

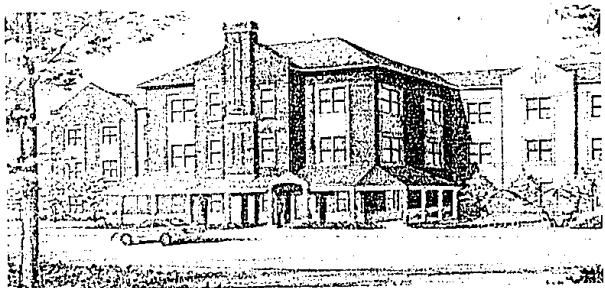


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On the links:
Farmington
Hills Police
Chief William
Dwyer, Red
Wing Darren
McCarthy and
John
Ginopolis of
Ginopolis
restaurant, at
the start of the
annual
Farmington
Hills Police
Benevolent
Association's
golf classic at
the Links of
Novi.

Outing spells success for charity

BY JOANNE MALISZEWSKI
STAFF WRITER

No matter what your job. No matter your age. When you think you have a chance to win something, you're naturally on the edge of your seat.

Imagine some 300 guests - all on the edge of their seats - as weekend packages, sports memorabilia, a Princess of Wales Beanie Baby, golfing trips, jewelry and you name it, were auctioned and raffled.

The cause of all the commotion was worthy. It was the fourth annual Farmington Hills Police Benevolent Association's Golf Classic Sept. 11 at the Links of Novi Golf Club.

"Every year it gets better and better," said 47th District Court Judge Fred Harris, who with John Ginopolis of Ginopolis restaurant, teed-off the outing.

The golf classic was started four years ago following the deaths of Farmington Hills police officers Sgt. Bertie Cook and Gary Bradley, both of whom died of cancer within 11 months of each other.

The benevolent association was created to take care of both officers' families.

"The outpouring of the community is so appreciated by the widows and the foundation," said Farmington Hills Police Chief

■ 'It was a long and worthwhile day.'

William Dwyer
—Police chief

Bill Dwyer. "People can relate to this. Every year since their deaths we've been taking care of their families' medical needs."

And every year, the organizers, volunteers, donors and sponsors are certain the golf classic is a success.

"It was a long and worthwhile day," Dwyer said.

The outing, plus silent and live auction, and raffle drew gross proceeds of \$132,000. "We had over 300 people there. Some we had who just came to the dinner and the auction," Dwyer said.

When bills for the event are paid, proceeds will go to the foundation. In addition to helping the police officers' families, the foundation has donated to the Karmanos Cancer Institute, as well as a number of other charities.

"We feel at this point we are financially stable. Our goal is to first take care of those in need," Dwyer said.

On hand were Cook and Bradley's widows. "Donna and Diane have been at all four of

the outings, showing their appreciation," Dwyer added.

Manning the auction throughout the evening were Dwyer, Harris, Ginopolis, as well as Red Wing Darren McCarthy and Detroit Free Press columnist Bob Talbert, plus plenty of volunteers.

"It is an incredible outing," Judge Harris said. "The work the volunteers do is unbelievable. The facility is outstanding. The club bends over backward to make this a success."

Last year, the association's board of directors expanded its list of people it might help someday to include career sworn firefighters from Farmington Hills, police officers from Franklin and public safety officers in Farmington.

"When a request for help is made, it goes to the foundation board for review," Dwyer said.

The outing had a number of major sponsors who helped contribute to the event's success, including Computware, Jervis B. Webb, G.R. Associates and WisneYoung Restaurant Enterprises.

"Our goal is to take care of needs. We also want to put on one of the finest outings in the county. We try to put on a quality outing because the sponsors are putting up some dollars," Dwyer said.

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