

Cadet becomes 70th to join force as police officer

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As Farmington Hills Police Cadet Craig Lewis prepared to end his shift early Thursday morning, he got a rather disturbing call from Police Chief Bill Dwyer.

"I told him to be in my office at 7:30 a.m.," Dwyer said.

When Lewis arrived, Dwyer told him many duties of a police chief are tough - things like dealing with difficult situations and disciplining officers. It's also a very proud job, the chief continued, when he had the opportunity to promote officers who deserved to be promoted.

That's how Lewis learned he would wear badge number 50, as a full-fledged Farmington Hills police officer. A cadet since

August 1999, Lewis beat out a field of highly qualified candidates to fill the position.

"We're especially proud because you've done such a good job, and you are so well-liked," Assistant Chief Chuck Nebus told Lewis before the cadet was sworn in Friday morning. "The competition for this position was keen."

Sgt. Tim O'Connor described Lewis as well-liked within the department since he started with the Uniformed Patrol Division last year. In November, he was assigned to Support Services, where he maintained the evidence storage room, among other duties.

Lewis said his own way through two years at Oakland Community College and the Oakland Police Academy, gradu-

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Chuck Nebus
—Assistant police chief

ating in June 1999. At Friday's ceremony, he said he was a little nervous as a new recruit.

"You guys made it easy to fit in," he said to his fellow officers.

While the 70th promotion in 15 years was something of a milestone for Dwyer, he said the day would be one officer Lewis would never forget. The department makes a point of hosting special swearing-in ceremonies to mark the event, he added.

"I think there's a lot of ups and downs, I'll warn you right now," Dwyer commented, "but it's also very rewarding. You're also going to be well satisfied with what you're doing, being out there serving the public. If you give 110 percent, you'll have a great experience as an officer."

It's an effort Lewis, who said he had dreamed of being a police officer even as a child, has already made, according to Commander Pat Browne.

"Continue to do the excellent job you've been doing," he told Lewis. "and you'll do well."

Lewis began an intensive, three-month-long field training program on Monday, in which he is paired with several veteran officers. When he assumes patrol duties, he will complete an 18-month probationary period.



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BARBER
Congratulations: Deputy City Clerk Pam Sibley swears in new officer Craig Lewis.

Students honor their debate coach

Members of the 1999-2000 Farmington High School policy debate team gave their coach, Lloyd Smith, very special recognition at the June 13 school board meeting.

A number of team members attended the meeting to publicly thank Smith, who retired 20 years ago from a longtime position as head teacher in the district, but who has since remained connected to kids via the debate team.

Policy debate is described by students as giving them skills in research, thinking, speaking and confidence.

Debate team members requested the recognition before the school board. A letter to the

board and Farmington schools Superintendent Bob Maxfield noted that they are proud to have had Smith as their coach, helping provide them with "skills that will help us throughout our lives."

Signing the letter were Jeff Duncan, team president in 1999-2000; Benjamin York, '99-00 team vice president; Katie Ulman, '99-00 team secretary; Nate Pacer, who will be next year's team president; Greg Peszek, next year's team vice president; Homanth Srinivas, next year's team secretary.

Also signing the letter were a number of other students, who participated at the Mackinac Spring Tournament. The 1999-

■ The main trophy of the Mackinac tournament is named in Lloyd Smith's honor, and FHS has attended the tourney every year since its inception in 1985.

2000 team recently completed final debates there, at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island.

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School board Trustee Linda Enberg was impressed with the students' honor for their coach.

"I think it's remarkable for a

man who retired in 1980 to stay close to the students for all these years," Enberg said. "It says something about his outlook on life, and about his zest for life."

"It's an inspiration to us and maybe a good model to stay in touch when you get older."

It is not known whether Smith is planning on stepping down as coach, Enberg said.

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Car wash for charity
Farmington High School students, who are part of a newly formed community service group, "Caring and Reaching Everyone," C.A.R.E., held a car wash for charity Saturday, May 20, in the school parking lot.

About \$450 was raised and will be given to the Grodman Foundation, an organization devoted to researching children's diabetes.
The Grodman Foundation was chosen because C.A.R.E.'s mission is to help out the less fortunate in the area.

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