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Hills cadet fulfills life-long dream

BY ALICE ASHMORE
STAFF WRITER

Kurt Bearer has wanted to be a police officer for as long as he can remember.

On May 4, the 21-year-old became the newest officer to take the oath to serve and protect the citizens of Farmington Hills.

"I'm looking to make a difference in the community," he said. Farmington Hills Police Chief Bill Dwyer said, "He's going to make an outstanding officer and has dedicated his life to community service."

Bearer joined the department as a cadet on May 8, 2000.

He is a graduate of the Wayne County Regional Police Academy. He also earned an Associates Degree in Criminal Justice from Schoolcraft Community College.

Bearer said, "I hope to get a bachelor's degree and maybe a master's degree. I want to go as

far the career will let me."

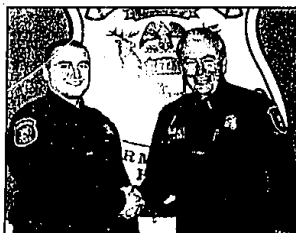
"He's done an outstanding job as a cadet," Dwyer said. "He's demonstrated competence, maturity and a strong desire to further serve the citizens of this city."

The rookie officer is now slated to begin an intensive three-month field training program where he will be paired with several veteran officers, before assuming solo uniform patrol duties.

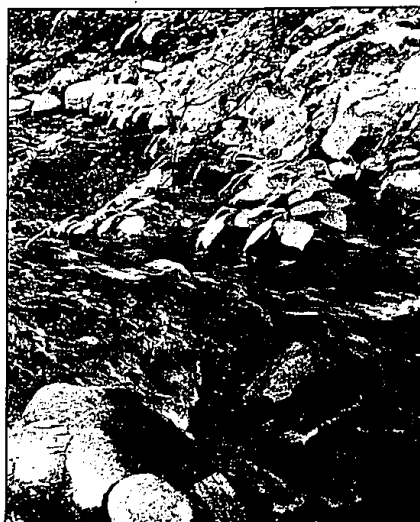
Bearer said he would someday like to work with a K-9 unit or in evidence collection. "Both of those interest me."

He added, "I would like to thank the police department for this opportunity. I intend to work as hard as I can to make the city safe."

A native of Livonia, Bearer said he likes to spend his spare time with his family and enjoying the sports, including hockey, football and fishing.



Now recruit:
Hills Police Chief Bill Dwyer congratulated Kurt Bearer, after the new officer was sworn in.



Clean water action: The Middle Rouge tributary runs fast and looks clean in this stretch west of Drake at Howard Street.

Rouge from page A1

unteers were applauded for their dedication and informed about the changing philosophy in addressing the river's needs.

"We will focus on channel flow maintenance activities that protect or enhance essential fish and wildlife habitat," Barrett's letter stated. "Public education will continue in regard to the promotion of household hazardous pick up and drop off programs as well as general education materials on how each of our activities can affect the quality of the river."

Meanwhile, Biasell said there isn't any one particular work site in Farmington Hills that would be conducive to a major clean-up effort on Saturday, June 2, which is slated for River Day/Rouge Rescue 2001.

"We're going to do woody debris management instead of removal," Biasell explained. "Historically, we've been removing everything out of the river. Now, we're not pulling out shopping carts or tires or old cars that were in there before."

Pulling out tree branches, limbs and other natural "debris" would be harmful to the river's ecosystem and natural habitat, he continued. "Cleaning out natural debris is really worse for the river than leaving it there."

"Residents can still be involved," Biasell said, referring to other Rouge Rescue 2001

work sites. "And in the future, we'll have to look at it differently. Maybe instead of going to one big spot they will go to 10 different spots" to pitch in with the project.

Biasell stressed that the lack of participation this year should not be misconstrued as apathy.

"We haven't gone away," Biasell said. "Except this year we don't have a site to clean up that would help the river. The reality is completely opposite of the rumor that Farmington Hills canceled the Rouge Rescue because the city doesn't care about the river."

The city is encouraging volunteers to participate at other work sites this year.

Among those sites are the following: Livonia; stream and park clean-up; Hines Drive between Wayne and Newburgh roads (Call 734-466-2638); Southfield, stream clean-up along the main branch, registration at Beech Woods Park, Beech Road south of Nine Mile (Call 248-354-5847); Novi, stream clean-up in Shawwood and Shawwood-Walled Lake Canals, volunteers will meet at Lakeshore Park on South Lake Drive between Novi Road and West Park Drive (Call 248-347-2316); Redford, contact the public services department at 313-387-2643.

Power presents "Annie Jr." May 19

Power Middle School presents Annie Jr. at 4 p.m. Saturday, May 19, in the school cafeteria. To buy tickets or for more information call 489-3625.

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