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WITH VIDEO: Sheriff's Office honors standout citizens

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By SHAUN BYRON
Of The Oakland Press

Shannon Nevins stood clutching certificates, looking at her 11-year-old daughter Moet and 10-year-old son Nicolas with pride.

However, she also has plenty to be proud of when it comes to herself.

The three were honored Wednesday by the Oakland County Sheriff's Office for their role in assisting deputies with the arrest and conviction of a suspect in a Nov. 3 incident in Royal Oak Township where a vehicle and two homes caught fire.

"I think it's great," the Ferndale mother said of her children being honored. "I'm very proud."

The family was a part of the sheriff's annual awards ceremony. It was held Wednesday at the sheriff's office and paid tribute to numerous residents that helped deputies track down bad guys or gave assistance to those in need.

The Oakland County residents honored at the ceremony were Karl Albrecht, Jennifer Coombs, Debra Coppens, Harold James Dekiere, Gary Elzerman, Boyd Cooper Farnam, Nancy Cooper Farnam, Tammy Marie Foxall, Sivakumar Ganesan, Sashikanth Gowda, Prasanna Kulkarni, Gary Kaul, Evelyn Keith, Sherene Ann Parris, Jessica Pickard and Travis Voss.

Members of the sheriff's office were also given awards.

Sgt. Mark Gardner was named command officer of the year, Deputy Jeffrey Mathes as corrections officer of the year, Deputy Dawn Mullins as patrol officer of the year and Detective Jason Louwaert as investigator of the year.

Deputy Garry Crake was given award for helping save a Clarkston High School student's life.

Honors were also given to Dispatcher Specialist Carolyn Godlewski as dispatcher of the year; Senior Property Room Technician Gloria Tovar was named employee of the year and reserve Sgt. Daniel Ellis was reserve deputy of the year.

The professional excellence award was given to Nancy Scheuer and her family.

Scheuer is the wife of Deputy Mark Scheuer died in an accident at his home in 2009.

Undersheriff Mike McCabe was also honored with the distinguished service award.



Oakland County Sheriff Mike Bouchard said the ceremony is a chance to pay tribute to those who put their lives on the line for the community as well as citizens who do the right thing.

"At least once a year we want to formally recognize them," he said. "We also want to honor the citizens that stepped up. It's one of those good days where we get to say thank you."

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