

The Farmington Observer

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Hall from page A1

Firefighting has helped this Hall emerge from her shell.

During the awards ceremony, Hall also received three lifesaving awards and two unit citations for her work in the past year.

She also helped out on the department's Open House, which earned her a certificate of appreciation.

Fire Chief Rich Marinucci said he's received numerous compliments when Hall's been part of the response crew. While she might not be gregarious personality-wise, she gets the job done, her superiors say.

"I think she's got an internal motivation that makes her want to do well," Marinucci said.

Along with exemplary service, her career has a serendipitous current running through it.

Hall majored in geography and environmental science at Western Michigan University and harbored thoughts of working in the National Parks system. After graduating from college, she returned home. She saw a notice in the Farmington Observer looking for volunteer firefighters.

Hall went to one informational meeting and was hooked.

"I loved it," she said.

After two years as a paid-callback firefighter, she became a full-time member of the department in 1996. She achieved both Firefighter II and Fire Officer II certification.

She also became a state-licensed paramedic, as the department added advance life support

services last year.

Hall works out of Station No. 5 where she's either going on ALS and fire runs or, as she was on Monday afternoon, checking a child car safety seat.

Her career is far removed from her first run five years ago.

"I thought I would be more nervous than I was," she said. "You go there and you get used to it. It's not like you're the only one there either. You work as a team."

On one lifesaving event, Hall and her colleagues worked in tandem with Hills police officers to render aid to Helen Rebb, who went into cardiac arrest.

After police officer Matt Parsons provided CPR, Hall and her partners administered electrical defibrillation en route to the hospital.

As a testament to their work, Helen Rebb attended the department banquet. Her son, Joe, a Hills police sergeant, emotionally thanked firefighters and his colleagues who saved his mother's life.

Hall could relate. Her mother, Janice, died 10 years ago of heart failure.

As a result, she said she feared she'd be reticent on her first CPR run. "It was fine," she said.

While some people grumble about going to work every day, Hall can't wait to start.

"You do something different everyday," Hall said. "You don't know what to expect and people appreciate it."



Life saver: Hall has five life-saving awards, including three in the past year.

MEAP from page A1

son High School senior Jeffrey, said she's not against a state proficiency examination. The problem, she said, is "sometimes the test is not keyed to the curriculum covered at high school. Sometimes the subject matter is something they just haven't learned."

That means students such as her son, who has a 4.0 grade point average, is a classical pianist and is active in the community - students "who have helped the school district look good," she said - may possibly be risking their futures by taking the MEAP.

"You can't argue with their skipping the test, she said. "Why jeopardize everything?"

As for the MEAP, Grossman said "students should want to show they have achieved a level

of proficiency.

■ 'It's really a good, common-sense, straightforward approach to unraveling a thorny problem,'

Bob Maxfield

-Farmington Public Schools superintendent

"The MEAP seal on the diploma should mean something."

But "we should make it so (taking the MEAP) wouldn't be a risk," she said.

Grossman favors MEAP study guides for students similar to those available to them for college boards and other such tests.

At present, poor MEAP participation - said to be well below average - and the low showings of some districts are dragging down the state's overall level of educational accomplishment.

But skipping the test can be costly to students: It makes them unable to qualify for the \$2,500 Michigan Merit Awards given those who perform well on the MEAP and plan to get their higher education or training in-state.

Maxfield said Raczkowski's bills "must be reported out of committee and onto the House floor for action soon if they are to have an effect this school year."

Compromise needed

A compromise with similar

legislation from the state Senate will be needed before anything can be sent to Gov. John Engler for signing into law, the superintendent said.

"They hope to get it to the governor before the holidays," Maxfield said.

"If it drags out until February or March, people are going to have certain concerns."

The MEAP tests are usually taken in late April or early May.

Marlene Krochmal was the other parent addressing the committee. Also present to support the legislation, but not addressing the State Education Committee, were Farmington school board members Linda Enberg and Gary Sharp.

Maxfield said Farmington was the only district represented.

Bush from page A1

among them, several conversations with Detroit Mayor Dennis Archer and the chance to visit his home.

Bush, first elected to the council in November 1993 and re-elected in 1997, says the council "is the finest it's ever been, a great team council."

"And we have a lot of exciting things happening," including the redevelopment of the Civic Theater and the new projects for the Warner Museum.

The expansion of such as H. R. Krueger Machine Tool and Jack Denner Ford and "all the new businesses we've gotten" also are "exciting."

Bush says "all the components have" come together "to make Farmington a better place to live and a better place to work."

Disappointments?
"We haven't done more cable programs," she says.

"Farmington 15 (the city cable channel) just has to get more busy and do more cable programs."

The cable channel is "a great way to bring the residents up-to-date on new businesses, get them better acquainted with the community."

She takes a lot of the blame "because I didn't get out there and get the shows done."

She hopes she, the new mayor and the council will do better.

She doesn't, however, "see a need for televising city council meetings."

"The citizens are not asking for it, it's expensive and we don't need to spend the money for it."

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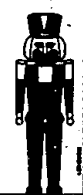
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