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she was in distress." Courtney's normal breathing sound all of a sudden became raspy, "kind of like a gasping ... a sound that makes the hair on the back of your neck stand up and tell you something isn't right," Susan Pagniello continued.

"He (Andy) pulled into a church parking lot, and I took off my seat belt and jumped into the back. She was blue."

While Andy Pagniello rushed around trying to find a telephone to call 911, Susan Pagniello grabbed Courtney in her arms and attempted mouth-to-mouth breathing. The Pagniellos had

recently completed a course on the resuscitative efforts, as one of the conditions of Courtney's discharge from Huron Valley Hospital - where she was born at full-term on Dec. 7 and had been experiencing some respiratory problems.

Although it seemed to take forever for help to arrive, it really wasn't more than a couple minutes before Madigan and a second officer showed up.

"Officer Jim opened the door and his first words were, 'Oh my God,'" Susan Pagniello said.

Lifesaver

Madigan, who luckily was just

around the corner from the scene when the emergency call came in to dispatchers, immediately realized he would be attempting mouth-to-mouth breathing on a child for only the second time in his career. A similar rescue attempt 20 years ago was not successful.

Also fortunate was that Madigan last month took a recertification course on cardiopulmonary resuscitation; he stressed that only mouth-to-mouth was done on Courtney, and not full CPR (which includes pressing down on the chest).

"This brought back a lot of memories," said Madigan,

adding that Courtney was "completely blue when I got there."

Following some initial breaths, the baby hiccuped and groaned. Such noises were at least a good sign, the officer told the Pagniellos.

Soon, Madigan thought he found a faint pulse on Courtney. "But it's hard to find one anyway in a (28-day-old) baby," he said.

Finally confident enough that the infant was breathing again, Madigan knew he didn't have time to wait for an ambulance. He fishtailed his patrol car down snow-clogged Grand River to hurry Courtney to nearby Botsford, where she was stabilized.

Successful surgery

Courtney was later transferred to Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, where she had surgery Thursday, Jan. 7, to remove a cyst that was blocking her windpipe. The baby came home on Friday, Jan. 8, and is not expected to have any serious, long-term problems because of the lack of oxygen, her mom said.

"It was overwhelming," Madigan said about his deed. "It gives you just a good feeling. It makes a career."

As of Wednesday, however, Susan Pagniello felt she still had some unfinished business to take

care of with Madigan. On Jan. 4, with Courtney safely at Botsford, and the heater-welder experience finally settling down for the parents, it dawned on Pagniello that she never had the chance to say thanks.

"By the time I wanted to say thank you he was gone," she said. "I still want to thank him."

They did speak over the telephone the day after the incident. But a more personal thanks came Thursday, when Madigan paid a special visit to the family. He brought Courtney a teddy bear and got to hold the baby. The Pagniellos gave Madigan something, too. A photo of Courtney, with "1-4-99" - the date Madigan saved her life - written on the back.

"It was absolutely great" that Madigan visited them, Susan said. "I hope we stay in touch. I thanked him again, because he gave us our little girl back."

Hills man wins big in Lottery

Martin Mendelson of Farmington Hills recently won big bucks with the Michigan Lottery's Big Game!

Mendelson matched the first five numbers in the Jan. 8 Big Game drawing to win the \$150,000 prize. That day's winning numbers were: 5, 21, 23, 28, 37 and the Big Money Ball number was 3.

"I was reading the Detroit Free Press on Saturday morning when I saw that I had matched the first five Big Game numbers," he said. "I had my wife double-check the numbers for me and then we called the Lottery's toll-free number (800-822-8888) to check them one more time. We thought for sure it was a mistake. We still can't believe that we really won! It is hard to conceive winning that much money!"

The 61-year-old winner purchased the winning Big Game ticket at Arbor Drugs Inc. 8044, 29555 Orchard Lake Road in Farmington. Mendelson said he plays the same numbers for every drawing. They have special significance to him as they represent his birthday and the birthdays of his three children.


Prior to turning the winning ticket in at Lottery headquarters in Lansing, Mendelson kept it in a special envelope where he keeps all of his Lottery information and tickets. He said he carried the envelope with him at all times just in case there was a fire in his house.

The retired Ford Motor Company engineer said he plans to share his winnings with his family, take his children and wife on a trip and invest the rest.

The hospice volunteer, who enjoys golfing, bowling and playing the stock market in his free time, offered the following words of wisdom to other hopeful Lottery players: "It really can happen to anyone!"

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