

Crime fighters tackle heart attacks

BY PAUL R. PACE
STAFF WRITER

Police officers are known to fight crime, but now Farmington Hills police will be able to combat heart attacks as well.

The department has 16 automatic external defibrillators, the same kind that are housed at the city's public buildings.

The units allow a layman to help save a life by hooking up monitors to a heart-attack victim. The machine automatically detects vital signs and induces appropriate electric shocks.

The 16 AEDs, which were bought with money from the Local Enforcement Grant Program, have been placed in the department's police cars for use by patrol officers.

Police Chief William Dwyer said the units will be in all on-



Farmington Hills Police Officer Doug Muller shows off one of the department's new automatic heart defibrillators that will go in on-duty police cars.

duty cars.

"There on the road right now. They'll be there 24 hours a day, seven days a week."

All Farmington Hills police officers have completed an American Red Cross-certified AED operator training course.

As the first responders to emergencies in Farmington

Hills, the police officers will now be able to provide a shock to the heart of a person who is experiencing the symptoms of sudden cardiac failure. The machines are designed to detect when they should be used and won't discharge except with certain heart rhythms.

The department's AEDs would be used prior to the Farmington Hills Fire Department's arrival. The are compatible with the fire department's more sophisticated heart monitoring and defibrillation equipment.

"We're not trying to take the place of the fire department," the police chief said, "but geographically, we, in most cases, can respond quicker than the fire department, and, with these units, we can stabilize the person. It's proven these units save lives."

Keep Michigan Beautiful honors local program

Efforts to enhance the community's natural beauty have earned the Farmington Hills Beautification Commission two awards from Keep Michigan Beautiful Inc.

The awards were presented for the Streambank Stabilization Project, which helped local residents learn how to protect the streams and ponds in their backyards and to prevent erosion and the Waterways Naming Project, which involved renaming local Rouge Tributaries to promote the stewardship of local waterways. The Streambank Stabilization Project included a seminar at the Farmington Hills branch of the Farmington

Community Library, as well as on-site demonstration at a Woodcreek Subdivision site.

The project was made possible with assistance from the Friends of the Rouge and Woodcreek Watershed Preservation Committee.

The Streambank Stabilization Project was filmed by the city of Farmington Hills for use on cable TV, and as a training tool available to local schools and interested organizations.

The Waterways Naming Project was designed to charge public perception and promote stewardship of the waterways. Twenty-three roadside identification signs, paid for through a federal grant, were installed at

waterway crossings.

Each "drain" was renamed as a river, creek, brook or stream. For example, Seeley Drain became Seeley Creek. The signs also included the words "Rouge River Watershed - Ours to Protect."

The Rouge River Watershed Steering Committee assisted the Beautification Commission with this project.

"This project has not only helped raise awareness in our own community about keeping our waterways clean, it has served as a model for other communities as well," said Marie Donigan, the city of Farmington Hills staff liaison to the beautification commission.

ATTACK

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Ackerman's car got out and made contact with the alleged victim and his son.

Police said moments later, Ackerman sped away, striking the Farmington Hills man, causing minor injuries. The man's

son was able to stop Ackerman with his father's vehicle by forcing him off the road. Ackerman was detained by witnesses until police arrived.

The victim was treated at Huron Valley Hospital and released. Ackerman was taken to Beaumont Hospital where he was also treated and released.

Ackerman was arraigned in 52-1 District Court in Novi and

charged with felonious assault and aggravated assault, both felonies with a maximum sentence of seven years in prison, police said. A not-guilty plea was entered on his behalf. Ackerman was released on a personal recognizance bond of \$20,000.

His preliminary exam is set for Dec. 2.

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