

The following officers from the City of Farmington have been awarded department citations:

#### ■ Officer Richard Friess

In November of 2002, a 20-year-old woman came into the department and reported that she had been sexually abused by her stepfather. This abuse began when she was only seven years old in 1989, and it continued for six years until after taking martial arts and maturing to the level where she could finally fight off her stepfather.

This abuse ended in 1995; however, the investigation of the case looked nearly impossible since there was no evidence and any possible witnesses would have difficulty remembering instances when more than seven years had passed. The investigation was hampered further by the stepfather's propensity toward violence and the fear from other family members.

Undaunted, Detective Friess devised a plan where the victim would engage the perpetrator in a telephone conversation regarding the abuse. Detective Friess then recorded the conversation during which the perpetrator made several admissions that he had molested the victim and her step-sister. When the stepfather was confronted with the tape, he confessed.

#### ■ Officer Scott Herrmann

On Nov. 20, 2002, Officer Herrmann was on patrol and observed a gold Lexus traveling at 41 miles per hour westbound on Shawnee in front of the high school. The speed limit at this location is 25 mph, so Officer Herrmann pulled the vehicle over. The driver and lone occupant of the car was a 33-year old male. When Officer Herrmann asked him for his operator's license, the driver replied he did not have it with him, and he likely left it at one of the casinos downtown, which he frequents.

Officer Herrmann asked if there was any contraband such as drugs or weapons in the car then received permission from the driver to search the vehicle. During the search, he noticed three cell phones that were

continually ringing.

Attached to the bottom of the driver's seat was a plastic bag what was later identified as 145 grams of crack cocaine. Before confiscating the contraband, Officer Herrmann called for the supervisor and photographed the evidence before removing it. The phones and the 2002 Lexus were confiscated as items used in the delivery of a controlled substance.

Warrants were obtained, however, the subject never went to trial because he was a victim of a homicide in Detroit.

#### ■ Officer Christine Schutz

In the late evening of Jan. 4, 2003, five young boys, two of whom were 14, two 15 and one 17-years-old, decided to break the window at a local party store. Each took sockets from the house where they gathered and threw them at the window of the party store. The window did not break, so one of the youths picked up a brick and finished the job. The boys then ran.

At just past midnight, they returned to the scene, reached through the broken glass and took liquor bottles. During the course of the night they returned twice more to steal more liquor using a lookout on the roof of a nearby building. On the last visit, they finally set off a motion detector within the party store and fled.

As luck would have it, one of the boys began to brag about the adventure. An adult who heard about the crime reported the information to Officer Madeline, who relayed the information to School Liaison Officer Schutz. Officer Schutz began a series of interviews with kids who may have had information regarding the incident. Through her relationship with the students and with experienced interviewing skills, Officer Schutz was able to gain confessions from all the juveniles. Additionally, she was able to uncover information regarding marijuana use.

#### ■ Commander Maria Putt

In the very early hours of Sept. 28, 2002, Commander Putt was on patrol and observed an older black pickup truck with a large spa still

in the box in the rear of the truck.

Remembering a report from three days earlier, involving the theft of a hot tub, the Commander began to follow the vehicle and the driver began to act nervously.

Noticing a cracked windshield, the Commander made a traffic stop. The driver did not have his license with him. When asked about the spa in the rear of the truck, the driver replied his mother had given it to him and he was taking it home.

Commander Putt discovered the driver's license was suspended and placed him under arrest. Also, she discovered two brand-new barbecue grills under a tarp in the bed of the truck as well as a pair of bolt cutters covered with mud. After impounding and securing the truck and suspected stolen merchandise, Commander Putt notified Novi P.D., from whence the theft report originated.

The owner of the stolen confirmed the items were stolen. The suspect had a criminal history that included felony larceny, breaking and entering, possession of a stolen auto, third degree child abuse and being a habitual offender.

#### ■ Officer Theodore Warthman

and Officer Mark Keeley

Shortly after 3 p.m. on July 15, 2002, a local business owner left his GMC Suburban in the lot of his business with the window down and the keys inside. The owner saw a young man driving away in it and immediately called the police. Officer Warthman with Officer Keeley quickly determined the most likely route of escape and positioned themselves to intercept the thief.

The officers were able to stop the vehicle without incident and arrest the driver. Officer Keeley searched the suspect and found 15 bags of marijuana in his pants pockets.

#### ■ Officer Mark Meredith

Hills Police Department. On March 7, 2003 at 9:15 a.m. Officer Meredith was on duty traveling on Grand River through the city when he spot-

ted smoke coming from a home on Pickett Street, three houses south of Grand River. He immediately reported the incident to his dispatch, who in turn reported it to Farmington DPS.

Officer Meredith then verified there were no people inside the home and without regard to his personal safety, removed the family dog from the home and out of danger. He then remained at the scene to help with traffic and obtained information from witnesses.

The fire had been started by two workmen who were putting a window into the home's bathroom.

The fire had spread through the wall and into the attic and ceiling and the workmen had yet to notify anyone of the fire.

From the time Officer Meredith called in the report

to the time the fire was extinguished was 20 minutes.

#### Department Commendation

##### ■ Commander John Coyle

On the morning of Feb. 12, 2003, a 26-year-old, black male had made threats with a handgun during a domestic quarrel.

This young man then left the scene at the Fairmont Park Apartments.

Farmington Hills Police broadcasted a "be on the lookout" for this person, who was reported to be armed and driving a maroon Ford Ranger pickup. Commander Coyle spotted a vehicle fitting the description traveling westbound on Nine Mile Road and eventually stopped the vehicle.

When the suspect made several furtive movements leaning

to his right as he was opening the driver's door, Commander Coyle drew his handgun and ordered the suspect to stay inside the car.

The suspect ignored the Commander's order and exited the vehicle.

Commander Coyle ordered the suspect to stop several times as the suspect advanced on him in a menacing manner yelling "Shoot me, man! I just want to die!" The Commander displayed a great deal of restraint by waiting until the suspect stopped his advance and began to sob. The Commander then placed the individual over the hood of the patrol vehicle and handcuffed him.

A nickel-plated .380 cal. automatic was recovered from between the center console and the passenger seat of the pickup.

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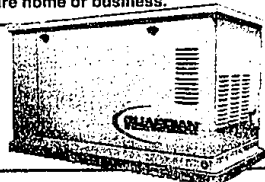
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**When: Saturday, May 17th,  
10 am-2 pm**

**Where: Heslop's Novi Town Center  
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On Saturday, May 17th, Ms. Cynthia Lampen will make a special appearance at Heslop's Novi Town Center store to help you choose the perfect figurine for your upcoming signing event.

After you have made your purchase, return to the Novi Town Center store on Thursday, June 19th, where Juan Vicente Lladro will personally sign your figurines in your presence.

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## ON MY LAST SPIN... JACKPOT!

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I was enjoying a lazy Sunday afternoon playing the slots at Casino Windsor, moving from one machine to another, when a 10X machine (my favourite) had just opened up, so I sat down.

A few pulls later - and I swear it's true - on my last spin the bells started ringing like crazy and everyone started crowding around me. And there I was, suddenly \$16,000<sup>00</sup> richer!

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It occurred to me that without the exchange rate and the extra play time I got when I switched my U.S. cash to Canadian (\$100 U.S. equaled about \$160 CDN.), I wouldn't have won that jackpot. The extra chances to win made me a winner!

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