

Studio from page 11A

The studio, which employs 65 and includes several recording suites, two indoor stages, sophisticated lighting and other equipment, is one of a few in the country to have a complete fully digital suite. That allows for more precise "blowups" of film and more accurate information.

Because of the work of Grace and Wild, investigators were able to narrow down conflicting descriptions of Kerrigan's attacker.

Some witnesses had said the attacker was black, while others said he was white. The sophisticated enhancement equipment helped determine that the man was white, was carrying a stick of some kind and was likely wearing a cap. One of the processes involved filling in half of the suspect's face based on elements in the visible half.

"You have to look at what you have and try not to see things that aren't there," Segall said.

Even with enhancement, the image is far from clear. That leaves room for interpretation. For that reason, Segall, editing supervisor Gary Shifflet and others worked as a team, rather than going with an initial hunch of what something in the shadows was.

"At one point, what we thought was a log was actually a coat in the background," Segall said.

Shifflet, a Livonia resident and editor with the company for 13 years, has worked in the medium long enough to know that for all the technology, there is a degree of art and guesswork in narrowing down video that can vary in quality, depending on the shooter, lighting and other factors.

"You have to be careful that what you come up with will help," he said. "I'm not concerned that we are after the right guy."

Shifflet worked long hours on the Saturday and Sunday after the attack, which helped authorities quickly identify a suspect and focus on a composite sketch of a white man that led to an arrest in the case.

Although Grace and Wild staffers enjoyed the challenge of the case, it is in some ways the opposite of what they often do. Instead of trying to bring out possibly ugly details, much of what the company does, especially in advertising videos, is hide the sometimes less than wonderful details.

"Have you ever noticed in car ads that you don't see anything sticking out from underneath a car as it's going by?" Neff said. "That's what we call roto cropping."

And since many clients are from the auto industry, it is an art form at Grace and Wild.

"That's why we have to check each other on something like this (Kerrigan tape)," Neff said. "To make sure we're being accurate."

Shifflet said he and his colleagues are used to some tight deadlines, which helped in working with the Kerrigan tape. But the ability to create and do something that few other production studios in the country could do makes this type of work satisfying, Shifflet said.

"You have to love the work to work these hours," he said. "But you get something like this, you have the equipment, and it gets a little exciting."



Honored employees: Farmington Hills residents (from left) Stanley Zenas, James Sowman, Denise Mitchell and Gerald Reifschneider were winners of the Henry Ford Technology Award.

Ford says 4 Hills residents have better ideas

Four Farmington Hills residents recently earned Ford Motor Company's highest honor — the Henry Ford Technology Award — for breakthrough innovations and technological achievements.

Denise Mitchell, Gerald Reifschneider, James Sowman and Stanley Zenas were among 48 employees to receive awards Dec. 9 during ceremonies in Dearborn.

The awards are handed out annually during an evening ceremony that emulates television's Academy Awards.

"The Henry Ford Technology Award is our Nobel prize, our Pulitzer, our Academy Awards all rolled into one," said Ford chairman Alex Trotman. "It's a demonstration of the importance we place on our technical experts and the role they play in the future of our company."

Now in its 13th year, the Henry Ford Technology awards program is designed to recognize a carefully selected group of employees from around the world for their first-of-a-kind or industry-leading technical achievements.

Named after the company's founder, the award is given only after a five-month nomination and review process that involves the company's top management ranks worldwide. Fewer than 400 employees have received the honor in Ford history.

"The importance of these employees and their contributions cannot be overemphasized," Trotman said. "I can think of no time when the future of Ford lays more heavily in the hands of its technical people than it does now."

Mitchell was part of a three-person team honored for design and development of a variable axis adjusting and support apparatus for headlamp units.

The innovation is useful in the manufacturing process because it simplifies the installation process. It also gives vehicle designers more flexibility on where a headlamp can be placed.

Reifschneider was part of a two-person team honored for the concept, design and development of an improved residual torque measurement evaluation methodology.

