

Top Farmington Hills officer is a life saver

By BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

For Farmington Hills Police Officer James Kase, there is no better job or challenge than being on patrol.

"I like it a lot," said the VFW Police Officer of the Year. "You're always going, especially on the midnight shift."

Kase, a Hills officer since Aug. 1, 1995, was honored for his performance by the VFW-Optimist in ceremonies last month.

He has earned three unit citations, two certificates of commendation, many letters of appreciation, a professional service award and a life saving award. Kase is also a member of the department's honor guard.

"It's exhilarating to be involved in an action where a life is saved," he said.

Kase responded Feb. 23, 1995 at 3:35 a.m. to a report of a citizen having trouble breathing. "His vital signs were dim-

■ **'It's exhilarating to be involved in an action where a life is saved.'**

*James Kase
police officer*

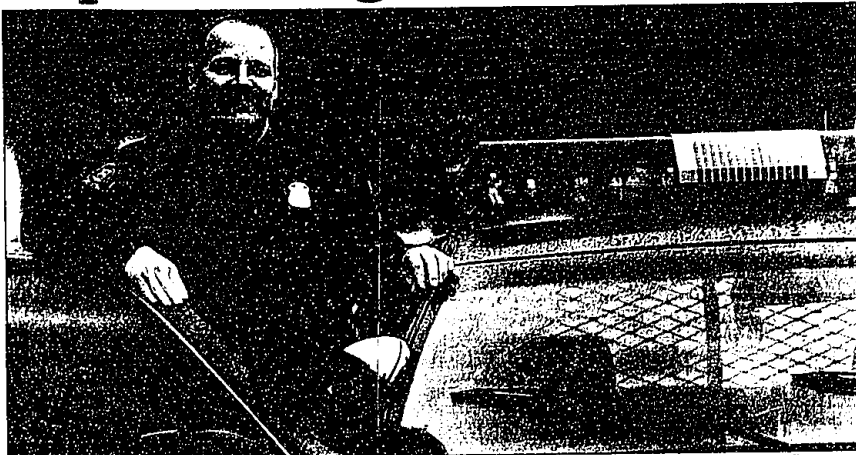
ishing," Kase said. "There was no pulse. He had quite literally died in my hands."

But Kase was instrumental in bringing back the victim using CPR. The man eventually recovered and was released from the hospital.

"You feel that you've really made a difference," he said.

Kase, 40, has also served as a traffic officer. Before joining the Farmington Hills police he was a security officer at the Detroit Renaissance Center. He has an associate's degree in criminal justice from Henry Ford Community College in Dearborn.

Kase and his wife Rose have two children, Derek, 10, and Jenna, 1.



SHARON LEMIEUX/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Top cop: "You feel that you've really made a difference," says Farmington Hills officer James Kase

Top Hills firefighter living lifelong dream

By BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

Corey Bartsch was one of those kids who knew what he wanted to do for a career when he was knee-high to a fire hydrant.

Bartsch, 26, was named VFW and Optimist Club Firefighter of the Year last month, which seemed only natural.

"I always knew this would be the career I wanted to pursue," Bartsch said. "It's exciting and different every day. I also like helping people and you definitely do that."

Bartsch graduated from North Farmington High School and has an associate's degree from Lansing Community College in fire science. He became a paid-on-call volunteer with the Hills department in October of 1987 and joined the department full-time in August of 1990.

Bartsch has continued his fire fighting training and was selected as one of only three firefighters to go through a 10-month paramedic training program.

"I was really fortunate to be selected," he said.

Bartsch was recognized for his efforts in saving a cardiac arrest victim last year and for his efforts at organizing the department's successful open house last fall. He has also been recognized by the department for his work with firefighting recruits, an especially important part of the job because Farmington Hills uses more than 100 volunteer firefighters.

Bartsch and his wife Lou have a son James, 2.



SHARON LEMIEUX/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Best firefighter: "I always knew this would be the career I wanted to pursue," said Corey Bartsch, Farmington Hills Firefighter of the Year.

District appoints personnel director

Farmington Public Schools has appointed Lawrence Lobert as new executive director of Personnel Services.

Lobert, 43, has been personnel director for South Lake Schools in St. Clair Shores since 1988. He will be replacing Personnel Executive Director Bob Coleman, who is retiring in April.

At South Lake, Lobert negotiated several contracts with MEA and AFSCME groups and non-union groups. He developed the district's first centralized personnel department and introduced standardized selection procedures. He directed and coordinated

three successful millage and bond campaigns.

Lobert spent six years as a graphic arts teacher at South Lake Schools, teaching typesetting, printing, photography and publication classes to 11th and 12th grade vocational students. He was also advisor to the school's award-winning yearbook.

As an instructor, Lobert was elected vice-president for the MEA local from 1984-85.

While attending the University of Michigan, Lobert was elected as a councilman in Ypsilanti in 1973.

He has a bachelor's degree from U-M and a master's degree in



Lawrence Lobert

Public Administration from Wayne State University. He is a 1970 graduate of Boy City Central High.

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FOCUS

Caucus, primary coming

Attention, Farmington-area Democrats who wish to participate in the Saturday, March 16, Presidential Preference Caucuses: For caucus purposes only, the Farmington area has been divided into three sections.

Interested Democrats who live south of 10 Mile Road should go to St. Alexander's Catholic Church, 27826 Shiawassee, Farmington Hills. This site is for people in Hills voting Precincts 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26 and 27 and all of the city of Farmington.

Democrats in northeast Farmington Hills, east of Farmington Road and north of 10 Mile, should go to the William M. Costick Activities Center, 28600 W. 11 Mile Road east of Middlebelt. This includes those who normally vote in Hills Precincts 1, 2, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 18 and 19.

Democrats in northwest Farmington Hills, north of 10 Mile and west of Farmington Road, should go to the Universalist Unitarian Church, 25301 Halsted Road. Included are those in voting Precincts 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 15, 16 and 17.

Sites will be open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Participants must show identification. President Bill Clinton is alone on the Democratic ballot. For more information, call Ann Harp of the Oakland County Democratic Party at 684-0510.

Republicans will vote their presidential choices on the following Tuesday, March 19, at their regular precinct polling places during normal voting hours, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., in Farmington and Farmington Hills.

There'll be nine Republican candidates on the ballot, said Hills Assistant City Clerk Sue Rose, even though several have dropped out. No candidates will appear on the Democratic side of the

ballot in the Republican Primary.

Nutrition open house

The Greenery Extended Care Center, a Farmington nursing home, will host an open house and free program on nutrition 2-4 p.m. Thursday, March 14, at the facility, 34225 Grand River.

Diets, lowering fat and sodium intake, food pyramid and food groups, weight loss and eating out in restaurants are some of the topics to be discussed. For more information, call the Greenery at 477-7373.

Candidate sets meeting

Steve Kaplan, Democratic candidate for Oakland County Prosecutor, will hold a community meeting 7:30-9 p.m. Thursday, March 14, at the Botford Inn on Grand River, northwest of Eight Mile.

Kaplan, an assistant prosecutor in Macomb County, is making a second try for Oakland County's chief legal officer. The event is open to the public.

Rummage and bake sale

Detroit Baptist Manor, a Farmington Hills nursing home, will host a rummage and bake sale and a silent auction on two hand-crafted ship models 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, March 16, in the alpha building of the facility, 30251 W. 13 Mile Road between Orchard Lake and Middlebelt roads.