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**Presentation:** Above left, Sue Rosiek, Observer Newspapers publisher, gives Jim Dickinson, vice president of LOC Federal Credit Union, the annual Good Partnership Award, and Joanne Maliszewski, editor of the Farmington Observer, presents Jim Stark, owner of the Northwest Gazette, with the annual Good Partner Award at a chamber dinner.

## And the winners are ...

### Gazette's Stark and LOC's VP honored by chamber members

BY JOANNE MALISZEWSKI  
STAFF WRITER  
jmaliszewski@poe.homescom.net

Jim Stark, owner and editor of the Northwest Gazette, and the Livingston Oakland Credit Union have something in common - involvement in the Farmington/Farmington Hills community and chamber of commerce.

And both were honored at the 36th Annual Dinner and 1999 Partners in Progress Awards, hosted by the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce and the Farmington Observer Nov. 17 at Fusion.

The evening also featured Oakland County Sheriff Michael Bouchard as guest speaker and well wishes to outgoing chamber board chairman Barry Melamed. "You don't follow (late county sheriff) John Nichols. You take a different path," Bouchard told chamber members and guests. "I will never be or try to be John Nichols."

Bouchard talked about the county's Boot Camp for young people, as well as efforts with the county commission to bill jail inmates.

"I feel it's appropriate people convicted and sentenced to jail should pay the costs," Bouchard said.

The sheriff said he has talked with Farmington Hills Police Chief Bill Dwyer and Farmington Public Safety Director Gary Goss about law enforcement needs, including a canine division, special investigations, such as Internet crimes, and a motorcycle division.

Bouchard added that he is interested in creating an aviation unit, based on partnerships with others, such as corporations.

"I'm a good mooch. What can I tell you?" Bouchard said.

Stark was presented with the 1999 Good Partner Award for his involvement in the community and his work with the chamber of commerce.

"This year's recipient has been an avid supporter of the community, bringing a sense of community spirit and enthusiasm to the general public through the production of his newspaper, The Northwest Gazette," said Joanne Maliszewski, editor of the Farmington Observer, which earned the Good Partner Award in 1998.

"... He has shown tremendous dedication to the Farmington



**Update:** Oakland County Sheriff Michael Bouchard was the night's guest speaker.

and Farmington Hills communities, serving on a multitude of

community coalitions including the Multicultural/Multiracial Council, Longacre House Board of Directors, and the Call to Action Committee to only name a few," Maliszewski said.

Stark has been a member of the chamber for seven years during which he has served on the chamber's board of directors, and played an instrumental role in the start-up of Farmington Area Founders Festival Inc., which oversees the production of the annual community festival.

Stark thanked his wife, Janet, and called her "definitely the

support behind me."

Through the chamber, Stark said, he has met many people who, like him, believe in partnerships. "Thank you for making me so welcome in Farmington and Farmington Hills."

Jim Dickinson, vice president of LOC, accepted the 1999 Good Partnership Award for the credit union.

A 15-year member of the chamber, LOC through the years "consistently supported our communities by bringing a valuable service to business and residents. Their approach has been

to be the best in customer service industrywide," said Sue Rosiek, Observer Newspapers publisher, who presented the award.

LOC has long supported the chamber as a sponsor for events such as the Fantasy Raffle, Annual Golf Outing, 35th Anniversary Gala and the Taste of Farmington & Business Expo.

LOC was lauded for its continued support of the Farmington Public Schools in their efforts to educate local youths about basic living skills.

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