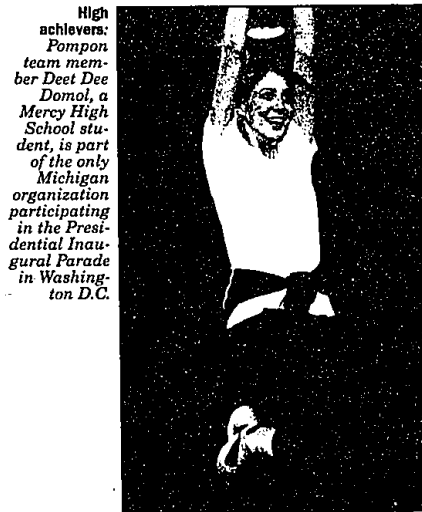
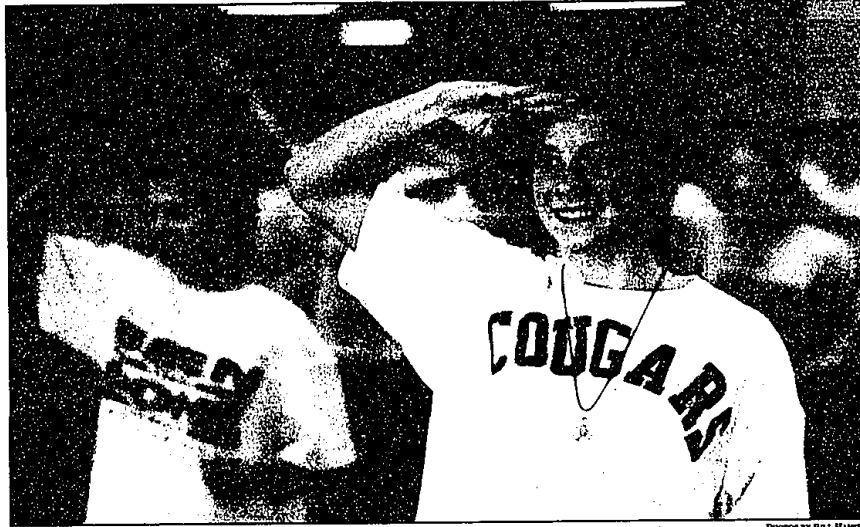


Pompon planning: Dana Grandzieleski of Canton rechecks a position chart at a practice. The team devoted its recent holiday vacation to getting the choreography right.



High achievers: Pompon team member Deet Dee Domol, a Mercy High School student, is part of the only Michigan organization participating in the Presidential Inaugural Parade in Washington D.C.



Farmington salutes: Pompon All Star Aimee Cameron, of Farmington High School, goes through the team's routine to the strains of "R.O.C.K. in the U.S.A." by John Cougar Mellencamp.

Pompon squad ready for D.C. cheer

High kicks, toe-touching jumps, sparkling smiles, and practice, practice, practice. These things are all too familiar to members of the Mid-American Pompon All Star Team, the only Michigan organization participating in the Presidential Inaugural Parade in Washington D.C. on Monday, Jan. 20.

The team, founded in 1985, was chosen by the Presidential Inaugural Committee parade planners from hundreds of entries across the nation. This is the team's second appearance in a Clinton celebration on Pennsylvania Avenue.

"To be selected twice for the Presidential Inaugural Parade is not only an honor, but a confirmation that these young women are admired and appreciated for their hard work

and dedication," said Karen Blazaitis, director and coach of the Farmington-based team. "We are extremely proud of the team's accomplishments and can't wait to represent Michigan's youth in honor of the president."

The team is made up of pompon performers from area schools. Teammates spent their holiday vacation learning the parade routine, choreographed to "R.O.C.K. in the U.S.A." by John Cougar Mellencamp, via videotape demonstration.

They worked to memorize and perfect each and every step, incorporating athletic jumps, high kicks, and synchronized arm movements with special metallic hoops to create a sparkling, eye-catching spectacle.

From the 1993 Presidential Inaugural

Parade to the 1994 Fiesta Bowl to the 1996 Centennial Olympic performance at Coca-Cola Olympic City, the team has had its share of national and international attention.

Local members of the All Star team are:

- Farmington High students Lauren Helisek, Katie Seod, Kristin Wild, Aimee Cameron, Stephanie Unger, and Julie Glover.
- Mercy High School students Megan Reil, Kristin Winter, Deet Dee Domol, Jenny Styles, Tiffani Cann, Katy La Croix, Dameka Ross, and Angie Spezia.
- Harrison High School student Amy Friedman.

