all the doors, but the roommate yelled the door would not stop her.

"She came up . . . with that violent, out-of-space look," the employee said in a statement to police.

The roommate continued to beat on the back door with a large object, knocking out the handle. She stuck her keys and fingers through the hole trying to unlock it when police arrived.

CAMPUS PIPELINE

If you have news from a college, university or other campus of local education — and there's a Farmington-area connection — we'd like to hear from you. Send items to: Campus Pipeline, 33411 Grand River, Farmington 48335.

LEADER

Albion College student Amishi Doshi was recognized for her leadership as the college's Asian Awareness Group public relations chair at the college's annual Sleight Leadership Awards.

Doshi was also named to the Dean's List for the spring semester. She is the daughter of Lalit Kumar and Usha Doshi of Farmington Hills.

PROJECT AWARD

Albion College student Anjali Thakur was recently named one of 13 recipients of the President Bernard T. Lomas Project 250 Award.

This award is given to students who have made significant contributions to the campus community.

Thakur was also named to the Dean's List for the spring semester. She is the daughter of Anamma Thakur of Farmington Hills.

WINTER DEAN'S

The following Farmington/Farmington Hills residents have earned a spot on the winter Dean's List at Schoolcraft College: Lisa Burgess, Constance Black, Christine

Donat, Teresa Lindonmuth, Barbara Morgan, Brenda Page, Katerina Semjanova and Rachel Smith.

CONGRATS GRAD

Zaiba Sheikh of Farmington Hills graduated from Indiana University on May 10 with a bachelor's degree in music.

WITH HONORS

Adam Bergstrom of Farmington Hills was placed on the Michigan State School of Packaging Honors List for the spring semester.

ALL AMERICAN

Julio Glowacki of Farmington Hills was one of 50 students from St. Mary's College at Orchard Lake to be named "All American Scholar."

MADE THE GRADE

Farmington resident Andrew Schornick earned a bachelor's degree from Hanover College in Indiana.

Schornick is a history/Spanish major and the son of Mr. and Mrs. Leon Schornick of Farmington.

SUMMA CUM LAUDE

John Lane graduated Summa Cum Laude from Central Michigan University with a major in health fitness and rehabilitation. He will continue at CMU as he completes his masters degree in physical therapy.

John was an honors graduate of Farmington High School in 1993.

SCHOLAR

Jody Huettman of Farming-

ton was one of 11 students to earn a scholarship from Oakland Community College.

NATURAL GRAD

Michelle Donlon of Farmington Hills earned a bachelor's degree in natural resources from the University of Vermont.

VOLUNTEER

Elisa Smith of Farmington Hills, is one of eight aspiring attorneys from Emory University School of Law that will work in volunteer service jobs.

Smith will spend the summer with Georgia Legal Services Parent Empowerment Project in Atlanta.

HOPE DEAN'S

Anna Riggs of Farmington Hills and Kierston Kease of Farmington won a spot on the Hope College Dean's List for the second semester. To be named to the Dean's List a student must have a minimum 3.5 grade point average.

HIGH FLYER

Michael Schaner has been named to the Dean's List for the spring semester at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Prescott, Arizona.

Michael is majoring in computer science and is the son of David and Susan Schaner of Farmington Hills.

HATS OFF

Samantha Graham graduated cum laude from the University of Findlay in Ohio with a bachelor's degree in pre-veterinary medicine/biology.

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