

# Optimists honor top police officers

Farmington and Farmington Hills Optimists honored police officers of the year during a ceremony at San Marino Golf Course.

Farmington Hills officer Duane Fox and Farmington Public Safety Commander Maria Putt received the awards.

Fox is a 14-year veteran of the Hills police department, where he previously worked in the patrol division and juvenile section.

Fox is the school liaison officer at North Farmington High, where he investigates criminal

acts on school grounds and serves as a guest instructor in various courses. He is also responsible for all the elementary and middle schools that feed into North Farmington.

Fox recently spent two weeks in the Ukraine as part of Project Harmony's International Law Enforcement Program. He was the only member selected from Michigan to take part in the trip, which involved sharing U.S. policing methods with European authorities.

The Crime Prevention Association of Michigan also recently

recognized Fox as its "1998 Youth/School Officer of the Year."

Fox has a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Madonna University and has extensive training in the administration of school liaison programs.

Putt is a 16-year veteran of the Farmington Public Safety Department. The Auburn, Mich., native was assigned to the detective bureau in 1986 and worked undercover with an auto theft task force.

In 1993 Putt was promoted to commander. She is in charge of the department's Special Operations Bureau, which involves supervising detectives and the fire marshal.

Putt also oversees the reserve public safety officer program, neighborhood and business watch as well as school liaison programs. She gives anti-drug education classes to elementary students as part of the T.H.I.N.K. efforts.

She can also be seen patrolling Farmington on a mountain bike and serves as the department's crime prevention specialist. Putt has a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Ferris State University and is enrolled in Eastern Michigan University's master's program for Public Administration.



Good job: Hills Chief Bill Dwyer, left; and Farmington Public Safety Director Gary Goss congratulate Duane Fox and Maria Putt.

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