

Haro honored by Optimist Club

BY PAUL R. PACE
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Farmington Hills Police Officer Marc Haro has been named the 2001 Optimist Club Police Officer of the Year.

He was honored Wednesday at Ginopolis restaurant in Farmington Hills.

Haro joined the department in 1996 and is assigned to the uniform patrol division. Prior to that he was a Detroit police officer for about four years, where he earned seven meritorious citations.

In his Farmington Hills career he has earned three citations and a chief's citation.

Haro, 29, said he was surprised by the most recent honor. The soft-spoken officer said he likes working for Farmington Hills because everyone in the police department is hard-working.

"It's very professional organization," he said.

He and his wife Lisa have

three children.

Haro got into police work following in the footsteps of his father who was a lieutenant at the Detroit Police Department.

The officer is pursuing a bachelor's degree in criminal justice administration at Concordia College.

He said he hopes to move up in the department. Some of Haro's accomplishments noted by Police Chief William Dwyer:

■ In December 2000, Haro pulled over a vehicle whose driver hadn't turned on its headlights. Earlier, officers were dispatched to two nearby businesses that had their windows broken to gain entry. No information on the suspects was available when police got to the scene. In the car Haro pulled over, though, he noticed a wad of money on the suspect and glass fragments in the vehicle. Further questioning determined the driver was responsible for both crimes.



Top Op Cops: The Farmington/Farmington Hills Optimists Breakfast Club gave Officer of the Year honors to Farmington Public Safety Commander Robert Schulz and Farmington Hills Officer Marc Haro.

■ In January 2001, Haro stopped a vehicle for not having brake lights. The driver of that car admitted his license was suspended.

When the driver was searched, a loaded semi-automatic pistol was found in his pocket. The driver was arrested and charged.

■ On another January night after 2 a.m., Haro stopped a vehicle for defective tail lights. While interviewing the driver, Haro noticed the barrel of a handgun protruding from underneath a blanket on the floor of the vehicle between the front seats.

The vehicle's occupants were removed and questioned as to why they had the weapon. They responded, "We're just looking to have some fun." Further examination revealed that the semi-automatic pistol was loaded and ready to fire.

AAA offers teen driving course

To help parents and teens meet the requirements of Michigan's graduated licensing law, AAA Michigan will sponsor a Teen Driver Forum at 6 p.m. Wednesday, May 15, at the Auto Club's Farmington Hills branch, 38761 W. 12 Mile Road.

The forum will include elements of AAA Michigan's step-by-step handbook and video titled, *Teaching Your Teens to Drive*. This instructional material will help parents and teens meet their practice driving requirements. The video and handbook also contain key segments considered crucial for passing the Secretary of State administered road test.

To make reservations, contact the AAA Michigan Farmington Hills branch at (248) 653-3700. Seating is limited.

FHS seeks can donations

On Saturday, May 11, Farmington High School instrumental music students will be canvassing local neighborhoods for donations of deposit bottles and cans. All proceeds go to support Farmington High School instrumental music programs.

35th Infantry reunion slated

Reunion of World War II veterans from the 35th Infantry Division will be noon Thursday, May 16 at Rhaphody Hungarian Inn, Southgate. Call Bill Craft at (248) 347-2864 for reservations. The 35th Infantry Division took part in the Omaha Beach Invasion at Normandy and also at the Battle of the Bulge. Cost for luncheon is \$16 per person.

Schulz honored for expertise, training skills

BY SUE BUCK
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Farmington Officer of the Year Robert Schulz was honored recently during a special awards ceremony at Farmington City Hall.

Schulz registered surprise afterwards that he was selected. He said he hadn't been part of any major arrests or incidents last year.

Instead, he was honored for his expertise and training skills, which were called invaluable to the Farmington Public Safety Department and to the community. He has also been recognized as this year's Farmington Optimist Club Officer of the Year.

"Commander Schulz has excelled in many areas, however,

the two most important have been firefighting and firearms training," said Farmington Public Safety Director Gary Goss. "Since Sept. 11, these two areas have become critical and the department has once again called upon Commander Schulz to lead the way."

Schulz coordinated the purchase of new equipment to raise the department's ability to respond to biological or chemical hazards, as well as tactical situations. He has played a large part in the development of a rapid intervention strategy and will be providing training to all FPS officers in the near future, Goss pointed out.

The rapid intervention strategy was developed since the Columbine incident, Schulz said. "It's a different train of thought," he said. "Rather than

sitting back and waiting for a special response team to arrive, officers arriving first on the scene will have to take some type of intervention to prevent further harm."

He's working with Farmington Hills Police Department to coordinate joint training exercises. "We're dissimilar in size but not in what we are able to do," Schulz said. "It will take a certain number of officers so close agencies will have to work in conjunction with each other."

Times change

Schulz recalled how things have changed since he became a public safety officer 15 years ago. New officers go through 18 weeks of training now, compared with two weeks when he first came to Farmington.

Since that time, Schulz has

received a Life Saving Award, the Professional Excellence Award, a Department Commendation, a Unit Commendation and he was Officer of the Year twice before in 1988 and 1993.

"During 1990 and 1991, he served the department as a detective, distinguishing himself through his evidence technician's abilities," Goss said.

Schulz was promoted to Commander on April 28, 1997. He took over the department's firearms training program in October 1998.

"During 1994, the department purchased new sidearms that were substantially different from the old ones," Goss said. "Then PSO-1 Schulz helped to train our department with these new

weapons. Also during this time he was a member of the Farmington Hills Emergency Response Team and a Field Training Officer."

Schulz grew up in Saginaw. He worked for the Mount Pleasant Police Department before hiring on in Farmington.

Schulz and his wife Elizabeth, who works in computer technology and its integration, have three children: Zachary, 9, Brandon, 7, and Megan, 5.

"My leisure activities have changed since I got older," Schulz said. "I spend a lot of time with the boys with baseball and soccer."

He also enjoys fishing and hunting.

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