

O&E is looking for the top Farmington area teachers

Beginning in January, the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers will honor two teachers monthly from throughout our circulation area for their excellence in the classroom.

We are looking for readers to help in identifying these outstanding teachers.

Nominations can be e-mailed to eyoung@oe.homecomm.net, faxed to (734) 953-2232 or mailed to Cathy Young at the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150. Nominations must be received by 5 p.m. of the third

Monday of each month. Deadlines for 2003 are: Jan. 20, Feb. 17, March 17, April 21, May 19, June 16, Sept. 15, Oct. 20, Nov. 17 and Dec. 15.

Two teachers will be honored January through June and September through December. The teachers will be photographed in their classroom and receive four tickets to one Star Theater and a dozen roses courtesy of Wesley Berry Florists and the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.

Nominations can come from students, parents, school administrators or community

members who have contact or knowledge of a teacher's classroom activities.

To nominate a teacher, please send the teacher's name, school address and the school's telephone number along with a statement of no more than 200 words telling us why this teacher deserves to be our Outstanding Teacher of the Month. A panel of editors will make each selection.

The winning teachers will be featured in all editions in the last week of each month.

Please help us in honoring the most dedicated teachers who do outstanding work.

COSTICK

FROM PAGE A1

Mitchell said. Residency isn't required for the position but the hope is Pastue will live in the Farmington area.

"This is a family who will have to relocate," Mitchell said.

The couple has two sons, ages 11 and 13, who both play hockey.

"We'll want to button it (Pastue's decision) down after he meets with department heads," Mitchell said.

NOT NEGATIVE

Pastue's meeting with those employees shouldn't be considered negative, said Frank Gerstenecker, the Michigan Municipal League consultant who is handling the search.

"This is a practice which is not often found," Gerstenecker said. "I think it is a good idea. He needs to find out if this is a good fit for him. This isn't an indication that he couldn't serve the community well."

The conversations with department heads will help Pastue determine whether his methods and practices will mesh with current staff members, Gerstenecker said. "He has meritorious reasons."

Prior to the council's second

interview Dec. 21 with both semifinalists, Pastue and Debbie Manns, a Southgate city administrator, Pastue had informed Gerstenecker of his wishes to meet with department heads before accepting the position if it was offered.

Pastue had already left city hall and was driving in Ohio on his way for a holiday vacation in Florida when he received the offer.

As Isabella County administrator, Pastue serves a constituency of 60,000 people. The county has a \$23.2 million budget with 200 employees.

Farmington has 10,400 residents, a general fund budget of \$6,761,229 and 78 employees.

Pastue previously served as manager for the City of Clare, which has about 4,000 people, Mitchell said.

He needs to give his employer six weeks notice if he accepts the position. In Costick, the City of Farmington will have an official well-informed about the area, Mitchell said.

The same month Costick retired, Farmington Hills officials renamed the former Farmington Hills Activities Center, purchased from the Sisters of Mercy, the William M. Costick Activities Center.

At his retirement "roast," then Assistant City Manager Steve Brock called Costick a mentor and confidant.

"Everybody here is an FOB - friend of Bill's," Brock said in a Farmington Observer article.

ON THE JOB

Costick has a bachelor's degree in public administration and a master's degree in community development. In Farmington, he will handle only those duties assigned to a

city manager by charter and will not initiate new projects, Mitchell said.

Assistant Farmington City Manager Bill Richards can't fill in as the interim city manager because "he already has a full plate," Mitchell said.

Costick took over as Farmington Hills city manager in July 1984 when City Manager Lawrence Savage retired.

He was Farmington Hills' first assistant city manager. He also was a city manager in Flushing in Genesee County.

He served a two-year stint as assistant to then Troy City Manager Frank Gerstenecker. Besides heading up the Farmington city manager search, Gerstenecker also recently led the successful search to hire Brent Morgan as Farmington Downtown Development Authority director. Morgan replaced Judy Downey, who recently retired.

Gerstenecker came up with the list of prospective interim city managers, Mitchell said. It also contained the names of former city managers from Wayne and Allen Park.

Pastue received unanimous approval from the council following the second candidate interview.

"He just shined," Mitchell said.

After the first interview, council members Mike Harrison, Mary Dush and JoAnne MeShane favored Manns; Mitchell and Arnie Campbell liked Pastue.

Mitchell's opinion was that Manns faltered on some topics asked during the second interview which included questions on budgeting and Act 51, which deals with the road program.

RCOC staffers give up holiday

Approximately 100 Road Commission for Oakland County employees gave up their Christmas holiday so they could ensure roads in Oakland County were safe for motorists.

Responding to the three inches of snow that fell Christmas Eve and Christmas day, RCOC deployed salt trucks and snow plows across the county beginning at midnight on Christmas Eve.

The trucks remained out

until about 7 p.m. Christmas day. In all, about 66 truck drivers worked the holiday.

They were joined by mechanics, salt loader operators and supervisors at RCOC's six garages across the county.

"These men and women made tremendous sacrifices, taking time away from their families on this holiday," noted RCOC Highway Maintenance Director Tom Meszler. "But, they did it because they felt a

commitment to ensure safe roads for our motorists. These people are professionals and they take their jobs very seriously."

Road Commission Managing Director Brent Bair commended the workers as well. "I heard numerous reports from motorists that the roads were in great shape on Christmas Day, despite the snow. We take great pride in the commitment of these employees."

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JOINT CARE IN WINTER
Just as you ready your car for winter, so should you take the same care with your joints. Each year you read again that to prepare for winter your car needs antifreeze, a radiator flush, new windshield wiper blades and window fluid, a change 10W-30 oil, etc. So will this column repeat again the precautions you should take to prepare and protect your joints through the cold weather. This repetition never hurts and reminds us what we should already know.

First, keep your joints, particularly your impaired joints, warm. Don't go out in the cold without your gloves or mittens. Don't step outside to get the paper without wearing gloves. If you must take off your glove to open a car door, make sure you can put the glove on again quickly. Wear boots. If your arthritis makes it difficult to put on the boots, then find the best combination of shoe to boot to ease the difficulty. Look for light-weight soles to lessen the burden of wearing the extra garment, compensate for a tight peck by warming up the car before getting in. If you can afford it, install a remote control starter for your car.

If you have arthritis in your knees and ankles, accept that under icy conditions, it may be best that you don't go out until conditions clear. Or, if such a storm is coming, cut short your excursions and get home immediately. Don't be over-zealous with a cane. For winter, a four-pronged quad cane is preferable to the usual rubber-tipped variety.

In short, for winter, keep warm and walk with care and caution.

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