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comes to public service, Gallison's grandfather was a Detroit police officer; his father had applied to become a firefighter, but failed the eye test.

After moving to Farmington Hills, Gallison started looking around for somewhere to use his new-found talent. Unfamiliar with the area - "The closest I ever came to Farmington Hills was 12 Oaks Mall" - he stopped at a gas station and asked where the nearest fire department was.

The attendant directed him to Station 4 on Drake Road, where he started work as a paid, on-call firefighter in 1994.

Gallison was hired as a career firefighter in April, 1998 and is now assigned to headquarters at Station 5, 11 Mile and Orchard Lake Roads. He's stuck with this line of work in part because of the action and doing something new every day.

But he said there's another reason he enjoys being a firefighter.

"I just like helping people," he said.

That shows in his work. When the awards team reviewed his file, Marinucci said, they found more than 16 letters of appreciation from people in the community.

"They came from a wide variety of people for different activities," Marinucci said. "In those letters, he has been called an 'angel.' He received a letter from another fire fighter in another city who was extremely complimentary, and he received a letter from a person who usually is not quite so complimentary regarding city services."

Since being hired, Gallison has continued his education, earning

Monday ceremony honors officer

Dan Rodriguez is the Farmington Hills 2001 Police Officer of the Year.

He will be honored at an awards ceremony 5:30 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 14, at the Costick Activities Center on 11 Mile, just east of Middlebelt. Chief William Dwyer will be presenting the award before city officials and the general public.

a Fire Officer II Certificate and paramedic license in 1997. He has been a member of the department's award-winning extrication team for three years, Marinucci said.

Among his "in-house" activities, Gallison works with the Safety Committee to find new gear that will improve firefighter safety and assists with training the Rapid Intervention Team. Gallison has received five Life Saving Awards.

"Brian has had a positive impact on our Department and is a very deserving of this award," Marinucci said.

Other awards

Career Firefighter of the Year: Jim Etnin; Station Members of the Year (voted by their peers): #1-Lt. Dave Moriarty, #2-Ray Pulkik, #3-John Dresden, #4-Tim Siegrist; Recruit Firefighter of the Year (selected by training officer Lt. Tom Shurtlett): Mike Schults

Plans from page A1

said Hills Police Commander Patrick Browne. "It's critical to have plans in place to prevent situations," Browne said.

Posthumus also wants students to be vigilant in reporting suspicious or dangerous behavior in or around school. Last year, the Michigan State Police established the School Violence Hotline to provide a way for students to anonymously report specific threats of imminent violence or other suspicious or criminal conduct.

The toll-free hotline operates 24 hours a day, every day. The number is 1-800-815-TIPS.

"In nearly every situation of school violence, someone knew a crime was going to take place but never reported it," Posthumus said. "I'm urging any student or parent who suspects possible school violence to communicate and tell someone before a crime can take place. We all play an important role in keeping Michigan schools safe."

Posthumus called the tip line an early success. It is being credited with preventing a teen's suicide after another student called with a concern. Local police contacted school officials.

"In that process, it was learned that the student had obtained materials to commit suicide," Posthumus said.

In July 1999, Gov. John Engler signed into law Public



Play action: Fourth grade students Samantha Rice, Davey Hicks, Sydney Gort and Michael Storay presented a skit that explained how peer mediation might settle a playground confrontation. Dick Posthumus observes the action.

Act 102, a measure to ensure that all schools have a plan in place to deal with emergencies. In the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks in New York and Washington, Posthumus urged all schools to have an up-to-date safety plan.

Posthumus also urged school officials to visit www.michigan.gov/tgov and the link to "School Safety."

"There are three main things that every school in Michigan can do to be a safe school," Posthumus said. "First, you've got to have a plan. The second is practice, practice and more practice. And third, communication between teachers, students, par-

ents and law enforcement is key."

A state report showed that four out of every 10 Michigan schools either do not have a school safety plan or have failed to notify the state that they have a safety plan in place. "We're trying to reach them," Posthumus said.

District concerned about reporting safety plan

BY SUE BRUCE
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The Farmington Hills district was one of many in the state who had concerns about a computerized report on school safety requested by the state Department of Education last year.

Some school districts discovered problems with the lengthy, 120-question form according to Pam Leonard, a county-wide consultant on school safety.

"There were a lot of problems with it," Leonard said. "It was complicated. The directions came out late. It was a huge report. One piece of the data was do you have a (security) plan. It wasn't, 'Send us a plan.'"

State officials know Farmington Hills had a security plan in place and later were told of with the questionnaire, Leonard said.

"I know that Farmington has a plan that is very community-oriented," Leonard said.

The district approached the electronic questionnaire cautiously.

"Some of the districts had concerns about doing much reporting over the wire, over the computer," said Estraneo Michaelson, director of safe schools and student services. "We were one who did not report."

The district's concerns included maintaining confidentiality

and compromising security.

"What would you request?" asked Lt. Gov. Dick Posthumus at Lanigan Elementary, during his visit there Thursday.

"Hard copy," Michaelson said. "We don't care how they get there," Posthumus said. "The schools who haven't reported will be contacted."

Confidentiality was an issue with many of the schools, said Sue Zurvalec, assistant superintendent of staff and community services. She wondered whether even a hard copy would be secure.

"The report asked if you had a plan," Zurvalec said. "You did not have to submit an electronic

copy of the plan. Confidentiality of all the information reported statewide is an issue with many of the schools."

Posthumus said he'd research the confidentiality issue. After Posthumus' visit, Michaelson said she is further concerned about reporting safety and discipline issues over the world wide web.

"Anybody can access it," she said. "I can understand public record, but anything can be taken out of context."

Thinking through the consequences of any action is a must, Michaelson said. "You need to think, 'What if, what if, what if, in every situation.'"

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