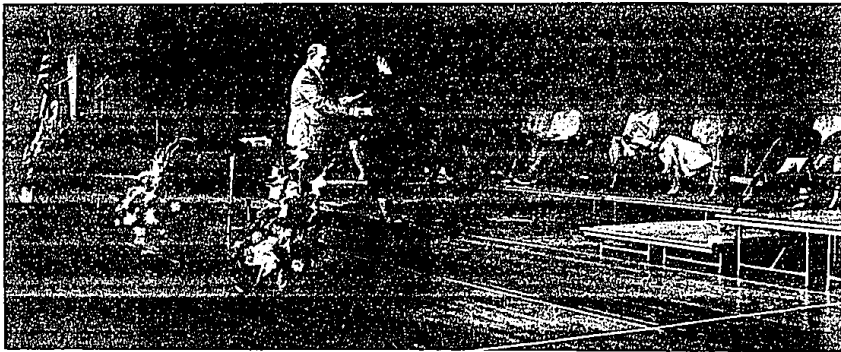




Sophomore Timothy Berg (right) of Farmington Hills was the first student to receive an academic letter from Wayne County Executive Edward McNamara.



photos by STEVE FECHT/staff photographer

Clarenceville High School student DeWayne Nutter (left) presents an academic letter during ceremonies last week. Letters went to students who maintained a grade point average of 3.0 or above during the 1985-86 school year.

## Clarenceville grants 1st academic letters

### Student achievers receive accolades

Clarenceville High School students who were awarded academic achievement letters last week are listed below:

#### ● CLASS OF 1987

Maurice Frechette, Kimberly Santil, Beth Nabony, Erik Mansell, Christine Butler, Tracy Pignas, James Peterson, Michelle Lay, Devin DeLoock, Dawn Goodman, Amy Keating, Wendy Johnston, Tina Wall, Ojeto Kala, Kimberly Rankin, Carl Sikes, Mark Luigjural, Kenneth Krazit, Hannah Rubenstein, David Smith, Karen Beckus, Nua Juncal, Diana Polad, Greta Hasapala, Dina Kupski, Heather Manoro, Candy Rock and David VanZant.

#### ● CLASS OF 1988

Robert Lynn, David Zait, Lucio DeBellis, Stefano Nicolini, William Scharenberg, Christine Jacob, Julie Mansell, Jennifer Gaerin, William Colaloca, Preta Luigjural, Raymond Gienfield, Dawn Hardy, Renee St. Sauver, Elisabeth

LaFave, Dale Weighill, Rochelle Heiser, Jennifer Mahoney, Marianna Punal, Tracey Spelman, Laura Nagorka, Kristen Taperek, Lek Kalaj, Barbara Noorala, Michelle Quince, Sharon Carignan, Racine Bratcher, Tina Carter, Suzanne Dziak, Sean Henderson, Mark Juncal, Michael Kaiser, Roberta Stevens and Nancy Wilson.

#### ● CLASS OF 1989

Carolyn Buell, Trevor Smith, Laura Mette, Joann Zebart, Deborah Stewart, Alan MacNeill, Robert Lambert, Christina Handley, Melissa Emmett, Colleen Wood, Michael Saldana, Tracey VanErp, Angela Karinen, Maria Kalaj, Lora Maguire, William Walther, Danny Scheater, Joseph Castro, Ronald Topolowski, Angela Bourke, Gustavo Martinez, Kelly Asprach, Kimberly Woods, James Santil, Ala Habba, Robert Dunklee, Nua Luigjural, Frank Loda, Richard Friedrich, Tammy Clinkscales and Timothy Berg.

By Mary Klemic  
staff writer

IT WAS literally and figuratively a red-letter day at Clarenceville High School Jan. 10.

That was when the Clarenceville Board of Education presented its first academic achievement letters — red Cs trimmed in gray, each featuring a lamp of knowledge, to be worn on jackets or sweaters.

The letters were awarded to students who maintained a grade point average of 3.0 or above during the 1985-86 school year.

Clarenceville may be the first district in the state to award the letters, which are similar to those given to athletes. Students from Livonia, Redford and Farmington Hills attend Clarenceville schools.

Speakers at the one-hour presentation program encouraged the students to wear the letters with pride.

"Surely, all aspects of student life are important, but the classroom success must rank as most important," Superintendent Michael Shibler said.

"NEVER AIM to be average. No person achieves much when only

*'Never aim to be average. No person achieves much when only average is his goal.'*

— Michael Shibler  
Clarenceville superintendent

average is his goal," Shibler said, referring to a motto displayed in his office.

"It's not important whether or not Clarenceville is the first (district) to give letters," board president Samuel Prisk said. "What is extremely important is that we have a significant number of students who are very deserving of this recognition."

"At a time when we are reminded daily of many youthful misdeeds, how refreshing it is to be able to promote these positive accomplishments."

