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Farmington Observer

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FARMINGTON PUBLIC SAFETY AWARDS

DEPARTMENT UNIT CITATION

Officers Richard Honnessy, Terry Purves, Scott Herman, Cmdr. Robert Schulz and Dispatcher Danielle Weber. Officer Honnessy had just gotten off work and was in his own vehicle on Saturday, Dec. 1, 2001, when he spotted two people stealing tires from an outside display rack at the Firestone dealer on Farmington Road. The youths, who were 17 and 18 years old, fled the scene in a Ford Ranger pick-up. Officer Honnessy advised Dispatcher Weber of the suspects' description and the type of vehicle they were driving.

Cmdr. Schulz located the suspect pick-up truck as it was turning from Grove Street onto eastbound Grand River. The truck had three of the stolen tires in its bed. Schulz radioed this information to the dispatcher, who directed officers Herman and Purves to the area of 10 Mile and Power where the vehicle was stopped without incident.

Officer Honnessy identified the occupants of the pick-up as the ones he saw steal the tires. Officer Herman interviewed the 17-year-old and Officer Purves interviewed the juvenile. Both suspects confessed.

DEPARTMENT CITATIONS

Commander Frank Demers
On June 4, 2001, at 3 a.m., Officer Louma of the Farmington Hills Police observed a suspect exiting the U-Haul Rental station on Grand River. In the belief that the truck was stolen, Farmington Hills Police broadcasted the description of the subject.

Working on this information, Cmdr. Demers positioned himself to observe the area and spotted a suspect matching the description given emerging from behind a garage in the area of Slocum and Frederick Streets. When the man saw Demers, he fled. Demers pursued and caught the man a short distance away.

Dispatcher Allison Krauss
In the evening of May 29, 2001, two thieves entered the Grand Orchard party store and began terrorizing the store clerk by producing handguns and demanding money. They disabled the store's security camera and, after robbing the cash register of \$1,600, searched under the store counter and found an additional \$1,500 in a cardboard box. They then took the clerk to the store's safe where they took another \$1,500. Also stolen were a handgun, which belonged to the owner, and a variety of other items such as lottery tickets, alcohol and cigarettes.

Once the culprits left the store, the clerk called the police. Dispatcher Krauss was on duty and working alone. She was able to calm the caller and obtain important information to direct units in the most efficient and safest manner possible. While doing so, she collected the description of the subjects and conveyed that information to area departments through the inter-city frequency.

Officer Theodore Warthman
Officer Warthman was in the station on Sunday, Feb. 17, 2002 when Terry King



STAFF PHOTO BY DEIA DIERKER

FPS award winners: The Farmington Public Safety Department honored a large group of officers and citizens recently for actions that helped keep the community a safer place.

reported a breaking and entering at United Jewelry. Officer Warthman saw a van parked adjacent to the jewelry store with a man in the driver's seat. As he approached this person, Warthman noticed the window to the jewelry store was broken, so he immediately drew his weapon and ordered the driver out of the vehicle. The man was taken to the station and admitted to the crime, saying "he was under a lot of stress at home."

CIVILIAN COMMENDATION

Ms. Terry King

On Sunday Feb. 17, 2002, at 7 p.m., a 44-year-old man looking for a store to break into focused in on United Jewelry on Grand River. The man parked his van to conceal his actions, then began kicking the store window to break it. Ms. King heard the noise and thought it was a loud stereo, but she decided to investigate anyway.

Upon seeing the suspect, she immediately went to her phone and called the police. Her prompt action enabled the police department to capture a repeat offender and recover almost \$17,000 worth of stolen goods.

Klar Gamscho

Officer Terry Purves was on patrol the night of Saturday, June 9, 2001, when he observed a driver who appeared to be asleep at the wheel at Orchard Lake Road and Grand River. Officer Purves followed the driver and stopped him in a parking lot on Orchard Lake near Lamar.

Officer Purves told the 6-foot, 200-pound man that he was under arrest and ordered him to place his hands behind his back. At that point, a struggle began. Mr. Gamscho helped get the man properly handcuffed. The man was eventually charged with operating under the influence of liquor third offense,

driving while his license was revoked, and resisting and obstructing a police officer.

Ryan Diehl and Brad Greenfield
It was just after 4 p.m. on Nov. 26, 2001, when Mr. Jack Trelor placed some packaged food items on top of his electric stove at his LeQuinne Court residence to prepare for dinner. He thought he was turning the oven on when in fact he turned on a stove top burner. Later, he discovered the stove top and his kitchen cabinets on fire.

Ryan Diehl and Brad Greenfield were playing outside in front of Ryan's home, when they saw smoke and flames coming up from the house next door. They told Ryan's mother, who in turn called 9-1-1, then ran next door to alert the homeowner. They met Mr. Trelor as he was escaping from the house through the front door.

Matthew Vowell and Brian McLaren
On the morning of Saturday, March 30, 2002, a homeowner was in his front yard landscaping when an electric stove he kept in his garage started on fire. The fire quickly spread across the garage to 10 gallons of gasoline that he had stored, to the rooms above the garage and into the kitchen adjacent to the garage.

Though not asked to help, Paramedics Vowell and McLaren from Community Emergency Medical Service assisted officers in pulling a five inch hose to establish a hydrant hook up and helped with air bottle exchanges, among other things.

Bryan Proven
On March 21 of this year, Proven served as a decoy, trying to purchase tobacco at 20 stores within the city. Three of these stores sold to him. This is the third such "sting" operation that the department has conducted.

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