



Photos by DIANE LEMUEUX/Staff photographer

During last week's awards presentation, Leonard and Jeannette Szczepanik of Farmington meet the officers who saved Leon-

ard's life last year. At left is Officer Anthony Gubacz and at right is Officer Duane Cowger. Not pictured is Officer Hilton Hyde.

6 lifesavers cited

Families say thanks at awards ceremony

By Casey Hans
staff writer

Six Farmington public safety officers were lauded Wednesday for their lifesaving efforts during the past year.

Many family members of those affected were there to say "thanks."

The awards to officers Hilton Hyde, James Madigan, Duane Cowger, Anthony Gubacz, Daniel Dellar and Richard Hennessy were given during the Farmington Department of Public Safety's annual awards presentation for three different medical emergencies which occurred during 1991.

"This has been the year of lifesaving, and we're certainly proud of it," said Farmington's public safety director Frank Lauhoff.

He explained that multiple officers received awards in each of the instances, because many times a lifesaving effort takes several people. "It sometimes takes three people to do CPR — it's a very strenuous thing," he said.

THE LIFESAVING incidents included:

'This has been the year of lifesaving, and we're certainly proud of it.'

Frank Lauhoff
public safety director

On the evening of Sept. 8, the department received a call about a man believed to be having a heart attack in his vehicle at Nine Mile and Farmington roads. Three officers, including Hyde and Madigan, arrived to find 75-year-old Farmington Hills resident Patrick Maher with no pulse or respiration.

Their immediate action to begin cardiopulmonary resuscitation "manually restored the victim's heart action and circulation" until help could arrive from Community Emergency Medical Services, Lauhoff said.

On Sept. 27 in the late afternoon, an emergency call came in from Jeannette Szczepanik, reporting her 68-year-old husband Leonard was having a heart attack in the parking lot of the Drakeshire Apartments complex. Officers Hyde, Cowger and Gubacz arrived

at the scene where they were aided by off-duty Farmington Hills firefighter Mike Garr. CPR was done until a heartbeats returned to the victim. "The officers' quick and skillful actions were directly responsible for saving the life of this individual," Lauhoff said in commending the men.

On Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, at 11:20 a.m. Laurence Ringe called to report his 80-year-old father Norman was having a heart attack at his Wilmarth Street home. Officers Dellar and Hennessy arrived immediately and began CPR which brought back heart action, blood pressure and breathing. The officers "used their training skillfully and in a professional manner," Lauhoff said.

A number of other awards were given Wednesday, including the Of-

ficer of the Year award to Hyde and Reserve Officer of the Year to James Dale who won the award for the second year in a row.

Hills firefighter Garr received a letter of commendation for his aid in the Szczepanik lifesaving effort, as did Hills police Officer James Jarrett for his help in pursuing and apprehending a thief from the Benchmark store in downtown Farmington last June.

Gubacz received a department citation for quick action in evacuating a Farmington Meadows subdivision resident during an electrical storm last July, after discovering lightning had struck a home and ruptured an underground gas line. The gas was feeding at high pressure into the person's basement and near lethal levels of gas were found.

Also receiving a departmental citation was Officer Robert Schulz, who was successful in processing difficult fingerprint evidence at the scene of an August residential break-in on Grand River. The evidence led police to a suspect, who was also identified in other similar crimes in neighboring Farmington Hills.

Top cop sharp, compassionate

Continued from Page 1

HYDE was born 43 years ago in Bryson City, N.C., where his mother and many other family members still live. His family moved to Redford Township four years later. He grew up there with his parents and a younger brother, graduated from high school in 1966 and, after a two-year stint in the military, applied to the city of Farmington to be a policeman.

"I've been here ever since," he said. Today, he lives in Farmington with his wife of 25 years, Lynn, and 14-year-old daughter Carrie, who has nothing but admiration for her dad, saying he "has an iron fist in a velvet glove."

He enjoys his contact with the public, even when the calls are minor things. He recalled an incident when he was called to help a woman who had locked herself out of the bathroom with the hot water running. After helping, he received an unexpected letter saying "thank-you" for the great job.

And that's basically what Farmington's like," he said. "You spend the time (doing those things) if you have it, because our citizens deserve that."

Hyde said he is a private person and actually rather shy, but he is never hesitant to talk with people. Many times, he finds himself get-

ting close to a family when he handles a call.

"I basically like people," he said. "If you're hurt, I want to help you. It's my generation I think, the way we were raised to be."

