

Custodian wins service award

Ray Wyss, head custodian at Longacre Elementary in Farmington Hills, was named the Farmington school district's first Support Staff Employee of the Year April 5.

"Of 1,400 employees, hundreds are not direct teaching staff," said superintendent Michael Flanagan. "They really do an outstanding job and get a lot less credit than they deserve."

Known as "Mr. Ray" by his students, Wyss also received plaudits countywide, when he was given the Oakland County Distinguished Support Service Award. He will be honored at an Oakland County School Board Association dinner to be held June 20.

Other Farmington Public Schools employees at a May 22 ceremony. "I know there's a lot of other people who deserve this as much as I do," Wyss said. "Thanks a lot."

THOSE WHO know Wyss call him a loyal, hard-working and quiet man who takes a personal interest in his elementary school. He has worked for the district since 1973. He was nominated for the award by the school secretary, principal and teachers.

In the nominating remarks, they said: "Ray demonstrates the efficiency and outstanding work habits expected of a head custodian, and he definitely demonstrates, through example, the qualities which make him an outstanding



Ray Wyss 'team member'

leader and good citizen. "He is a team member, and the epitome of an outstanding representative of support personnel."

police/fire calls

Listed below are some of the Farmington-area police incidents, fire calls and court cases reported during the past week:

Cover damage

Damage was estimated at \$400 when four plastic light covers atop 19-foot-high steel poles at the Elms Brothers Big Boy Restaurant, 27810 Grand River, were shot out using BBs March 21-22, Farmington Hills police said.

Home break-in

A VCR and a knife valued at \$380 were reported stolen from a house on the 30580 block of W. 10 Mile March 24-25, Farmington Hills police said.

Oil stolen

Forty-three cases of motor oil were stolen from a storage shed at the Mobil gas station at 2730 Orchard Lake Road sometime April 1. Witnesses saw three men in a car leave with the oil after breaking into the shed, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

Man flees

A passenger in a traffic stop ran from a patrol car but was caught soon after Wednesday night, police said.

According to a Farmington Hills police report:

At 9:45 a.m., officer John Markey made a traffic stop on Middlebelt, just south of Eight Mile, in Livonia.

After noticing empty, full and open cans of malt liquor in the car, Markey directed the three occupants

'I may have made a mistake, but I didn't commit a crime. There was no illegal use intended. I'll demand a trial by jury if necessary.'

— Roger J. Jagosz shop manager

— a 20-year-old Farmington Hills man, an 18-year-old Southfield man and a 17-year-old Southfield man — to sit in his patrol car.

While writing three tickets for transporting open intoxicants in a motor vehicle, the 17-year-old, who had an outstanding bench warrant out of Farmington Hills for the same charge, fled from the patrol car. He ran through several back yards and scaled several fences, but Markey and officer Matt Koehn found him hiding under a van in a driveway on Fremont in Livonia.

The 17-year-old also was ticketed for interfering with a police officer.

2 nabbed

Two Livonia cousins were arrested after Farmington Hills police discovered a car parked in a lot on the 20700 block of Tuck had been broken into Wednesday night.

According to a Farmington Hills police report, the arrest came at 10:15 p.m. after police responded to a prowling report.

An 18-year-old man was found lying on the front seat of a Ford

Escort whose engine was running. A 16-year-old man was found lying on the front seat of the damaged car, a Ford Mustang. Burglary tools were found on this suspect and in the car. Radio knobs and parts were found in his coat pocket.

The driver's-door lock and the dashboard of the Mustang were damaged in the break-in.

Cars attacked

Damage was estimated at \$600 when what appeared to be an aluminum baseball bat was used to smash windows in two cars parked in the street on Dundick April 4-5, according to Farmington Hills police reports.

Game damage

Damage was estimated at \$50 when four video game machines at Country Lanes, 30250 Nine Mile, were broken into and \$100 was taken Thursday night.

Four teenagers are suspects, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

Cars attacked

Radar detectors valued at \$1,170 were reported stolen from three cars parked at the Red Roof Inn, 24300 Sinclair Court, April 5-6, Farmington Hills police said.

Property damage

Damage was estimated at \$450 when someone drove over the lawn and fired a pellet into the front window of a house on Harborside at 10:10 p.m. Friday. The residents were home but no one was hurt, Farmington Hills police said.

Farmington plans tree program

This spring, the city of Farmington, through the beautification committee's efforts, will offer a citywide tree-planting program for residences and businesses.

The effort, under the chairmanship of Carol Kurth, will attempt to encourage the "greening" of Farmington, helping replace diseased or damaged trees and rebuild the urban forest.

Provided through a local landscaping nursery, trees offered will be the hardwood varieties with a caliper of a minimum of 1 1/4 inches. A one-year guarantee will accompany the tree purchase.

Plans are to offer the Norway Maple, Linden, Ash and Skyline Locust to the community for planting in the public right of way or on private property. All trees will be disease-free and will be planted according to the guidelines of the American Association of Nurserymen.

AT THE time of the offer in April, coupons will be available through the newspaper or at city hall. Payment will be made at city hall.

Those interested in buying a shade tree for their private property will

be asked to contact "MIS DIG" to avoid public utility lines or pipes on the property. The property owner will be asked to stake the location.

The beautification committee is encouraging residents and business owners in the community to take advantage of this "no hassle" way of planting. The project, which last took place 15 years ago, will be in conjunction with Arbor Week, April 15-21, and Early Day, April 22.

"It's time to encourage Project Greenleaf in Farmington and add to the shade, heat control and aesthetics of our community," Kurth said.

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