The innovation improves the way torque readings are taken for the more than 8 million fasteners secured to Ford vehicles each day.

It also helps to eliminate squeaks, rattles and fluid leaks.

Sowman was part of a four-person team honored for conceiving and developing "solar tint" — a new high solar rejection automotive glass and melting technology.

Solar tint glass reduces the amount of light going into a vehicle by 30 percent over regular tint, which helps to reduce the fading of interior fabrics and improve passenger comfort.

Zenas was part of a two-person team honored for design, development and production implementation of a sludge-tolerant throttle body. The innovation helps improve air flow in an engine's throttle by eliminating the sludge that once served as a deterrent.

It is a plus for Ford because it eliminates engine stalling, hard cold starts and rough idling.

In all, 15 innovations and 45 employees are being recognized with this year's award.

MILITARY NEWS

If you have military news with a Farmington-area connection, send it to: Military News, Farmington Observer, 21825 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336.

PROMOTED
Air Force Staff Sgt. Marcie L. Thomas was promoted to her current rank. She is a financial services specialist. She is the daughter of Louis M. Thomas of Farmington Hills and Jean Thomas of Columbia, S.C.

PROMOTED
Brandon Geiger has been promoted in the U.S. Army to the rank of specialist. A loader, he is the son of Mark and Lyn Geiger of Farmington Hills.

COMPLETES TRAINING
Army Pvt. Steven N. Hillawi has completed basic training at Fort Leonard E. Wood in Waynesville, Mo. He is the son of Najwa and Naimi Hillawi of Farmington.



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PUBLIC NOTICE REGARDING BASIC CABLE TELEVISION RATES CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS

Metrovision of Oakland County, Inc. has filed with the City of Farmington Hills, Federal Communications Commission Form 353 and related documents setting forth its rates for basic service and related equipment, installation and other services. These materials are in the office of the City Clerk and are available for public inspection and copying during normal business hours 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The basic service rate is \$10.62. Interested parties are invited to file written comments relative to rates and compliance with federal cable television rules within 30 days with the City Clerk, which written comments shall be available for public inspection and copying during normal business hours.

KATHERYN A. DORNAN,
City Clerk

Public: January 20, 1994

CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING MEETING JANUARY 17, 1994

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Lichtman at 7:30 p.m. Members Present: Bates, Grant, Lichtman, Oliverio, Sever, Smith and Vazopoulos. Members Absent: None. Others Present: City Manager Costello, City Clerk Dornan, Assistant City Managers Brock and Call, Directors Blaisell and Courtenay, Fire Chief Martinecci and Attorney Donohoe.

COUNCIL

- Proclaimed January 17, 1994, as the day to remember the struggles, goals and visions of Martin Luther King.
- Postponed consideration of Class C liquor license for Chaiet of Farmington Hills, 30649 Grand River, to January 24, 1994.
- Deferred action on the resolution in support of Oakland County Emergency Medical Services Communication Coordinating Center (OCOM) for further study.

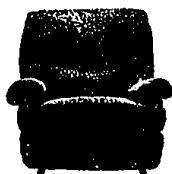
APPROVED:

- Study session schedule for Council for January and February.
- Introduction of Ordinance amending City Code to allow Planning Commission to hold a public hearing for qualifications for the Planned Unit Development and cluster development options.
- Amendment to Consent Judgment for cluster development located on the southwest corner of Thirteen Mile and Halsted Roads.
- Ventilation improvements for DFW building.
- Bid award for Fire Department rescue equipment to Apollo Fire Equipment in the amount of \$17,371.
- Increase in fee schedule for the Police Department, Records Division.

LAWRENCE LICHTMAN, Mayor
KATHERYN A. DORNAN, City Clerk

Public: January 20, 1994

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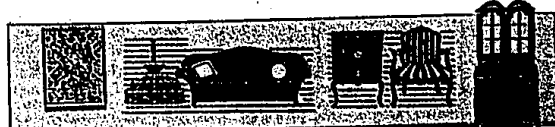


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