He also has a special affinity for children, many of whom have gone on his tours of the public safety department over the years.

Hyde developed his career here as the city was growing up, and recalls the days when Farmington was truly a small town.

"You got west of Gill Road and you were in the country," he said. "The traffic is unbelievable now — you used to know everybody who drove through town. That's not true anymore."

He's never had a desire to move up to a higher rank than the PSOT — a senior officer — or change to a bigger police department. The danger of the job, which includes both police work and firefighting, doesn't worry him. "I like what I am, who I am and what I'm doing," he said. "I'm content."

Hyde plans to retire in another five years, when the family will likely plan for more time in North Carolina and up in northern Michigan near Harrisville where his wife has her roots. He will always carry a piece of Farmington along.

"I wonder how it's going to be to leave a place where you've been so involved with everybody's lives," he said. "I'm sure Farmington will be with me forever."



Officer Hilton Hyde receives accolades from public safety Director Frank Lauhoff Wednesday before being given his award.

around Farmington

All announcements for this column must be mailed to Around Farmington, Farmington Observer, 21898 Farmington Road, Farmington 48326.

Deadline for Around Farmington is noon Monday for the Thursday publication and noon Thursday for the Monday publication. Requests for announcements will not be taken over the telephone.

TAX-AIDE PROGRAM

Monday, March 2-9: AARP tax-aide program for Senior Citizens 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Farmington Hills Senior Center, Mercy Center, 28600 W. 11 Mile Road, Gate 4, for people 60 and older sponsored by American Association of Retired Persons (AARP).

TAX-AIDE PROGRAM

Friday, Feb. March 6: AARP sponsors a tax-aide program for senior citizens Fridays in Farmington Community Library, 23550 Liberty St., corner of Liberty and State Streets from Noon to 4 p.m.

PARENTING CLASS

Mondays, March 2 through April 6: For all Delta parents and others interested in maintaining satisfactory achievement or reversing underachievement among their bright children. Fee is \$25 per registration for resident and \$40 or \$50 per couple for non-resident. For more information call 489-3399 or 489-3401.

RESOLVE THROUGH SHARING

Mondays, March 2 through 23: Four week seminar to help mothers and families who have experienced the death of a child through miscarriage, stillbirth or newborn infant death at First Church of the Nazarene, 21260 Haggerty Road. For information call Sharon Pilat at 346-7600 or 346-2070.

WOMEN'S HEALTH ISSUES

Tuesday, March 3: Raquel Hadassah holds a meeting on women's health issues at 7:45 p.m. in the home of Debbie Supowit in Farmington Hills. Speaker will be Dr. Alvin Schoenberger. For more information and address call Debbie at 489-7017.

OPEN HOUSE

Tuesday, March 3: Open house at Thomas P.

Beahan Junior High School, 23971 Power Road in Farmington. For more information, call the school office at 474-8150 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

EX-ANTICIPANT PARENT CLASS

Wednesday, March 4: The Oakland County Health Division will offer a series of six classes. 27725 Greenfield Road, Southfield from 7-9 p.m. There is a \$10 charge and you must register as enrollment is limited. For more information call 424-7042.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday, March 4: All are welcome to attend Ash Wednesday Mass at Madonna University at 11:30 a.m. in the University Chapel in the lower level of the University Center.

POWER INTERVIEW

Wednesday, March 4: Workshop taught by Barbara Eilman to learn how to schedule, negotiate and close the sale during a job interview in Farmington Hills Library, 23737 12 Mile from 7-9 p.m. For reservations call 553-0300.

WINTER TRAVEL FILM

Thursday, March 5: Films of Israel will be featured in Farmington Community Library, 23500 Liberty Street, Farmington at 7:30 p.m. For more information call 474-7770.

LIVONIA CHILDBIRTH EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Wednesday, March 4: For new parents the choice of two or four week class for refreshers and a monthly breastfeeding class. Weekday classes are from 7-9:30 p.m. and Saturday classes are from 9-11:30 a.m. For more information call 537-0665.

OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, March 5: St. Paul's Lutheran School, 20815 Middlebelt (corner of Eight Mile) holds an open house 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information call 474-2488.

LUNCHEON AND CARD PARTY

Thursday, March 5: Luncheon and card party sponsored by Trinity Shrine in Farmington Grandson Temple on Farmington Road and Grand River. Table and door prizes. Donation \$4.

