

Oh, what a show: Police open house draws thousands



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL KEEBLE

Pull, pull: The Farmington Hills Police beat the Walled Lake Police Department in both tug-of-war pulls at the annual open house last Sunday.

It's a what? Jeff Fox and his son, Adam, check out a talking police car, one of a number of activities available for kids at the annual open house.



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Call it Barnum with a badge: Farmington Hills Police Open House is a spectacle of balloons, bicycles, animal exhibits and feats of strength.

On Sunday, thousands attended the latest event in which police spill up and show off their finest. They didn't leave disappointed.

Along with firearm demonstrations, station tours and dunk tanks, visitors were treated to a show of Herculean strength.

Farmington Hills police squared off against a law enforcement crew comprised of Wixom, Walled Lake and Wolverine Lake authorities in a tug-of-war. Hills police won in a best-of-three.

"The tug of war was cool," said Hills resident Katy Kerch, who brought her two daughters, Kendyl, 1, and Kayla, 3. "The Farmington Hills team looked more prepared. They had the same uniforms and had the chant going."

Authorities use the annual event to sound off about their many community policing programs, which have been recognized nationally.

Parents picked up helpful information on infant car seats, bicycle helmets, child identification and protection from home burglaries.

Kids got their crime prevention tips firsthand from McGruff the Crime Dog.

"Our focus with our community policing programs has been children," Chief Bill Dwyer said. "It has really paid off."

Children have a good time but moms and dads like the event, too.

Kersch liked the station house tour, which includes passing by the jail. Police had a man in lockup, but he wasn't dragging a cup across metal bars. Glass covers the jail front.

"They actually had a guy in there," she said. "Can you imagine being locked up and having

HILLS POLICE

the whole community come in and see you?"

Some visit to get an insight of where they live.

"I'm a fairly new resident here and that's why I attended because I wanted to become more familiar with the community," Relda Cobb said. "I was really impressed."

Cobb particularly enjoyed the dog show, which featured a K-9 unit that sniffs out drugs and other contraband. She also won a bicycle helmet.

"I really had a good time," she said.



Wow: Anne Argiroff and daughter, Helen, pet Josie, a member of Oakland County Sheriff Department's mounted division.



Win: Farmington Hills Police Chief Bill Dwyer offers best wishes to his tug of war team as they head to battle.

(Now, this is worth losing your head over!)



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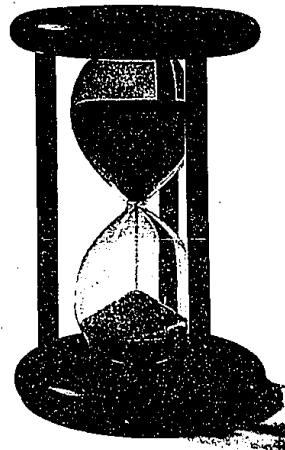
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