



Lt. Richard Levine, the 1991 Farmington Hills Firefighter of the Year, gets smiles of congratulations from his wife, Melissa (left), and daughters Allyson, 20, and Stacy, 17.

Top fireman always ready to volunteer

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Lt. Richard Levine is usually the first to sign up when there's a need for volunteers.

"He gives of himself without asking for anything in return," Farmington Hills Fire Chief Richard Marinucci said about Levine, a 12-year fire department veteran.

Levine was honored as the 1991 Firefighter of the Year Jan. 6 during the 15th Annual Recognition Awards Night for city employees.

"I was shocked and surprised. For the first time in my life I was speechless," Levine said about the award he actually received during the annual fire department banquet in October, 1991.

The volunteer firefighter is known for volunteering beyond the basic duties of his part-time position. "He exemplifies the true spirit of volunteerism," Marinucci said.

Levine does just about everything. He volunteers for additional assignments, responds to as many alarms as possible, obtained his firefighter

II certification and became an emergency medical technician at his own expense.

SO HE COULD provide even better service to the community, Levine became an advanced EMT (paramedic) in 1987 on his own time and with his own money. "He has paid all relocation expenses and has never requested reimbursement from the department," Marinucci said.

In the past year, Levine finished

requirements for the fire officer I and fire officer II, hazardous materials awareness and hazardous materials operations. He's also taken additional courses on his own time and expense and been trained in intermediate rope rescue and basic trauma life support for EMTs.

The firefighter also has helped provide training at the various city fire stations for the firefighter I designation and emergency medical services courses.

If that wasn't enough, Levine has been an instructor for the American Red Cross since February, 1982, and continues to teach classes in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and First Aid.

Lifesaving effort is honored

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He jumped out of his seat — while Dwyer ran to call 9-1-1 — told Palmer to remain calm and put his arms beneath the woman's ribcage and performed the Heimlich maneuver.

"A thank-you is so small," said Palmer following the incident. "I thank God he happened to be there. There is nothing I can say to express my thanks."

Palmer hasn't forgotten the incident and neither did Spencer's peers at the police department. For his life-saving actions, Spencer was honored Jan. 6 as the city's 1991 police officer of the year.

THE BIGGEST surprise, however, was Palmer, who attended the city's 16th annual awards ceremonies be-

fore the city council to help honor her lifesaver.

"Deputy Chief Spencer's actions were in the highest tradition of the Farmington Hills Police Department, and it is with great pleasure and pride that we recognize him this evening," Dwyer said.

Spencer, who was appointed deputy chief in 1983, also was honored with a certificate of merit by the National Red Cross for his use of the Heimlich maneuver to save Palmer.

The award "represents the highest concern of one human being for another who is in distress," said Jerry Hays, Oakland County safety services field representative for the Red Cross.

Spencer joined the Hills department after a short stint at the Novi Police Department where he went

after serving on the Washington, D.C., Police Department from 1980 until early 1984. He began his career in law enforcement in 1956 with the U.S. Army Military Police.

He started in Farmington Hills as a police officer. His first promotion in 1966 was to corporal. He rose through the ranks to sergeant, lieutenant, executive lieutenant and inspector.

At the time of the choking incident last January, Spencer said he believed in fate because he wasn't going to join Dwyer for lunch.

project, he is the first to sign up," Marinucci said.

But his volunteerism isn't restricted to firefighting.

He helps at North Farmington High School football games, worked the First Aid stations at the annual Walk America event. "He has given much to the department and community and has done so selflessly," Marinucci said.

To complete his volunteer resume, Levine also led station four in the recent Goodwill's paper drive, which contributed to the department's more than \$12,000 donations.

Mr. DPW(onderful) wins Hills award

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PAUL IGNASH, his immediate supervisor, wasn't surprised at all. "Not with his work abilities. He keeps people going on his crews. They have more production. He's just always been a very hard working man."

Lay is happy about the award because it brings attention to the DPW, one of the city's departments that does a lot but gets very little publicity.

"It seems there is a strange stigma about the DPW. We have a lot of good guys here who work hard. And they don't always get recognition," said Lay, the father of three children.

Lay joined the department in 1975 through the CETA (Comprehensive Employment and Training Act) program.

"When I started working here I didn't know how to do anything," he said. "I just worked my way up the ranks."

Since the early days when he joined the department as a laborer, Lay has risen through the various job levels of equipment operator, building maintenance up to crew leader.

When you see one of the city's big pieces of heavy equipment — road graders, tandem trucks, pickups, 5-yard trucks — it just might be Lay driving the machinery.

THIS WEEK, Lay and his crews were in southeast Farmington Hills

with a five-yard dump truck and wood chipper clipping tree branches overhanging in the streets.

"Every job I do I try to do it right," Lay said. "There's no sense trying to do something unless you do it to the best of your ability."

That attitude was one of the reasons Lay was nominated and received the outstanding employee award.

