

Why?

If there's an accident, reconstruction expert finds the reason



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL DRESLER

Search: Police officer Mike Ciaramitaro takes measurements from a wrecked car to help him determine the speed at the time of impact.

By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER
loconnor@oe.homecomm.net

T Mike Ciaramitaro, accidents don't just happen. They're crashes and they happen for a reason.

The Farmington Hills officer is one of the few accredited accident reconstruction experts who can find out the why in traffic collisions.

After the wreckage has long been moved, he's there measuring skid marks, taking photos and examining the angles of impact. He'll go on to figure out the speed of the vehicles involved, their direction, weather and other factors that cause serious crashes.

Unlike the pawkers that typically turn up at traffic crashes, Ciaramitaro admits the technical aspect of his work causes observers' eyes to glaze over. His bosses view his talents as extremely vital, though.

"When you have things like the Red Wings accident and the

'Math wasn't much fun then, but it's fun now with the computers. Now I know why story problems were so important'

Mike Ciaramitaro
—Reconstruction expert

Princess Dianna accident, the public turns its attention to the importance of accident investigation," said Assistant Chief Marty Bledsoe. "You can have anywhere from six to eight traffic fatalities a year. If we had that number of murders, people would be up in arms.

"When you have a traffic death, you still have a loss of life and you have to find out who is responsible. That's an important thing for us to get right."

He uses complex physics in his everyday work. Ironically, Ciaramitaro hated math in high school.

ramitaro hated math in high school.

"Math wasn't much fun then, but it's fun now with the computers," said Ciaramitaro, who is a Warren Lincoln High graduate. "Now I know why story problems were so important."

Crash investigations have grown to include tools such as computers and digital video cameras. With all the new technology, though, Ciaramitaro still relies on instinct.

He cited a case two years ago where a woman was killed while riding her bicycle on Freedom and Drake.

Through subsequent investigation, Hills police were able to determine her bike was partially in the road when she was hit. The key piece of evidence turned out to be a skid mark — not from the vehicle involved but her bicycle.

"That investigation came down to a matter of inches," Ciaramitaro said.

Please see WHY, A10

For Boss's Week...

October 12th-16th
A DELICIOUSLY UNIQUE WAY TO SHOW YOUR APPRECIATION!

Kies by Design®
Established in 1992

LOCAL DELIVERY WE SHIP ANYWHERE Mon-Fri, 9-6 Sat 9-3

Don't Forget SWEETEST DAY! October 17

- Cookie Bouquets
- Specialty Baskets
- Cookies On a Stick
- Cookies in a Mug
- Gourmet Cookie Basket
- Balloons

Say It With Cookies®

South Hill Plaza
922 S. Rochester Rd.
Bloomfield Hills
(248) 656-3005
FAX 656-2906

33250 West 14 Mile Rd.
West Bloomfield
(248) 539-4029

©1998 MOW Group, Inc. All Rights Reserved

Eyeglass specials for YOUR FAMILY.

For the Kids
Your choice of any kids' frame with impact-resistant lenses, plus breakage protection on frame and lenses. **SAVE UP TO 73%**

For the Young Adult
Single-vision prescription with your choice of any frame and scratch-resistant plastic lenses. **SAVE UP TO 140%**

For the Active Adult
Your choice of any frame with Ultralight lenses, plus no-line bifocals at no extra charge. **SAVE UP TO 125%**

Eye exams available by independent Doctors of Optometry

\$119 Kids' Eyeglasses
Save \$10 off our low \$129 price with this coupon!

\$99 Eyeglasses

\$149 Eyeglasses

OPTICAL
Local in Montgomery Ward

Beautiful Tiffany Lighting sale

The decor in your home is an expression of your good taste and style. Quoizel has the diversity you need to express yourself in so many creative ways.

Come in today and see the hand-crafted quality that has set the industry standard for over 65 years.

10% off
—our—
40%-50%
already discounted prices
Sale 10 Days Only

QUOIZEL
COLLECTIBLES

Lighting Fixtures, Lamps, Ceiling Fans, Mirrors, Art Work, Clocks for Every Decor

BROSE ELECTRICAL
Mon., Tues., Wed., Sat. 9:30-6:00
Thurs., Fri. 9:30-6:00

37400 W. Seven Mile Road • Livonia, MI 48152 • (734) 464-2211

Pools & Spas A Go-Go
INVENTORY CLEARANCE SALE

Coleman & Spas
Now you can relax!

JOURNEY SPA

- LIGHTWEIGHT
- PORTABLE
- 4 PERSON CAPACITY
- 2 SPEED PUMP
- DIGITAL THERMOSTAT CONTROLS
- STAINLESS STEEL HEATER
- DIGITAL TEMPERATURE CONTROL
- MINI THERAPY SEAT
- SPA SIZE: 72" DIAMETER X 29"
- LOCKING VINYL COVER
- WEIGHT - 195 POUNDS EMPTY

was \$3,089
now only \$2799

SIMILAR SAVINGS ON ALL OTHER SPAS

CALIFORNIA COOPERAGE SPA

- STAINLESS STEEL HEATER
- DIGITAL THERMOSTAT CONTROLS
- DIGITAL TEMPERATURE CONTROL
- 19 POWERWORKS JETS
- 2 SPEED POWERWORKS PUMP
- 5 PERSON CAPACITY
- 1 MOLDED LOUNGE SEAT
- SPA SIZE: 73" X 83" X 34"
- THERMO-LOCK INSULATION
- DELUXE LOCKING VINYL COVER
- 100% TOP LOADING FILTRATION

was \$4,389
now only \$3899

SIMILAR SAVINGS ON ALL OTHER SPAS

MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY
11 AM - 7 PM
SATURDAY
11 AM - 4 PM
SUNDAY
12 PM - 3 PM
CLOSED OCTOBER 13, 14 & 15

FINANCING AVAILABLE
SALE ENDS OCTOBER 10

POOLS & SPAS A GO GO
VISIT OUR VIRTUAL SHOWROOM @
WWW.POOLANDSPASAGOGO.COM

ROCHESTER HILLS
3100 S. ROCHESTER
248. 652. 8800

BERKLEY
2750 WEST 12 MILE
248. 386. 4577

OTTICA
48270 VAN DYKE
616. 736. 5332