

20-year veteran cops VFW's top officer award

Chief William J. Dwyer of the Farmington Hills Police Department announced that Officer Timothy Swanson was recognized as Police Officer of the Year by the Farmington area VFW on Feb. 12.

Swanson was selected by the police department's Citation and Award Board, comprised of his fellow officers.

His law enforcement career began in 1974, when he was appointed to the position of police cadet. In 1976, he was promoted to the rank of police officer.

During his tenure with the department, Swanson earned an associate's degree from Schoolcraft College in 1980 and a bachelor's degree from Mercy College of Detroit in 1982.

Swanson has served in various capacities within the department such as the juvenile section, patrol division, and his current assignment in the investigative section. He also represented the department as a member of the Southwest Oakland County Auto Theft Unit, where he became a recognized expert witness in the field of auto theft.

Swanson is an instructor at Schoolcraft, where he presents in-service training to officers on auto theft. He serves as the liaison officer to the department's Chaplain Program.

One of the department's most decorated officers, Swanson has been influential in the successful disposition of several major cases during 1993.

His initiative, leadership and

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Hills' top officer: Tim Swanson was named Police Officer of the Year in Farmington Hills by the Farmington VFW.

performance in a case involving Universal Auto, 28001 Grand River in Farmington Hills, is one example. The investigation led to the recovery of 26 automobiles and the confiscation of hundreds of files.

There were investigations from numerous other law enforcement agencies that had tried unsuccessfully for years to investigate the fraudulent operation that victimized the public.

Through his dedication and perseverance, Swanson obtained warrants through the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office charging the suspects with fraud. His investigation helped the State of Illinois in resolving fraud cases and the recovery of more than 100 vehicles.

As a result of his investigation, he was invited on Nov. 3, 1993, to testify before the Michigan State Senate on proposed laws being considered as a result of the case. Swanson and his wife, Colleen, have three children.

CLARIFICATION

A caption under the color photograph on page 1 of the Feb. 14 Farmington Observer should have identified Brian Stude as the Eagle Elementary School student in the wheelchair.

Engler to stump for Proposal A

Gov. John Engler will speak on the merits of Proposal A, the ballot proposal that would hike the state sales tax, from 2-3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 26, in Shannon Hall of the Mercy Center on 11 Mile Road east of Middlebelt in Farmington Hills.

Engler, who supports Proposal A, will take questions from the audience after his talk. Michigan voters will settle the ballot proposal question in a special election March 16.

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Published every Monday and Thursday by Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Farmington, MI 48009-0910. Second class postage paid at Farmington, MI 48009-0910. Postmaster: Send address changes to Observer & Eccentric, Newspaper 805 E. Maple, Farmington, MI 48009-0910. Telephone 481-1100.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

One year (Oakland County)	\$136.40
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