

# This emergency call welcomes newest resident

By Joan Adamczak  
staff writer

Farmington public safety officers are trained to handle a myriad of emergencies, from retrieving car keys locked in a vehicle to delivering babies.

On June 27, Farmington officer Thomas Daniels used everything he learned about the latter situation to help Patricia Holton deliver a 7-pound 2-ounce baby boy.

"It's just like any emergency situation," Daniels said a week after his impromptu stint as an obstetrician.

"You don't get nervous or scared, you just do what you have to do."

Daniels assisted Holton with the delivery in — where else — the family room of her Farmington Hills home.

As Daniels tells it, he was sitting in the squad room of the Farmington Police Department at 7:50 a.m. for roll call when the "woman in labor" call came through to the department.

Because the street on which the Holtons reside, Flanders, is covered by both Farmington and Farmington Hills police, Daniels was dispatched to the scene along with officers James Madigan and Robert Mitchell. All three of the officers are Emergency Medical Training school graduates.

It's NOT unusual for the police to get a "woman in labor call," but this time was an exception to the rule, Dan-

iels said.

Normally, the officers have time to call an ambulance to transport the expectant mother to a hospital to deliver, Daniels said, but not this time.

"As soon as I walked into the house I could see the baby's head crowning," Daniels recalled, sounding every bit like a proud father.

"There was no time to prepare for anything. As soon as I got into the house it was time to go to work and deliver."

Holton said she was just as surprised as anyone else about the home delivery.

"I had no warning whatsoever. I slept well the night before and felt great that morning," she said.

"I wasn't even in labor. I just had four contractions and then had the baby."

Holton's husband, Robert, and his mother witnessed the happy event, along with the three safety officers. Holton said she doesn't really remember much of what happened.

"I was in semi shock," she recalled. "I wasn't thinking too well. It happened so fast that I didn't have time to think."

Daniels estimated the delivery time to be about 30 seconds.

"We arrived at the home at 7:53 a.m. and the baby was born at 7:54. She (Holton) was a real champ through the whole thing," he said.

DANIELS SAID he was thankful the birth was "normal" — as normal as any home birth can be.

"I saw that the umbilical cord was wrapped around his neck, so I got that untangled. He came out a wailin' and a screamin' and we knew he was OK," Daniels said.

The ambulance arrived three to four minutes after the birth and transported mother and baby boy to Sinai Hospital in Detroit where the umbilical cord was cut and the baby was named Steven Michael.

A 19-year veteran of the public safety department, Daniels said delivering a baby was just about the only thing he hadn't done during his career.

"In this job it's something new every day. On that day it was my day to deliver a baby," he said.

After his ordeal, Daniels said he felt "really great."

The father of two children, ages 14 and 16, Daniels said he never got to be in the delivery room to see them born.

"They didn't let the fathers into the delivery room like they do now. I was walking on cloud nine after (helping with) this delivery," he said.

Daniels also had to put up with a little ribbing from his fellow officers after his "mid-wifery."

"One fellow joked to me about taking his appendix out for him. Another said I should think of going into this doctor bit full time."

Although the delivery went smoothly, Holton said she doesn't recommend any other expectant mothers to try the home delivery method.

"We were very lucky," she said, looking down at her newborn son. "But you never know when complications are going to occur."

The Holtons have another son, Christopher, 2, who was able to hold his new baby brother just minutes after he was born.

"He's got a good appetite and he looks good," Daniels said.



Public safety officer Thomas Daniels, right, joins one of Farmington's newest residents, Steven Holton who is resting in his mother's arm. Mother, Patricia Holton, had a quicker-than-expected delivery and Daniels was right on the scene to help her through the birth. Joining for the photograph is Patricia's other son, Christopher, 2.

## Resident garners service award

Farmington Hills resident John Matz, president of Matz Inc., was awarded the Arthur Sidney Bedell Award by the Michigan Water Pollution Control Association (MWPCA) at its annual conference in June.

The Bedell Award is given annually by the MWPCA to a member who has been very active in Association matters. Matz, a past MWPCA president, has been an association member since 1958.

Matz received a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering from

Lehigh University in 1950. He has been president of the manufacturer's representative firm of Peterson and Matz Inc. since 1969 and is involved in the sale of engineered process equipment in the water and wastewater treatment industry.

The MWPCA is a non-profit organization involved in the preservation and enhancement of Michigan's water resources. It is also a member association of the International Water Pollution Control Federation.

## Oakland County opens nature center

The nature center at Independence Oaks County Park near Clarkston opened recently with Farmington Hills resident Jean Fox presiding over the dedication ceremonies.

Fox, vice chairman of the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission and member of the Farmington Hills Historical Commission attended the ceremonies along with parks commissioners George Ruhn, Carol Stanley of Waterford Township and Becky Lewis of Bloomfield Hills.

The nature center is a 4,000-square-foot building with educational exhibits focusing on the environment of the 1,304-acre park.

The \$460,000 project was constructed with a Federal Land and Water Conservation fund grant and parks commission funds.

The Independence Oaks Nature Center is on Sasabaw Road near Clarkston. For more information, call 625-6473.



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