

# Farmington Hills police recognized for stellar work

Farmington Hills Police Chief Bill Dwyer announced the department's Citation and Awards Board has approved several awards for outstanding work.

## Officer Marlin Goblo - Life saving

Officers Mike Fluhart, Kevin Cronin and David Kemp - Unit Citation

On July 28, the Communications Center received a 911 call from a 19-year-old male, requesting that they contact his mother to tell her that he loved her, as he was preparing to commit suicide by jumping off the Grand River overpass, onto I-275. Officers found that the man had climbed over the retaining rail. Goblo spoke with the distraught man, gained his confidence, and with the assistance of Fluhart, Cronin, and Kemp, convinced the man to go with them to Beisford Hospital for treatment. The officers' efforts not only saved the life of a distraught teenager, but also avoided potential tragedy on the expressway, Dwyer said.

## Lt. Dennis Green - Professional Service Award

In December 1997, Green developed an education and enforcement program intended to heighten motorists' awareness of the need to stop for school buses which are boarding and discharging students.

Due to its merit, this program received state grant funds to finance it and provided the basis of state legislation mandating stricter sanctions against violators. This program has been lauded by parents, school officials, the media, traffic improvement associations, and has become a model for programs throughout the state. Green's efforts have brought particular distinction to himself and this department, Dwyer said.

## Sgt. Tim Swanson, Officers Robert Tidderington and Matt Koehn - Citation

On May 11, the body of a 62-year-old male was found in his apartment, the victim of a homicide. The suspect, through his use of the victim's credit cards, was traced to Minnesota. At the request of investigating detectives, from the Minneapolis police officers found, arrested, and returned the man to be charged with first degree and felony murder. The combined efforts Koehn and Tidderington, under the direction and supervision of Sgt. Swanson, resulted in the apprehension of a dangerous felon, and the resolution of a particularly vicious homicide, Dwyer said.

## Officers Mark Mostek and David Kemp - Commendation

On Sept. 3, officers received a roll call bulletin for a suspect wanted on a warrant in Clinton Township for conspiracy to commit murder. Mostek and Kemp kept a Farmington Hills home under surveillance and saw a man who matched the suspect's description leave the residence. The officers stopped the man's vehicle and arrested him without incident. The officers' perseverance and keen observation skills resulted in the apprehension of a dangerous felon, Dwyer said.

## Officer William Maffessoli - Commendation

On Sept. 18, Maffessoli went to a residence on Beacontree to investigate a burglary. Maffessoli's interview of the homeowner and witnesses helped identify two potential suspects. Officers were later dispatched to a different address, and based on Maffessoli's report, determined it to be the address of one of the suspects. The suspect was located in the neighborhood and arrested on felony charges. Followup investigation

resulted in this suspect's confession to the home invasion, and charges of solicitation to murder against the second suspect, who was later identified and apprehended.

## Officer Craig Hurt - Merit Citation

Detective Hurt developed information that a subject in custody, may have also been responsible for a home invasion. Hurt gained the subject's confidence, which resulted in a confession to the home invasion. In further conversations with the suspect, Hurt received information about a woman who was attempting to hire a "hit man" to kill her ex-boyfriend. Hurt spent many hours setting up introductions, verifying the validity of the murder plot, and coordinating the overall investigation. Hurt, who confronted and overcame many investigative obstacles, carried this case to a successful conclusion with the arrest and prosecution of a suspect for solicitation to murder. Hurt's skill and tenacity, during the course of his two-month investigation, brought exceptional recognition to him and the department, Dwyer said.

## Officer Scott Cronin and Officer Michael Cupp of West Bloomfield Township police - Citation

On Sept. 28, Cupp, as part of a SONIC team effort to saturate Orchard Lake Road in response to a series of commercial burglaries, saw a suspicious vehicle cruising the area. Cronin, on a bicycle, responded to assist in the surveillance. Two men inside the vehicle were seen breaking into the rear of a busi-

ness and shortly thereafter, leave with a box containing 175 papers. The suspect's vehicle was stopped and the two males were arrested without incident. Cupp's keen observation skills and Cronin's ability to observe the break-in, resulted in the clearing of a series of commercial burglaries, Dwyer said.

## Officers Eric Buckberry and Brian Bastianelli and Officer Larry Porter, Southfield police - Citation

On Oct. 10, a woman, after robbing the "Parade of Shoes" store of a purse, cash, and shoes, escaped on foot in an unknown direction. As a result of an inter-city broadcast, Porter provided Farmington Hills police with the description of a vehicle wanted for several robberies in Southfield. Bastianelli, based on the provided information, observed and stopped a suspect vehicle. The armed robber was thereby identified, arrested, and the stolen property recovered. Buckberry, in his follow-up investigation, was able to elicit the suspect's confession to several robberies. A consent search of the suspect's apartment, also obtained by Buckberry, resulted in the recovery of evidence from other robberies. The actions in this incident not only reflect positively on the officers involved, but also serve as an outstanding example of inter-agency cooperation.

## Officer Charles Rozum - Citation

On Oct. 13, Rozum, working as part of the SONIC unit, observed a suspicious pick-up truck parked to the rear of a business on Orchard Lake Road. After pulling away, the vehicle was stopped by Rozum and Beerbower. Their investigation determined that the vehicle's two occupants had over the business, stolen tools and building materials, and were fleeing the scene. Both suspects were arrested and the stolen property recovered. Rozum is hereby recognized for diligence displayed in thwarting this crime.

## Officer Mike Ciaramitaro - Citation

On Oct. 14, Ciaramitaro observed a 30-year-old female hitchhiking along Northwestern Highway. Upon investigating, Ciaramitaro discovered the woman had identification that did not belong to her. Before giving her a lift, Ciaramitaro asked to see what was inside her pockets. She emptied all pockets but avoided a coat pocket. When Ciaramitaro asked what was inside, the woman started reaching into it. Fearing for his safety, Ciaramitaro grabbed her hand. A brief scuffle ensued and Ciaramitaro saw a pistol grip sticking out of the coat pocket. With the assistance of another officer, the woman was arrested and charged with carrying a con-

cealed weapon and possession of marijuana.

## Officer John Piggott - Citation

On Nov. 2, Piggott saw a car parked in the Kroger's lot at 11 Mile and Middlebelt with the rear window broken out. The officer found the car had been stolen from Southfield. Piggott watched the car until a man got inside and drove off. Piggott stopped the car and arrested the driver, charging him with receiving and concealing stolen property. Officer Piggott's diligence and observation skills resulted in the arrest of a felon and the recovery of a stolen vehicle, Dwyer said.

## Officer Jeffrey King - Merit Citation

On Nov. 2, the Livonia police broadcast the description of a suspect responsible for an armed robbery that had just occurred in their city. A few minutes later, King saw a man matching this description go up to a woman outside a gas station on Eight Mile and Middlebelt. The woman backed away from the man, who had asked for a ride. King stopped the man, who lied about why he was in the area. King searched the man and found a BB gun. Livonia police arrived and arrested the man. Officer King's alertness resulted not only in the apprehension of a dangerous felon, but prevented the probable victimization of a young female, Dwyer noted.

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