

# Hills, metro chiefs respond to criticism of FBI

BY KEVIN BROWN  
STAFF WRITER  
kbrown@oe.homecomm.net

Backed by seven top metro Detroit police officials, Farmington Hills Police Chief William Dwyer on Dec. 8 strongly rejected recent criticism of the FBI by Ann Arbor Police Chief Dan Oates.

Dwyer, in his role as president of the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police, convened a press conference to reject Oates'

recent statement that the FBI was guilty of "colossal failures of intelligence" in the Sept. 11 attacks. The comment was reported nationwide.

Dwyer and several top law enforcement officials also bristled at Oates' statement that his views are shared by police chiefs around the country.

"We're not here to bash Chief Oates but to demonstrate our overwhelming support for the FBI," Dwyer said. "Our country

is at war. We should blame the terrorists and those who sponsor terrorism." Dwyer said law enforcement agencies should resolve differences "by sitting

**■ 'We have to make it clear in Michigan that we are supportive of the FBI.'**

*William Dwyer  
—Hills Police Chief*

down at the table rather than taking it out in the media."

"He (Oates) certainly does not speak for all of us; he does not speak for the chiefs of Oakland County," said Bruce Hendorlitch, Berkeley director of public safety. "My experience with them (FBI) has been very positive."

"We're at war. To hear any differences at this point is inappropriate; we should handle our differences and then move on,"

added Dearborn Police Chief Gregory Guibord.

Dwyer rejected the notion that the FBI is not promptly sharing information with other law enforcement officials.

"We have to make it clear in Michigan that we are supportive of the FBI," Dwyer said.

The Hills chief recently testified before three Congressional subcommittees in Washington, D.C., on cooperation between local and federal law enforce-

ment authorities. "I have had 40 years of positive networking with the FBI," he said.

Dwyer added that at the recent International Association of Chiefs of Police Conference in Toronto, FBI Director Robert Mueller pledged to chiefs around the world that he would be committed to exploring ways to improve communication and work with local police agencies.

Oates was unavailable for comment Friday.



Joni Hubred

## Holiday lights burn bright this year in Farmington and Farmington Hills

*Darkness cannot drive out darkness. Only light can do that.* — Martin Luther King, Jr.

There should be a rule: Christmas lights come in a limited number of colors. Red, green, blue and white are all fine. No purple. Especially no pink.

That's the thought I had as I drove around town looking at what can only be described as a veritable shower of holiday brightness.

Lights have been wrapped around pine trees, oak trees, shrubs and bushes, strung in brilliant lines along eaves and roof lines, even patterned into American flags. And there doesn't appear to be any correlation between the value of the home and the number of lumens generated.

Some of the smallest homes have the most spirited decora-

tions. Deer figurines and pine trees crafted in white frames and clear lights. Electric candles inside wreaths and apollighted plastic replicas of the Holy Family.

My personal favorite was the Christmas goose dressed as Santa Claus.

No one has achieved the standard set by Clark Griswold in *Christmas Vacation*, but folks really seem to have put forth a special effort, to give entire neighborhoods a warm holiday glow.

This would be the right year for it. We have slowly struggled out of our national depression and started shuffling toward a new brand of normalcy. We have found there is life after Sept. 11, even if it is not the same life.

Some say we haven't changed for the better. People are losing their jobs, the headlines still scream news of terrorism and crime rates don't appear to have dropped any.

In other ways, we are better for what's happened. Every-

body's digging a little deeper to contribute to local charity drives. (We're collecting for the Goodfellows through Dec. 12, just in case you've been putting off making a donation, and the Salvation Army bell-ringers will be out in force while you're doing your holiday shopping.)

I've talked to people who put up their Christmas trees a little earlier this year, for no greater reason than that they were tired of feeling sad. But I think this season, more than any other, we have very visible proof of our renewed spirit of patriotism.

This is not simply a glitzy Christmas phenomenon. While some lights flash and blink out-side, others glow inside.

At the tops of memorials, they commemorate the hope of oil that lasted 10 days instead of one.

The red, green and black candles of the kinaras celebrate the seven principles of Kwanzaa — unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose,

creativity and faith.

Perhaps these lights so central to winter holidays symbolize a new energy and unity, one born of tragedy and sadness, even the fires of revenge. They show the world the love that mends our broken hearts, the strength that keeps our country moving even in difficult times.

Whatever the reason, I want to thank everyone who put forth the effort to decorate their homes for the holidays this year. You who have braved the highest rung on the ladder, stapled a glove to the side of the house, been scratched by an errant pine bough and tested string after string of colored bulbs have brought us all a bit of joy.

And with every bit of joy comes the hope of brighter days.

*"Joni Hubred is editor of the Farmington Observer. She invites you to let her know about special holiday decorating displays by phone (248) 477-5450, by FAX (248) 477-9722 or via e-mail jhubred@oe.homecomm.net*

### HOLIDAY CALENDAR

**CLASSICAL BELLS**  
Nardin Park United Methodist Church in Farmington Hills presents Classical Bells & Nardin Park Choirs Christmas Concert at 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 9. Call 476-8860.

**WINTER WONDERS**  
The Farmington Community Band will perform *Winter Wonders* at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 9 at the Harrison High School auditorium. Call (248) 489-3412.

**HOLIDAY BRASS**  
The Detroit Chamber Winds will perform *Holiday Brass* at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 11, at the Costick Center in Farmington Hills. Call (248) 473-1867.

**HOLIDAY CONCERT**  
North Farmington High School will host a holiday concert at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 12 in the school auditorium. Call (248) 489-3412.

**WINTER CONCERT**  
Farmington High School will host a vocal music winter concert at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 13, a Variable Winds concert at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 18 and Music for the Holidays 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 19, in the school auditorium. Admission to Music for the Holidays is the donation of a non-perishable food item. All three concerts will be held in the school auditorium. Call (248) 489-3412.

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