RETREAT DAY

Friday, March 6: A creative task toward self-discovery presented by Joan Lowell from 9:30 a.m. until 3 p.m. in Room J-303 on Orchard Ridge Campus of OCC.

RUMMAGE SALE

Saturday, March 7: White elephant and bake sale at Detroit Baptist Manor, 30251 W. 13 Mile Road in the Alpha Building 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

CHOLESTEROL CHECK

Saturday, March 7: St. Mary Hospital at the corner of Five Mile and Levan hosts a cholesterol and blood pressure screening from 9 a.m. to noon. Fee is \$7, and although walk-ins accepted, registration is requested. For more information or to register call 484-4800, ext. 2297.

CONCERT

Saturday, March 7: The Smith Theater on the campus of Oakland Community College, Orchard Ridge Campus in a concert for kids ages 2-8 and the young at heart at 4:30 p.m. Tickets are \$4.50 in advance and \$5 at the door. Group discounts on advance purchases are available. For more information call Marc Thomas at 478-0728.

COIN, STAMP AND BASEBALL CARD SHOW

Sunday, March 8: Coin, stamp and baseball card show at Mercy Sports Center, 28600 11 Mile Road, Gate 4 east of Middlebelt 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. No admission charge.

WOMEN'S AGLOW FELLOWSHIP

Monday, March 9: Fellowship meeting at 7:30 p.m. in Farmington Hills Library on 12 Mile Road. A network of caring women.

CAREGIVERS' WORKSHOP

Tuesday, March 10 and Tuesday, March 17: Farmington Hills Senior Adult Division invites anyone caring for a family member or friend who is elderly, frail, ill, disabled or impaired to attend a workshop at the Mercy Senior Adult Center, 28600 11 Mile. Sessions provide ideas, recommendations, problem-solving suggestions and time for individual questions and concerns. No charge but reservations are required. For more information call 473-1854.

inkwell

Inkwell provides information about primary and secondary education issues and students from the Farmington area. Send information to: Inkwell, The Farmington Observer, 21898 Farmington Road, Farmington 48326 or fax information to 477-9722. Please include a daytime phone number on your news release. Items will not be taken over the phone.

SCHOOL LOTTERY

A lottery will be held in March to select first graders for Highmeadow Common Campus, an alternative elementary school program in the Farmington Public Schools.

Residents of the school district who have a child eligible for first grade in the fall of 1992 may enroll their child for the lottery at Highmeadow during the week of March 9-13, during the hours of 10 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Because students from across the district attend Highmeadow, the lottery system is used to siblings of current students.

This year, there will be 76 slots open for first graders. The lottery will be held on March 16, and letters informing parents of selections will be sent out that week.

To give residents more information about the Highmeadow program, an information presentation is scheduled for 7 p.m. Monday, March 9, in the school's gym at 30175 Highmeadow Road, Farmington Hills. The school is in a subdivision north of 12 Mile between Orchard Lake and Middlebelt roads.

The Highmeadow program is for students in grades one through five and includes the district's core curriculum which consists of reading, writing, math, science, social studies, health, gym, art and music. It also offers more than 100 enrichment courses designed to challenge the abilities and interest of all students.

For more information about the program, call the school at 489-3699.

YOUTH PROGRAM

Two Harrison High School seniors have been selected to participate in youth music programs at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

Amy Dunbar was selected to play the violin with the Michigan Youth Symphony Orchestra at U-M. A member of the Harrison orchestra, she has participated in the string quartet and various school plays. She is one of 83 students selected for the U-M orchestra program.

David Lurie was selected to play the trumpet with the Michigan Youth Jazz Ensemble. He is a member of the Harrison marching, symphonic and jazz bands and has participated in the all-state band at Interlochen Arts Camp. He is one of 15 students selected for the U-M jazz program.

The youth ensembles are conducted by full-time U-M faculty. A combined total of 228 students from 82 Michigan cities were selected from a talent pool of 470 musicians for the symphony, jazz ensemble, a symphonic band and a group of chamber groups.

In addition to performing, the students are offered college counseling and master classes and recitals by U-M faculty and opportunities to audition for School of Music and Interlochen Arts Camp scholarships.

GRANT GIVEN

Shirley Nuss of Farmington Hills was one of 90 teachers from Southeastern Michigan and 16 teachers from Oakland County recently awarded grants from Detroit Edison to increase awareness of energy and the environment in the classroom.