last year.
"We think

it's an excel-

Funds help cops nab drunken drivers

Farmington Hills police did their part to provide the gift of safe roads during holiday sea-

their part to provide the gitt of safe roads during holiday season."

The department made 104 traffic stops during the first phase of a countywide program to thwart drunken driving and enlores seat belt laws.

Livall, police agencies taking part in the Oakland County Safe & Sober program totaled 537 arrests Dec. 21 through Jan. 10. Of these, 16 were for drunken driving and 120 tickets worst ensued for improper seat belt use. Another enforcement period is saheduled for Momorial Day.

The effort allows police officers to be freed up to strictly watch for drunken driving and seat belt usage. Overtime is paid for through a Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning Grant given to the Traffic Improvement Association of Oakland County.

cers put in 72 hours of OT during the latest enforcement

wave. As a result, Hills police made eight drunk-

coight drunken driving
arrests that otherwise wouldn't
have occurred without the special detail.
"They're being very productive
out there," said Lt. Dennis
Green, Farmington Hills police.
"The goal of the program is to
reduce drunken driving and the
resulting crashes, injuries and
deaths they cause."
Mothers Against Drunk Driving commends the effort.
An average of 45 people are
killed every day due to alcoholrelated traffic crashes, a MADD
spokeswoman said. Farmington
Hills had one alcohol-related

Farming ton Hills officers put in gram is to reduce drunken driving and the resulting crashes, injuries and deaths they cause."

lent pro-gram," said Michele Lt. Dennis Green

Farmington Hills police

Dennis Green Micholo Compton, MADD Oakland County Chaptor administrators and it provides extra money for enforcement.

"It also sends a serious message to the community that law enforcement means business as far as getting drunk drivers off the road."

the road. The idea of using police officers to strictly to be on the lookout for intoxicated motorists is not new. The Oakland County Shoriff's Department has an alcohol enforcement unit and other large departments are seeking money to establish their own.

own.
With a department the size of Farmington Hills, a special

enforcement unit is not feasible, Green said.

"You have to be a large department," Green said. We can't take people off the street and put them on alcohol enforcement only, season take people off the street and put them on alcohol enforcement only.

"Essentially, that's what this grant allows us to do during selective enforcement periods." An officer needs a keen sense to identify a motoriat under the influence, Compton said. For instance, Hills Officer John Markey has been cited by MADD five times (1988, 93, '94, '95 and '96) for his knack for spotting drunks. In 1996 alone, Markey made 35 OUL arrests.

"It's more difficult and time consuming to pick up drunk drivers," said Compton, noting the lengthy procedure involves tests for sebriety, level of alcohol in breath and blood, booking and paperwork.

"If they have these other

m breath and onod, booking and paperwork.

"If they have these other crimes they're going after, it's more difficult to spend time with that."

Wolf leads GOP caucus

Oakland County Commissioner Donn Wolf, who represents Farmington and part of Farmington Hills in the 19th district, was elected by his peers Republican Caucus Chair for 1998, for the third year in a row.

The Board of Commissioners is made up of 18 Republicans and seven Democrats. Most resolutions, board actions and positions come through the Republican Caucus.

"I was very pleased that my fellow Republican commissioners chose me again to chair this key Republican committee. The Caucus is the forum where positions on issues are formulated and difforences are discussed and

resolved. I realize the impor-tance and responsibilities of chairing the caucus and am honored that I was re-elect-ed," Wolf said.

od, Wolf said.

Board Chairman John
McCulloch said Wolf was the
logical choice for this leadership position. He is a strong
Republican that does his
homework, knows the issues
and the personalities involved
in the legislative process. And
he has a good working relationship with the Democrat
board members.

Wolf was also re-elected
chairman of the Oakland
County International Airport
Committee and a member of
the General Government
Committee.

Interim principal takes reins in C'ville

Farmington Observer

Interim principal to
Jan. 23 was James Lancaster's
first day as interim principal of
Clarenceville Middle School.
Lancaster, Clarenceville's
assistant principal of instruction
and personnel, assumed the temporary post following the retirement/resignation of Carl Wagner, who served nine years as the
middle school principal.
Wagner's last day on the job
was Thursday.
The Clarenceville Board of

ONE YEAR IN Qualand Coounty) HOME DELIVERY BERNICE

Education Thursday accepted Wagner's retirement/resignation and put in motion a search to permanently fill the job.

Lancaster, who previously served as middle school principal in another school district, came to Clarenceville four years ago from the Huron Valley School District in Milford.

Clarenceville serves students from Livenia, Redford and Farmington Hills.



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successful.

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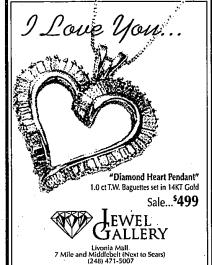
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The Farmington Observer

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