

## **Timonium Optimist Club Respect for Law Program: May 21, 2007**

Respect for Law chairman Fran Harris emceed the program to honor the Timonium Optimist Officer of the Year from the Cockeysville Precinct of the Baltimore County Police Department. She introduced Captain Martin Lurz of Cockeysville Precinct 7, who in turn introduced our honoree, Officer Derek Romanoff.

Officer Romanoff was recognized for his exemplary service as a member of the precinct's Community Action Team, an effective flex squad, not hooked into 911 so that it can move quickly to address whatever needs arise in the community. Officer Romanoff's outstanding work ethic, attention to detail and incisive instincts make him productive as an officer and a "go to" guy for his fellow policemen. During 2006, his efforts resulted in 117 citations, 116 warnings, 94 equipment orders, 117 field investigation reports, 44 criminal clearances and 58 arrests. Examples of cases he solved illustrate his talent for noticing something important that might easily be overlooked.

Timonium member and State Delegate Susan Aumann presented Officer Romanoff with honor resolutions from Delegate Wade Kach and State Senator Andy Harris. President John Paull awarded the Officer of the Year Plaque to Officer Romanoff and presented a plaque with the cumulative names of Timonium Optimist Officers of the Year to Captain Lurz for display at the Cockeysville Precinct. Officer Romanoff expressed appreciation for being recognized and gave credit to all the officers at Precinct 7. Most especially, he acknowledged the important role of his wife Danielle, whom he described as "Wife and Mother of the Year." Danielle was present along with Captain Lurz's wife Lori.

Officer Romanoff, Captain Lurz and Police Chief Terrence Sheridan, who was also present, all affirmed how important community cooperation is to the work that police do. Please keep calling in tips! They encouraged everyone to be observant and never to hesitate to call 911 about anything strange. Sometimes calls about very minor occurrences turn out to be important. The police do not mind being called for something that turns out not to be a problem. Chief Sheridan pointed out that the BCPD is one of the largest (23<sup>rd</sup>) in the nation and one of the most dynamic with its use of equipment. Precinct 7 is by far the largest and most diverse in the county. The policemen thanked the Timonium Optimists for all of the work the club does for kids, especially projects in partnership with the BCPD (Shop with a Cop, Genesee Valley for Padonia School, PAL Day on the Farm). The club presented Captain Lurz with a humorous photo of himself performing "napkin service" at Genesee Valley.