

Farmington's academy will be a little different, since it's a public safety department dealing with firefighting and medical emergencies.

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After an orientation, which will introduce the dispatching center, students will learn how officers investigate crimes by conducting interviews and collecting evidence. Depending on the class preference, city officials may come in and talk about the role of local government - or Goss could ask a team from the medical examiner's office to make a presentation.

"You'd better have a strong stomach for that," he joked. Hands-on lessons may also include firing a weapon, the 9mm Glock used by officers in the line of duty, and a look at the Rapid Intervention Teams. "Simulation," which is a simulated weapons exercise, is also a possibility.

Goss described that as similar to paintball, except with better protective equipment. "Simulation stings a little more," Goss said.

In the medical area, students will learn how automatic electronic defibrillators work and get a look inside an ambulance. Goss also plans to arrange a demonstration with a medical helicopter.

And then there's firefighting technique. "We might let you squirt some water. That'll be car wash night."

"This is our first go-around, so we'll be looking for suggestions," Goss added.

A graduation ceremony will be held for those who complete the coursework.

Applications are available now at the Farmington Public Safety Department, which is located in the city complex on Liberty Street in downtown Farmington.

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It all started when Barb and Tim Pendleton's daughter Jenny, 13, thought she would do something nice to cheer up a sick friend in Farmington Hills by taking her gray cat for a visit.

Rocky has always been a house cat so going outside was an intense experience for him, Barb said.

By the time Rocky was ready to be brought into the friend's house, he got scared and clawed his way out of Jenny's grasp.

"We put up big posters all over the neighborhood," Barb said of the area north of Eight Mile, between Farmington Road and Orchard Lake.

She said people who didn't even know the family took up the cause, putting out shelters, leaving food and even walking in the rain to help look for the lost 2-year-old.

After months of several false leads, they finally got a call on Dec. 30 from a woman named Jean who said a gray cat was hanging around her home. They were welcome to stop by to see whether it was Rocky.

"He looked like a big dirt bomb," Barb said with a laugh, but the cat was in fact Rocky.

After getting him checked by the vet, the family went around the neighborhood and put up posters thanking the neighborhood for caring about Rocky.

"We couldn't lose him in a better neighborhood," Barb said. "I wanted to thank the people there."

After more than five months of uncertainty, the Pendleton family, including son Paul and daughter Susan, can breathe easier knowing Rocky's back home safe.

Barb said their pets, including three other cats and a dog, are very much a part of the family.

"You have them for a while and they're like your babies."

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■ Police pulled over a vehicle along Nine Mile and

she returned it was missing.

in his pockets, then leaving without paying for them at around 7:15 p.m. Saturday.

Compiled by staff writer Paul R. Pace

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from reports on file at the Farmington
Hills Police Department.

