## Multi-talented officer is '99 Officer of the Year

By Richard Pearl. Stays Writer speeci@oe.homecom.net

rpest/floe-homecom.net
Saying dos Schofnack means a
lot to the city of Farmington's
Public Safety Department would
be an understatement.
Besides being a police officer
and firefighter – as is everyone
among the 22 full-timers on the
force – the 28-year veteran also
ies.

in;
the city's fire marshal; ■ the city's fire marshal; n the department training officer for fireflighting and emergency medical service; ■ a member of its accident investigation team; ■ a state fire inspector and n one of about nine emergency medical technicians in the department.

medical tecumonal
department.
But he's also something else

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that makes him near and dear to the hearts of these who patrol Farmington's streets, help its sick and injured and fight its firer. Jee Schernack is a cock—and a good one, too.

"Yes, he's been known to bring in a slow-cooker during the hunting season," laughed Gary Goss, Farmington public safety director. "He's cooked up some pretty good meals for us."

Venison? "Yes — when he's lucky," Goss teased Schornack, who hunts and also fishes.
But it is PSO-1 Joseph R. Schornack's dedication to duty and to community that recently garnered him honors as Farmington's 1999 Officer of the Year.

"Often, we recognize individual efforts related to a specific instance," said Goss in honoring the public safety officer at the fire fighting and updating the fire fighting and ganding and updating the fire fighting and gand updating the fighting and gand updating the fighting and gand updating the fire fighting and updating the fighting and updating the fighting and updating the fighting and the seponse, by inspective response, by inspective

"However, we rarely recognize those who work tirelessly day in and day out to improve the asfe-ty and quality of life in our com-munity."
Schornack is such a person,

Schornsck is such a person, Goss said.

No other individual on our department has done more to protect life and property and to guarantee the safety of our community," said the sefety director. Schornack's fire-safety inspections "have taken our code enforcement and fire prevention no new levels never before experienced in our community," said Goss.

Goss.

And Schornack protects his follow officers by regularly training and updating them in both fire fighting and medical response; by inspecting firefighting equipment weekly and by using his extensive knowledge he has bachelor's degrees in both criminal justice and fire science to draw up plans for emergencies.

Schornack's "attention to detail is essential and comforting when we are called to a fire," Goss said.
"We know that the engines

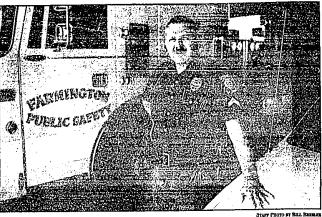
Goss said.

"We know that the engines and equipment will operate when we need them" and department commanders "roly on his extensive knowledge at each fire score," said Goss.

But Behornack also "never for gets that he is a public safety officer," and Goss. "He is there to fill in on the shifts and, as an EMT, an arson investigator and crime scene technician, he is invaluable."

Special tasks

The department also has



Honored: Farmington Public Safety Officer Joe Schornack earned the 1999 Officer of the Year Award recently, He's not only deeply involved in his own job, but he is a part-time firefighter in Farmington Hills, as well.

called on him for special tasks like developing specifications for a new fire truck, improving the city's state-reporting procedures and researching equipment or tochniques "that will improve our department's service to our community," said Goss.

Not surprisingly, Schornack has a law enforcement heritage; besides having a cousin with the Livonia police, his grandfather was a Dotroit cop while one uncle was a Redford Township officer and another was a U.S. Marshal.

"When I was little, I was impressed," Schornack grianed. He would later embark on what he called "continuous education:" a criminal justice degree, then an associate's in fire science and finally the bachelor's.

Memorable events in his career include the airplane that crashed through the roof at the old Farmer Jack's on Farmington Read in the 1970s, but killed no one and caused no fire, and the tornade that tors up West Bloomfield, also in the "70s.

He worked that one as part of a mutual aid agreement between neighboring communities, but he's also a part-time firefighter in Farmington Hills.

"It's been very interesting and challenging," Schornack said, adding "One of the best perks is the different people that you meet.

"I've been doing it almost 28 years. I guess I've met more good people than bad."
Schornack has two stopdaughters with wife Dorie.

## Farmington officers tapped for awards

Police Commandor John F. Coyle, who single-handedly cap-tured an armed robber apparent-ly bent on a robbing spree, has received a departmental com-mendation from the city of Farmington Public Safety

Department.

Coyle was among those honored May 24 at the Farmington Training Center during the annual awards banquet.

Public Safety Officer-1 James P. Madigan received one lifesav-

ing award and shared another with follow officer Frank Demers and Susan Olsen, the daughter of the man whose life they saved. Cayle was on patrol Nov. 5 when the man, armed with a long butcher knife, robbed the

Village Animal Clinic of a vial of the animal anesthetic ketamine, which causes humans to halluci-nate.

whon Coyle, acting alone

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