Keen eye, action spell heroics

When something didn't look right to Paul Cassatta, he decided to write down a license plate number. Farmington Hills police said hedd the right thing. Through his simple at of taking down a plate number, police were able to arrest two culprits in numerous air bag thefs in the Farmington Hills area. One this Farmington Hills area. One this finadvertently led authorities to a Detroit business – a hready being monitored – where they found \$1 and we was a hattered and the mindow was shattered when the mindow was shattered and the mindow was shattered was shattered when the mindow was shattered was shattered was shattered when the mindow was shattered was shattered was shattered was shattered when the mindow was shattered cd to write down a license plate number. Farmington Hills police said he did the right thing. Through his simple act of taking down a plate number, police were able to arrest two culprits in numerous air bag thefts in the Farmington Hills area. One thief inadvertently led authorities to a Detroit business – already being monitored – where they found \$1 million worth of stolen auto parts.

million worth of stolen auto parts.
"I've always tried to get involved in whatever I see and try to help whenever I can," said Cassatta, who was honored with a 'Farmington Hills Police Department Civilian Citation June 10. "I guess it's the nature of what I do: To be observant or try to be observant."

As he was pulling into Harrison High's parking lot on Nov. 10, a Ford Escort stuck out. The car wasn't in a parking spot, and someone was waiting behind the wheel.

Suddenly, Cassatta caught a glimpse of a man hunched over

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air bag was missing. Cassatta immediately contact-

Cassatta immediately contacted the police.
With the license plate number,
Farmington Hills police tracked
the suspect to a Westland
address. Investigators contacted
Westland police, who informed
them that a man who lived at
the address was believed to be
involved in several air bag theft
cases.

An hour after the Harrison High broak-ins, Hills police watched as one of the men took the airbags to an auto parts store in Detroit. Police made an arrest and found several air bags that were traced to Hills car bur-

Cassatta's quick actions made all the difference, police said. "You always get the calls two or three days after the fact where you have someone saying, 'I saw someone in the bushes. I I saw someone in the bushes. I saw someone crouched in the bushes.' You're thinking, 'Why didn't they call us?" said Sgt. Tim Swanson of the Farmington Hills Police Department Investigative Burgau

Hills Police Department Investigative Bureau.

"If they've got, a gut feeling that something isn't right or just doesn't bolong, we want them to call us. We welcome those calls."

As Cassatta found later, the liconse plate number gave police all they needed. Detectives asked him to try to identify those involved. 'I really iddn't see the people, so I really couldn't help out much there,' Cassatta said.

A few numbers and lotters is enough to hone in on a perpetrator, Swanson said. Armed with only a license plate number, Hills police solved a murder case few years ago.

This ponce solved it much case a few years ago.

"Sometimes it's difficult to get a visual description of the individual, but a car license plate helps us. It at least leads to



Cited: Paul Cassatta (left) is congratulated by Farn ington Hills police Chief Bill Dwyer.

where the individual lives," Swanson said. "In this case, it pretty much led us to a pretty big operation in Detroit."

During the June 10 ceremony, police Chief Bill Dwyer congratulated the school district employee with a police pin and baseball cap along with the citation.
"It was nice to kind of get a little bit more information as to what it led to," Cassatta said, "and to know it helped."

Top member to drive free



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Hills-based
Weight Watchers Group Inc.
and Buick have
selected Mary
Ellen Fernandez of Dearborn as their
"Member of the
Year."
She was
selected based
on her essay answering the
question: "How has Weight
Watchers changed my life?"
For her effort, Fernandez
was nawrded a two-year lease
on a special edition 25th
Anniversary Buick Regal at
Bill Cook Buick in Farmington
Hills. The presentation was
made by Roger Adams, Buick
Regal branch manager and
Florine Mark, president and
EDO of the Weight Watchers
Group, Inc. Group, Inc.

Financing college
"Funding Your Child's College Education" will be a free seminar presented by A.G. Edwards & Sons, Inc. which

focuses on how to comfortably afford college education costs for your children.
The public seminar will be from 7-8:15 p.m. July 22 and 23 at Nino Mile and Haggerty in Farmington Hills. Reservations are required. Call Scott Woodward at 888-311-0331.

'Stand By Me'

"Stand By Me"

McCabe Funeral Home of Farmington Hills is launching "Stand By Me," a charity drive to assist the Farmington Good-fellows in their ongoing effort to collect necessary household items for needy families. Items such as non-perishable or canned foods, cleaning products such as laundry detergent, floor, window and carpet cleaners, personal care items such as ahampoo, soap, toothpasto and deodorant, and children's items such as diapers and baby wipes will be accepted.

The community is invited to drop off donations between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. at McCabe Funeral Home in Farmington Hills or Canton, now through Thanksgiving.

Birthday from page AI

are the musical providers.

cers need not worry about rousting up a hootenanny of a tummy ache with the after din-

rousting up a hootenanny of a tummy ache with the after din-ner acrobics. "He (caller Jim Tait) starts you off kind of slow," said Sherrie Stewart, who in organizing the Botsford dance. "He provides instructions at first. Ive danced with him before. It's a lot of fun." Iversen Bakery is donating a 25th anniversary cake while Fresh Approach is providing

table decorations. Botsford pro-prietor Creon Smith is providing use of the coach house at the his-toric inn where automaker Henry Ford held many a cele-brated square-dance. History will also be the them of Saturday's ovents at Heritage Park's picnic aren. Former Hills mayor and histo-rian Jean Fox will be the keynote speaker at the ceremony, which honors history contest winners, centenarians and those

residents who have lived in the city the longest. The ceremony runs noon to 1 p.m.

Pomp and ceremony will give way to pony rides and other interactive displays of Farmington Hills' rural past at nearby Spicer House. Exhibits include the production of the property of the production of th

Spicer House. Exhibits include model cars, rope making, historical photos and farm equipment. A musical highlight will be the Farmington Area Philharmonic Orchestra performing at 3:30 pm. in the park.

On Sunday, Hills officials will dedicate the ground-breaking of what will be Memorial Park on the southwest corner of 11 Mile and Middlebelt. The land, which Hospice of Michigan donated to the city, will be a quiet nature

Hespice of Michigan donated to the city, will be a quiet nature area for people to reflect. With everything outdoors, weather is always a worry. Early forecasts predict thunderatorms for this weekend. "We're going to have to work with it," said Sher-rie Stewart. Rain defay date is Sunday Juno 28. Sunday, June 28.

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Hills to honor longtime residents

Congtime residents

Farmington Hills officials will honor 25 longtime residents of the city - and the township before 1973 - during its 25th birthday celebration in Heritage Park Saturday.

Those honored and their number of years as residents include: Leon Marsh, 64 years; Bordel Leon Marsh, 79 years; House Leon Marsh, 94 years; Parsis, 75 years, 16 years, 16 years; Kay Briggs, 78 years, 16 years, 17 years, 18 ye

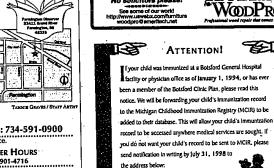
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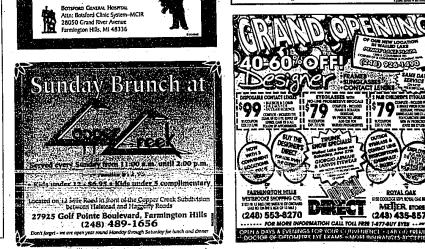
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