Students such as those who earned the letters are motivated by self respect, self esteem and a sense of responsibility to themselves, their parents, the school and the community, Prisk said.

he said. "I'm just glad they're finally doing something more to recognize academics."

Wayne County Executive Edward McNamara, keynote speaker, praised the district for the academic letters idea and for its parent interest and participation. He called Clarenceville "one of those jewels" in the community.

McNAMARA GAVE H. Ross Perot, Tom Monaghan and Chrysler chairman Lee Iacocca as successful people who are "achievers in their own field" and said the district is recognizing the same kind of spirit in its students.

He exhorted the students to excel. "We need others to lead and to maintain a quality of life and provide employment for future generations," McNamara said.

Clarenceville has received numerous inquiries about the academic letters from parents and districts throughout the state, Shibler said.

"In a real sense, Clarenceville has established a precedence in the state of Michigan," he said.

The program featured the Clarenceville High School band, directed by Anthony Altovilla, performing a medley of songs from "The Music Man."

## Gun defended

### Police stand by their firearms

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

Farmington and Farmington Hills public safety and police officers are sticking to their guns — literally.

The two departments aren't planning to follow Birmingham's lead in discontinuing use of a popular, yet controversial, Smith & Wesson revolver.

The Smith & Wesson .357-caliber revolver has come under scrutiny after a suspected defect in the weapon was blamed in the fatal July 3 shooting of a Macomb County teenager by a Clinton Township police officer.

Concerned about the suspected defect, Birmingham Police Chief Edward Ostlin recently recommended against buying new .357-caliber Smith & Wesson revolvers. Birmingham officers will instead carry semiautomatic pistols.

Farmington Director of Public Safety Frank Lauboff and Farmington Hills Police Chief William Dwyer aren't buying some experts' opinions that the Smith & Wesson model 66 revolver is defective.

"WE HAVE reviewed the situation and we tend to agree with the manufacturer that the only time the weapon fires is when you pull the trigger," Lauboff said.

The manufacturer has denied the model is defective.

Dwyer offered a similar opinion. "We haven't found any deficiency in the weapon itself. We haven't considered making changes (in the revolver's use)."

The controversy centers on the weapon's hammer. Some experts believe it has a "phantom" position that makes it relatively easy for the weapon to fire when it appears that the hammer is not yet cocked.

Lauboff and Dwyer disagree.

Two methods can be used to fire the revolver. The first involves pulling the trigger, which automatically cocks the hammer and, in turn, hits the chamber, causing the weapon to fire.

The second method involves manually pulling back the hammer and then pulling the trigger. To prevent the weapon from firing after manually pulling back the hammer, an officer must slowly and gently put the hammer back in its original position.

BOTH FARMINGTON and Farmington Hills officers are prohibited from manually cocking the hammer

as a firing method.

Though neither Dwyer or Lauboff would call the single-action firing method unsafe, they agreed it provides the potential for problems.

"It's just a different method of being able to use the weapon," Dwyer said.

"But the potential in a situation like that . . . it's not unsafe if the officer has been trained. It is a factor if the officer is not properly

trained . . . It could be an unsafe method," Dwyer said.

The Farmington department has used the .357-caliber revolver for about 25 years.

"Smith & Wesson has been a reliable weapon over the years," Lauboff said.

Farmington Hills police officers have used the Smith & Wesson revolver for at least four years, Dwyer said.



RANDY DORST/staff photographer

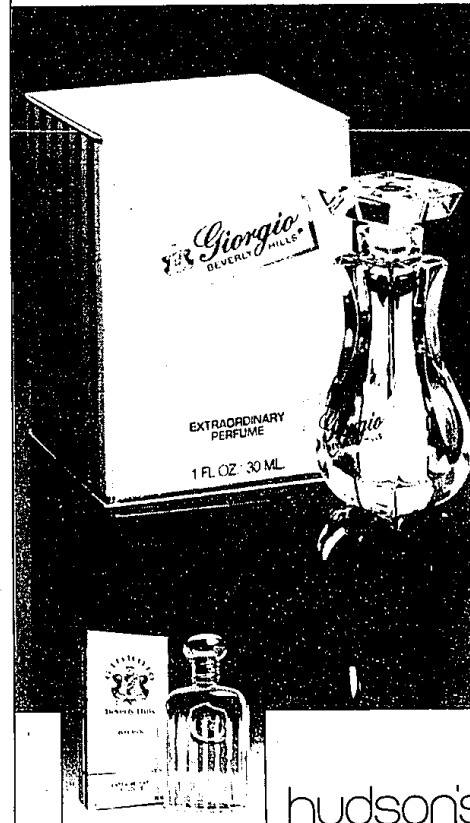
The Smith & Wesson .357-caliber revolver — a topic of some controversy in police circles.

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- Giorgio Moisture Lotion, 8 oz., \$7.50.
- Giorgio Spray Cologne for men, 4 oz., \$35.

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