

Off-duty officers save man, 91, at Yorktown Heights golf course



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A 91-year-old man was recovering Thursday, days after swift action by off-duty officers saved his life.



(Photo: courtesy of M.A.P. Graphics)

YORKTOWN HEIGHTS – Several law enforcement officers were hailed as heroes Thursday, days after saving a 91-year-old man who suffered a heart attack at a local golf course.

The victim, whose name has not been released, was working at the Mohansic Golf Course on Baldwin Road during the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility's inaugural Thomas Fitzgerald Memorial Golf Tournament when he suffered a heart attack and collapsed in a parking lot, officials said.

Many who attended the June 9 tournament, held to honor the son of retired Bedford Hills Deputy Superintendent of Security Thomas Fitzgerald, were members of the New York State Correctional Officers and Police Benevolent Association (NYSCOPBA) or worked at Bedford Hills Correctional. When the man collapsed, the off-duty officers went to work.

Bedford Hills Correctional officers James Moore and Tai Tedder, Bedford Hills Correctional Deputy Superintendent of Security Roy Snyder and retired corrections officer Chuck Koemm went to the 91-year-old's side, officials said.

Another man, New York City Police Officer Derek Bernard, went to the golf club's pro shop to reach an Automatic External Defibrillator, or AED, while the others began CPR. When Bernard returned and no pulse or heart rhythm could be found, the officers used the AED to shock the man, officials said.

Soon after, paramedics arrived and continued treatment. The man, a longtime golf course employee who had just finished working the tournament as a golf ranger, was taken to Hudson Valley Hospital Center in Cortlandt. His condition was said to be improving Thursday.

Willie Perez, southern region president of NYSCOPBA, credited the officers' actions with saving the man's life.

"The quick and alert actions of all the men ... were instrumental in saving the life of a cherished life-long employee at the golf course," Perez said. "We wish the victim a full and speedy recovery."

The Thomas Fitzgerald for whom the tournament was named died last year after a battle with cancer.

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