

## Sting from page A1

Highway; Macaroni Grill, North-western; Anita's, Orchard Lake; La Shish, 12 Mile; Honan Palace; 10 Mile; Radisson Suites Hotel, Grand River; and Shalimar, Orchard Lake.

The police are doing their job, said one restaurant operator whose establishment was ticketed.

"It's our mistake," said Joet Reen, Shalimar manager. "We keep training and training our staff. I give them classes ... The

first thing I tell them is to check for identification.

"I just stepped out and this happened."

Hills police used to send registered letters to liquor license holders to inform them of the enforcement operation. The sting has become common enough where the department discontinued the practice, Dwyer said.

Officers regularly conduct liquor inspections to make sure licenses are properly displayed

and that businesses are adhering to other regulations.

Such vigilance is still needed, judging by a story an East Middle School eighth-grade student told in Dwyer's office.

"I know a guy who is 16 and he went into a store and he got a bottle of vodka," said Mark, who was spending a day as Dwyer's guest through a school-sponsored mentorship program. "He was using a fake ID or something. Nobody found out."



On location: Posing with the National League of Cities trophy are, back row from left, Farmington Hills Councilwoman Nancy Bates, Police Chief Bill Dwyer, Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi, City Manager Daniel Hobbs and Sgt. Tim Connor. Seated from left are Officer Mark Mostek, Councilwoman Vicki Barnett and Sgt. Craig Summers.

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"This is not just a feel good thing," said City Manager Daniel Hobbs, who attended the awards presentation. "Statistically, we know crime has decreased in the community."

Another benefit of community and police effort might not be

felt for another generation.

Community policing was started three years ago with programs involving officers working with children. THINK, school liaison and bicycle patrol are some of the ways police are interacting with youth on a daily basis.

As a result, kids are looking at officers in a different light, Councilman Jerry Ellis said.

"They enjoy being around them; they seem to be bonding," Ellis said. "They seem to be recognizing officers as their friends."

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just irate ... Forty-three minutes, how can you teach anything in that?" She did say that the district as a whole is "outstanding."

North principal Deborah Clarke could not be reached for comment.

Another high school parent is Priscilla Brouillette, secretary for the Farmington Board of Education.

Brouillette said she chose for her ninth-grade daughter to attend FHS this year because of the block scheduling - which was implemented in 1995-96. Farmington High was recently named a state exemplary school, in part because of the teaching initiatives that have developed because of block scheduling.

Those include multi-subject courses such as Principles of Engineering; Learning Through Interdisciplinary Knowledge, LINK; and Publications and Processes.

"It's a challenging way to teach," Brouillette said. "It's a new way of doing things. But we think it allows them to deliver the kind of education we want our children to have."

Although she hasn't received calls at home from parents about the North and Harrison decisions, Brouillette said she "had the general sense that people were disappointed" about it.

Block scheduling allows sessions of more than 80 minutes, enabling teachers extra instructional flexibility and students additional time to grasp material.

"As a board member, I was disappointed to (learn) that North and Harrison turned it down,"

Brouillette said. "But I don't think it's a permanent decision. I think it will eventually happen."

Farmington Schools Superintendent Bob Maxfield said two-thirds approval of the switch is essential. "Everybody has to wholeheartedly embrace it."

People should not jump to conclusions, Maxfield said, that North and Harrison staffs are reluctant to change.

"The goal isn't block scheduling," Maxfield said. "The goal is to continue to make sure our high school programs are effective" and that all teachers strive to attain the district mission statement.

According to Maxfield, some teachers think block scheduling is better. Others, like foreign language instructors, believe they need to see students every day, even if for shorter class periods than block scheduling would provide.

Maxfield also insisted that going to longer sessions in and of itself did not guarantee more innovative teaching would immediately follow.

"It requires a leap of faith, believing that 84- or 90-minute classes are better," he said. "But there's nothing magical about it if you don't change the way you do business."

"What I can very confidently say is we're on the track to achieving that vision, Farmington High, for whatever reason, got there earlier and was able to embrace block scheduling."

Maxfield emphasized that creative teaching is in place at all three high schools, regardless of the length of classes.

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