"He's an excellent employee," said Dan Rooney, Department of Public Works director. "He gets an excellent rating every year. He's a guy that gives you 110 percent whether it's routine maintenance or an emergency. He's just exceedingly dependable."

No doubt, a DPW job means you're out in all types of weather at any time of the day or night. You sort of get used to it, Lay said. And he chuckles about the times he's been called out in the night to start snowplowing or salting. He goes home when the job is done, only to be called back a few hours later.

But that's the job he does and he tries to get his crews to enjoy it too and work as hard as possible to do the best job. He's also frank about his goals.

He wants to continue working his way up through the ranks — next to become a supervisor.

"I always want to advance," Lay said. "I think this is a good program management has as far as the employee awards. It gives employees an incentive, something to shoot for."

'91 Hills honor roll

In addition to honoring the 1991 employee of the year, police officer and firefighter of the year, Farmington Hills officials also presented outstanding employee awards and service awards Jan. 6.

Outstanding employees include: Mary P. DiManno, senior adult nutrition specialist; Michael S. Foust, building maintenance; Jean King, administrative supervisor to police Chief William Dwyer; Helen G. Lessnau, purchasing division; and Josephine Spencer, code enforcement officer.

Farmington Hills police Capt. Russell Conway was honored for 30 years of service and Sgt. Albert Haver was honored for 25 years of service.

Two employees, Shirley Shottreff, an administrative secretary in the public services department, and Josephine Spencer, code enforcement officer, were honored for 15 years of service.

Employees honored for 10 years of service were: Ernest Anderson, police community service officer; Sgt. Dennis Atkins, fire department; Marilyn Cairns, executive secretary, personnel department; David Call, assistant city manager; William Costek, city manager; Det. Brian DeGrande, police department; firefighter Craig Eby, station 3; firefighter Robert Ellis, station 1;

warrant officer Carolyn Fisher, police department; firefighter Gregory Glowacki, station 1; Richard Harvey, police community service officer; fulltime firefighter, Dennis Hughes, Kim Kemske, crime prevention specialist, police department; police officer Charles Hozum; fulltime Capt. Donald St. Clair, fire department; Lt. Ronald Schwartz, fire station 4.

Employees honored for five years of service include:

Firefighter Francis Arbour, station 1; Sgt. Edmer Barwick, fire station 4; Matthew Berzina, public works; Glenn Boettcher, inspector, engineering division; police officer Gary Bradley; Michael Foust, maintenance technician; firefighter Paul Frayne, station 4; Allan Grundy, inspector, building division; Joseph Guibord, parks maintenance technician; Kathleen Hintz, police records; police officer Matthew Koehn; Randy Krueger, parks special services; police officer Michael LaFave; police officer Mark Meredith; Gail Murdoch, traffic; William Otwell, city engineer; Dan Potter, special services director; police officer John Rogers; police officer Sandra Shankin; police Det. Patrick Sidge; Tammy Stachurski, police records; David Tietmeyer, video-special services; Dana Whinnery, personnel director.

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Osteoarthritis is the main cause of hip arthritis. Second comes congenital disorders. From birth onward a defect in the formation of the hip leaves the socket too shallow or the head of the hip completely formed. Over years walking places a strain on the hip; and joint, and premature arthritis results. Other causes include rheumatoid diseases and enveloping spondylitis.

Rest is not the first line of response; on the contrary, doctors stress therapy as the way to keep you active. Treatment begins with aspirin or similar anti-inflammatory drugs; hip joint injection is possible but requires a physician experienced with the procedure. If pain becomes intolerable or you must curtail activity excessively, operation is in order.

Replacement hip surgery is one of the medical achievements of our time. Age is no obstacle and the operation is feasible in the face of a wide range of medical infirmities. The resolution of pain and return of mobility are worth the risk surgery involves.

**CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS
ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
REPLACEMENT OF TRAFFIC COUNTING EQUIPMENT
OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

Sealed proposals will be received by the City of Farmington Hills, Oakland County, Michigan at the Clerk's Office at 31555 Eleven Mile Road until 10:00 a.m. FRIDAY, JANUARY 24, 1992, at which time and place all proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud.

The bid consists of purchasing seven microprocessor based traffic counters/classifiers and associated equipment taking the City's current traffic counting equipment as a trade-in.

Specifications and proposal forms may be obtained at the City Clerk's Office at the above address on or after MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 1992. Proposals must be submitted on proposal forms furnished by the City of Farmington Hills and shall be submitted in sealed envelopes, clearly labeled PROPOSAL - TRAFFIC COUNTING EQUIPMENT. Each proposal shall be accompanied by a Certified Check or Bid Bond by a recognized company in the amount of five percent (5%) of the bid, payable to the City of Farmington Hills, as security for acceptance of the Contract.

The City reserves the right to waive any or all proposals, to waive irregularities and/or informalities, and to make the award, that in the opinion of the City Council is in the best interest, and to the advantage of the City of Farmington Hills.

KATHRYN A. DORNAN,
City Clerk

Published January 13, 1992

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