Humidity doesn't dampen spirit of annual Hills police Open House

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The heat wasn't all that made 6-year-old Ricky Correll a little uncomfortable at the Farmington Hills Police Department Open House celebration Sunday. Ricky looked a little intimidated by the prospect of having to tell an omergency dispatcher where he lived and what he could see in the picture in front of him. He was still able to smile after he hung up, then went on to enjoy the games and amusements available all afternoon. Even though Ricky couldn't remember his street address on the spot. Dispatcher Leslie Amato assured his mother, Colleen, "Wo have enhanced 911, so well know where he is, even if he can't tell us."

The Corrells have worked with Ricky a little on using 911, and Colleen said the Open House display was definitely helpful. They were among hundreds of families who took away safety tips and other helpful information from the 14th annual event.

Parents and children toured a Farmington Public Schools bus, which was set up with orange traffic cones to designate the danger zones around it. Transportation Director Bill Tousley

said the display reinforces what children learn during the school

said the display reinforces what children learn during the school year.

"Our drivers are really good about keeping kids out of the danger zones." Tousley said. This is so they got a visual idea about where they should be on the bus."

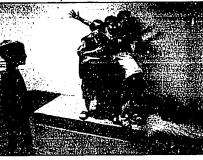
Sitting in the driver's seat also gove kids a look at the danger zone a different engle. The afternoon brimmed with opportunities like that, from a chance to help hold onto a spraying fire hose to a bird's eye view of the firearms training required of Hills police officers.

"This is just a great event," said Police Chief Bill Dwyer. "In 14 years, we've never been rained out."

Along with taping the department's cable show from in front of the department's mobile command center, Dwyer enceed the tug of war, an annual competition between the Hills and Walled Lake police departments. The officers involved take the event preity seriously, enough to train for it.

"We hold practices on our own time," said team member Stacy Vanibeter.

"We do regular weight training, and then get together as a group and the off on a tree to



Don't pass go: Posing in the Farmington Hills jail were (left, then clockwise) Sean Baranik, Chad Baranik, Justin Marcus, Erin Maly and Meghan Marcus.

While the team remained clear about their objective – successfully defending the tilt they wen last year – the rivalry with Walled Lake is a friendly one.

"There is really no rivalry," said Sgt. Gary Mailloux. "It's truly for fun and compotition."

248-853-2773



Hello: Kids were able to have one-on-one conversations with a police car.



help: Jere-my Bid-dle, 23, helps his mom, Ter-rie, with a 17-pound-ballistics west Bidvest. Biddle was starting the cadet

program with Farming ton Hills police this week.



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