



For Immediate Release

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Wyoming Police Department Commends Six Wyoming Residents with Annual Citizen Award Recognition

WYOMING, Mich., June 26, 2013 – Six Wyoming residents have been recognized by the Wyoming Police Department for their contributions to the safety of the city.

The Wyoming Police Department's Citizen Awards are given annually to thank Wyoming residents who show integrity in assisting their neighbors and police officers when many others would choose to look the other way or not get involved.

"These awards are to acknowledge those who step forward – at great risk to themselves sometimes – to do the right thing to help their fellow citizens," said Wyoming Police Chief James Carmody. "In Wyoming we experience crime rates that are well below average for cities of similar size in Michigan and around the country. A lot of the credit goes to my staff members, who work very hard.

"Maintaining a safe community is something we cannot do all by ourselves, though. We rely on citizens whom we serve to work with the Police Department and support us. We are pleased once again to recognize some of the outstanding work our residents do."

The 2012 awards were presented to:

- Luis Alberto Araujo and Luis Arturo Araujo - On June 21, Luis Alberto Araujo was leaving for work when he witnessed a neighborhood child being assaulted. Araujo immediately told his brother, Luis Arturo Araujo, what he had seen. Without regard for their own safety, the brothers acted immediately to stop the child from being harmed. The brothers contacted the police, confronted the offender, ended the sexual assault and rescued the child. The brothers detained the suspect, waited on the scene with the child and her mother until the police arrived and assisted officers by providing detailed statements of what they had seen.
- Juan Cisneros - On Feb. 19, Juan Cisneros was sitting in his vehicle at the Meijer store located at 5500 Clyde Park when he noticed a struggle taking place. When Cisneros saw a woman being thrown to the ground, he immediately jumped out of his vehicle and bravely confronted the suspect, who had snatched the victim's purse. A struggle ensued and Cisneros was able to wrestle the woman's stolen purse from the suspect. After Cisneros returned the purse to the victim, he waited with her until the police arrived on scene to provide support and a report of the attempted robbery.

- Barbara DeCan and Leonard Guiliano - In 2012, DeCan and Guiliano decided to take proactive steps to protect the Oriole Park neighborhood and give something back to the community. After attending a neighborhood watch training program at the Wyoming Police Department, Decan and Guiliano combined the new skills and tools from the training with resources such as nextdoor.com, DeCan and Guiliano coordinated a vibrant and active neighborhood association that has greatly benefited the Oriole Park Neighborhood.
- Gary Spykerman - On July 1, Spykerman was waiting in his car at the Meijer store located at 5500 Clyde Park Ave. SW., where a grass fire had ignited. While the Wyoming police and fire departments were responding to a grass fire. In the midst of the scene, Spykerman noticed a person apparently sleeping near the fire. Spykerman ran from his vehicle towards the fire to rescue the man. The individual was intoxicated, but Spykerman was able to help him to his feet and walk him away from the dangerous situation.

The recipients this year were chosen by a committee of five that included Lt. James Maguffee, Lt. Joe Steffes, Detective Jeff Bylsma, Officer Carmen Morales and Shannon Beatty, a secretary at the Wyoming Police Department.

For further information, call the City of Wyoming at 530-7272, or visit the City website at www.wyomingmi.gov. You can find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CityofWyoming, and on Twitter [@WyomingCityHall](https://twitter.com/WyomingCityHall).

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