

Safety officers get top honors at city banquet

Ronald Schwartz and James Jarrett were named Farmington Hills firefighter and police officers of the year at the Brodhead-Farmington Hills VFW Post 2259 and Auxiliary seventh annual awards banquet Feb. 4.

Mersey High School student Danielle Linck of Bloomfield Hills won the Scriptwriter Award. Behan Junior High student Patricia Paolocco of Farmington Hills won the School Essay Award. The theme of the student competition was "Voice of Democracy."

Schwartz, a licensed emergency medical technician, joined the fire department in a part-time role in 1981. He's the department representative to the Western Wayne County Mutual Aid Association.

The training officer for Station 4 on Drake Road, Schwartz also is active in department training.

He's the tutor for all new recruits and teaches recruit schools and a variety of firefighter classes, including one in hazardous material. He has been an instructor for the first two academy classes at the Oakland County Fire Training Institute.

In the past year, Schwartz was active in acquiring a new ladder truck and training department members in

its use. He also served on the automatic defibrillator committee.

"As a final testament to Ron, he has won 'Member of the Year' for Station 4 two out of the four years since its implementation," fire Chief Richard Marinucci said.

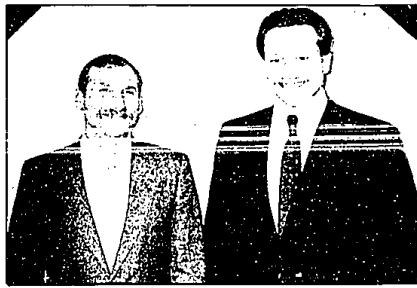
JARRETT JOINED the police department four years ago. He's currently assigned to the Patrol Division.

On Dec. 3, 1987, he performed the Heimlich maneuver to revive a 6-week-old girl who had stopped breathing. The infant was conscious but was beginning to pale because of a lack of oxygen.

He tried to open the child's airway but it was obstructed. That's when he turned her on her stomach and performed the Heimlich maneuver.

This resulted in clearing some phlegm. He then performed the Heimlich maneuver a second time, dislodging more phlegm, resulting in normal breathing. The baby then was taken to Botoford General Hospital.

His "quick action and ability to deal effectively with an emergency situation resulted in the saving" of the child's life, police Chief William Dwyer said.



PETER BALDWIN

Police Officer of the Year James Jarrett (left) and Firefighter of Farmington Hills VFW.



PETER BALDWIN

Patrizia Paolocco (left) and Danielle Linck won the Voice of Democracy student awards.

Better care will require better ideal

Long-term solutions to current health care delivery problems are impossible without a clear vision of what health care is in the United States, said the American Hospital Association's new chair.

The president of Mercy Health Services in Farmington Hills, Edward Connors urged the AHA to identify the characteristics of an ideal health care system to fulfill its care for all Americans.

Connors identified adequacy and equity in Medicare payment, looming health care labor shortages, financing care for the nation's 37 million people who are uninsured, reducing the oversupply of hospitals and hospital beds and defining quality patient care as priorities for the association.

He challenged hospitals to set aside competing interests to reach consensus on how to finance, organize and deliver uniform, high quality care to all who need it.

He stressed that needed fundamental changes won't occur unless government, health care providers, employers, insurers and the American public cooperate. He targeted existing fragmented public policy, political manipulation, divisiveness among providers and underfunding

of needed services as major obstacles for improving health care delivery.

OFFERING HIS personal vision for an ideal health care system based on "humane, compassionate and realistic thinking," Connors outlined several essential requirements: recognizing that high quality, affordable health care is a basic right for all individuals, understanding that compassion is as important as technical and scientific competence and accepting that all health care providers are accountable to society.

As chair, Connors served as first president of Sisters of Mercy Health Corp., a regional multihospital system. In 1984, after a corporate reorganization, he became president of Mercy Health Services, which oversees the activities of six subsidiaries. Connors served as a member of the AHA board of trustees from 1983 to 1986, chairing its policy planning committee in 1986.

The AHA, a not-for-profit organization, serves as a national advocate for hospitals and patients. It provides education and information for its members and informs the public about hospitals and health care issues.

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