

New man in blue: Damian Woodmore is Farmington Hills' first black police officer and the first in some time to be hired from another department.



ANN HEALEY/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

New Hills officer comes with experience

BY BILL COUFANT
STAFF WRITER
For the first time since 1987, the Farmington Hills police have hired an officer from another department.
Chief Bill Dwyer said Officer Damian Woodmore, 24, had met all the department's requirements — including written, oral and psychological tests — and a background investigation.
Woodmore, who worked as a patrol officer for the River Rouge

Police Department before joining Farmington Hills on Dec. 12, is also the city's first black officer.
"This is a big change in geographic area, but I feel comfortable with it," Woodmore said. "I grew up in Auburn Hills. My brother played college basketball at Oakland Community College, so I'm familiar with the area."
Woodmore graduated from Avondale High in Auburn Hills, attended Michigan Christian College in Rochester Hills and Oak-

land Community College. He has an associate's degree in criminal justice.
Most Farmington Hills officers go through the department's cadet program and then to police academy, Dwyer said. But with many of the department's senior officers retiring, and with several promotions, the department has an entire new group of six cadets.
Four cadets were promoted to officers in August.
Officer Craig Hurt, who is

Woodmore's field training officer, was also hired as an officer in 1987, without becoming a cadet first.
"He (Woodmore) has an advantage in that he has been on the street and has some experience," Hurt said. "He has to learn our department's protocols, learn the community and the geographic area."
The department has hired six new cadets and is making other changes (see related story below).

Police add new cadets, transfer officers

Farmington Hills police Chief Bill Dwyer announced the hiring of six new police cadets Dec. 19. "This will again give us a full complement of cadets," Dwyer said. "This is an outstanding group. Two of these officers had job offers as full-time police officers from Westland and the Michigan State Police. But they chose to come here."
The six were chosen from more than 400 applicants. The new cadets successfully completed and passed the department's hiring process consisting of a written test, oral board, physical exam and psychological test.
Cadet Paul James Nicholas, 22, is a Walled Lake resident and Walled Lake Western High graduate with a 3.025 grade point average. He's enrolled at Michigan State University and has 76 credit hours. Nicholas has already graduated from the Oakland Police Academy in May of 1994, finishing eighth in the class of 50. His tested at 90.20 percent at the academy.
Cadet Gary Martin Lavin, 25, is a 1987 North Farmington High graduate and has attended Oakland Community College and Wayne State University, majoring in criminal justice.
Cadet Charles James Studders, 22, is a Novi resident and 1990 Novi High graduate. He is enrolled in the criminal justice program at Wayne State University and has 83 credit hours, which exceeds the amount needed for an associate's degree. He had worked as a security officer for the Twelve Oaks shopping mall in Novi.
Cadet Michael S. Manderachia, 25, is a Royal Oak resident and Clarence Kimball High graduate. He earned an associate's degree from Oakland Community Col-



New cadets: Joining the Farmington Hills police are (from left) Lawrence C. Fetherolf II, Charles James Studders, Michael S. Manderachia, Alexander J. Pruss, Gary Martin Lavin and Paul James Nicholas.

lege in 1992. In January of 1993, Manderachia enrolled at Wayne State University in pursuit of a bachelor's degree. He graduated from the Oakland Police Academy and had been employed as a part-time police officer in South Lyon since May of this year.
Cadet Lawrence C. Fetherolf II, 27, lives in Troy. A 1985 graduate of Harper Woods Notre Dame High, he attends Macomb Community College. Fetherolf completed the course at the Oakland Police Academy in Auburn Hills in May of 1993. He has served as an auxiliary officer with the

Farmington Hills police department since 1992.
Cadet Alexander J. Pruss, 22, is joining the department after living in Grand Rapids. He is a 1990 graduate of Pioneer High in Ann Arbor and graduated in May of this year from Calvin College in Grand Rapids with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice.
Several officers will also be transferred because of retirements and promotions. Effective Jan. 2, 1995, Lt. Chuck Nebus will move to the administrative bureau from the patrol division; Sgt. Ray Cranston, who will be promoted

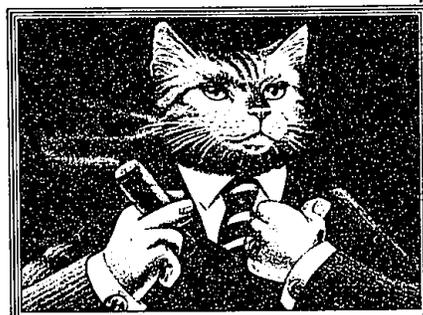
to lieutenant on Jan. 2, will move from the traffic section to the patrol division; Officer Tim Swanson, who will be promoted to sergeant on Jan. 3, will be transferred from the detective section to the patrol division; Officer Brian DeGrande, who will be promoted to sergeant on Jan. 4, will be transferred from the detective section to the patrol division; Officer Ron Shankin will be transferred from the patrol division to the detective section and Officer Gary Bradley will be transferred from the patrol division to the detective section.

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