Farmington Hills salutes city's best employees

BY WILLIAM COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

The city of Farmington Hills took time to honor its outstanding employees of 1996 at the first regular city council meeting of the new year.

It was the 21st annual recognition awards ceremony for city employees.

This year, Marilyn J. Richardson was named the city's top employee.

Richardson started with the city in January of 1980 and was promoted to clerk/typist in police administration in July of 1988 and then became secretary to the operations bureau commander in 1994.

Her proficiency with computers and willingness to give her expertise to co-workers along with her many extra-curricular activities with the city and police department were cited by those who nominated her.

"Marilyn is a doer," said the nomination. "She volunteers to assist in the police department's 10K race for Muscular Dystrophy, she works at the police open house and the (Farmington Hills) Police Benevolent Association golf outing."

"She comes in early and stays late," said police Chief Bill Dwyer. "She has made improvements in every position she has assumed in the department."

Richardson, who attended the ceremony along with her husband, Bill, and her two daughters, thanked her family and friends and gave special thanks to Dwyer and Inspector Richard Niemisto.

"They are dedicated leaders in their field," she said.

Dwyer said before the meeting that Richardson was the first police department employee to win the city's highest recognition.

The city also named Charles J. Rozum as its top police officer.

Rozum, a 15-year veteran with the department has served in the traffic and investigative bureaus, but gained recognition because of his actions while serving in the patrol division.

He is credited with coordinating the arrest of two men involved in an armed robbery on April 17, 1996 and making an arrest of two men for carrying concealed weapons on Aug. 26, 1996 and other arrests.

"What is remarkable about officer Rozum is not only the arrests he made in 1996 but his previous awards," Dwyer said. "He has won 30 awards and been the Optimist Club's Police Officer of the Year

twice. He has more than 1,400 arrests."

Rozum, who was with his wife Claudia and two children praised his fellow officers for helping do his job.

"The men and women I work with form a great team," he said.

Winning top honors for the fire department was Fire Marshal Steve Hume.

Chief Rich Marinucci said the selection was easy because of Hume's many contributions on a day-to-day basis and his thorough work during the investigation of an arson that claimed the lives of two women and resulted in the conviction of one of those responsible.

"He responded to the fire and stayed on the scene during a long, cold day," Marinucci said. "It's non-glamorous work."

Hume's diligence helped turn up evidence of kerosene that was used to start the fire.

Hume joined the department in 1975.

Five outstanding employees were also recognized:

- Jean P. Coil, who joined the city in 1975 and works as an administrative secretary with the fire department, was honored for the second time.
- She makes the best of every project or task with which she is involved," said one of her nominators.
- Sue Johnson, who works in the finance department handling employee payroll was honored for the second time. Her "contagious laugh, upbeat... can-do attitude" were cited.
- Elsie Price, who works at the golf course in maintenance, was honored for the third straight year.
- "He quiet demeanor doesn't attract attention, but her efforts are noticed and appreciated by us all," said one of her nominators.
- Shirley Shottroff, secretary to the director of public services and an employee since 1976, was honored for her ability to work with coworkers and handle calls and complaints from the public with grace.
- Shottroff is an active participant in many social and charitable activities for the city as well, including the Rouge Rescue, Adopt a Family, the Walk for Cancer and others.
- Herman Smith of the special services department was recognized for his quick wit and ability to gain the trust of coworkers as well as his organization skills involving recreation programming.

In addition, city employees who had completed 5, 10, 15, 20 and 25 years of employment with the city were recognized.

Davis goes on trial Feb. 24

A Westland man accused in the murder of two Farmington Hills women will go on trial before Judge Barry Howard in Oakland Circuit Court on Feb. 24.

George Tyrone Davis, 24, is accused of helping Arthur Hollingsworth Cayce, 24, to murder Louise Bovair, 52, and Melissa Boynt, 21, in their home on Quail Hollow Dec. 18-19, 1995.

Cayce was tried and convicted of first-degree murder, felony murder and arson and sentenced on Dec. 23, 1996 to life in prison without parole for his part in the crime.

"He (Davis) has given no indication that he wants a plea bargain, and we're not offering," said Oakland County Assistant Prosecutor Lisa Madzia.

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