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Top cop, civilian employee honored

By Nathan Mueller, STAFF WRITER

Novi Police Department Officer Timothy Harper and Analyst Planner Pat Cauchi are not the type of people to revel in the limelight.

So it's no surprise when they were honored as Officer of the Year and Civilian Employee of the Year respectively last week at the Novi Police Department's Awards Ceremony that they passed the credit onto their supervisors and staff.

Harper, who has been with the department for more than 18 years, said he was shocked to receive such a "great honor."

"I don't think of this award as being for myself but for being part of a good team," he said. "It's a group award because everyone I work with has great attributes and could have easily won this as well."

The veteran officer is heavily involved with new technology, serving as an internal trainer in the Livescan Finger Printing system and working with Oakland County's Courts and Law Enforcement Management Information System (CLEMIS) to help develop an electronic citation program as well as a soon-to-come electronic traffic crash program.

"A lot of people are intimidated by the new advancement in technology, but it's a great asset in terms of speeding up the work process and making your job a whole lot easier," he said.

Said Novi Chief of Police David Molloy: "He is a uniform traffic officer but his commitment goes above and beyond the normal everyday mundane things uniform officers do."

The award also came as a surprise to Cauchi, who has only been working for the department for 18 months. She was a member of the Critical Needs Projects Team which reviews building upgrades, and assisted the Novi Fire Department with their annual budget process as well as the budget aspects of the renovations to fire station 2.

Cauchi also is an active volunteer in the city.

"It was just an honor to even be nominated, and I feel so fortunate to work for a great (department and city)," she said.

Molloy said her volunteer efforts and passion for the city stood out to him.

"There is not a project we work on that she does not touch because of her financial background," he said. "She has been an absolutely invaluable resource."

The two award winners continue a decade-long tradition the department has had in recognizing outstanding employees.

"They exemplify the vision and values of the Novi Police Department and we are very proud of them both," Molloy said.

Several other officers and civilian employees also were honored for their efforts at the awards ceremony.