

Luncheon honors PD volunteers

BY PAUL R. PACE
STAFF WRITER
pace@homecomm.net

Volunteers who help the Farmington Hills Police Department run smoothly were honored Thursday at city hall.

Since 1985, 3,536 hours have been devoted by volunteers for the Farmington Hills Police Department, said Juliet McGlinch, crime prevention technician. Helping out with clerical duties and keeping handicap parking spaces free of violators is all in a day's work.

City Manager Steve Brock said at the ceremony that while news reports indicate donations to charities are in decline this holiday, volunteerism is actually up.

"You're an example of that spirit," he said. Speaking on behalf of the city council, Councilman Barry Brickner said, "Thank you for all your hard work you do for the city. This is a perfect example of what citizen involvement can do."

Police Chief William Dwyer said, "Without you we wouldn't be the department we are. Your support makes it run like it does."

Councilwoman Vicki Barnett pointed out that every year volunteers return because they like the work.

"We thank you for every moment, because you do wonderful work," she said.

Farmington Hills resident Fran Manning has been helping the police department with various clerical duties for 15 years.

"I work in crime prevention," she said. "I like mixing with the younger people and being part of the city's operation."

She said she works Friday afternoons and has developed great friendships in the department.

McGlinch said the police have 26 volunteers who work Monday through Friday.

Novi resident Jerry Connor also helps with clerical duties in the detective bureau. His son, Tim Connor, is a Hills Police lieutenant.

Jerry started volunteering with the city after his retirement from Ameritech in 1989.

"It gets me out of the house and makes you feel good," he said. "It's a nice group of people and it's interesting what you learn."

Lt. Gary Hawald, who heads the traffic division, helps coordinate the volunteers who check on handicap parking violators.

The volunteers are authorized to issue tickets and give warnings. And sometimes they even go to court to testify if a violator challenges a ticket, Hawald said.

The volunteer program has opened up a new level of community involvement for the officers, he pointed out.

"It allows for more people the department gets to meet," he said.

At the ceremony, volunteers were treated to a lunch and music by the Silver Springs Dulcimer Society, and each person was given a gift.



Working the crowd: Police Chief Bill Dwyer, city council member Barry Brickner and crime prevention specialist Juliet McGlinch thank police department volunteers Bob Russman, Raymond Haefner and Stanley Leeman.



String serenade: Marie Naster plays the lap dulcimer for the Silver Strings Musical Society. The society entertained the police department volunteers.

Rios to address terrorist attacks

At the invitation of The West Oakland Watershed Greens (WOW), Green Party representative Anita Rios has been invited to speak by at 7 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 17, at the West Bloomfield Library, 4600 Walnut Lake Road.

Rios will discuss the Green Party's view of the terrorist attacks and the United States government's response in Afghanistan.

In an article entitled "Greens Condemn Violent Attacks," Rios wrote: "The Green Party opposes the use of violence for political ends, whether by government forces, by independent organizations, or by individuals... whoever and whatever group is behind today's attacks has earned the revulsion and condemnation of the world, and has set back whatever cause they hoped to advance. We stand with all Americans, and with all the peaceful people in the world, and grieve."

In addition, the Green Party urges President Bush to con-

demn the harassment of Muslims and Arabs in the U.S. "Our message is that, in our grief, we must not lash out at innocent people," said Rios.

A daughter of migrant workers, a social worker by profession, and an activist in the Service Employees International Union, Rios was recently elected as national co-chairman to the Green Party. She lives in Toledo, Ohio. She can be reached at arios@gs-us.org.

WOW was founded this past year as an outgrowth of the 2000 elections. Some community activities include participation in the Martin Luther King March at West Bloomfield High School in January and the Rouge River clean up in June.

The group meets at the West Bloomfield library the second Monday of every month between 7-9 p.m.

Contact Deborah Alkamano at dalkamano@hfc.net (248)707-1073 for more information on this event.

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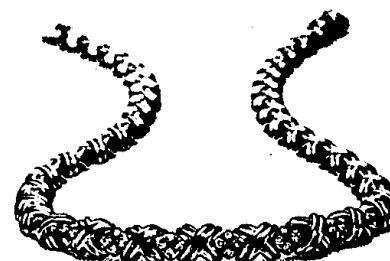
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