

# Fire chief utilizes full-time city workers

By RON GARDNER

Newly-hired Farmington Hills Fire Chief John Van De Voort has taken steps to lead up his volunteer force and increase fire protection in the city.

Four full-time city employees have been assigned to daylight response units. They will respond to major building and structural fires, Van De Voort says.

Since fire officials are uncertain how many paid volunteers will respond to fires between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Van De Voort implemented the full-time personnel on a trial basis.

Van De Voort recently was hired to improve the city's fire protection unit. Before his hiring, the department was without a full-time fire chief.

"The city's biggest problem is having enough men on hand to fight fires during these hours," Van De Voort says. "Since our department is made up of all volunteers, men work during the day and have difficulty getting away."

"So the department got together with the other city department heads and arranged for these four men—whom are also volunteer firemen—to help beef up the city's daylight response to fires."

Two DPW maintenance workers, one city hall maintenance employee and one person from the assessor's office now will

take time off from their normal duties during the day to respond to major fires.

"THERE MAY be some problems with the new system because having these men respond to fires will upset the work schedule of those departments," Van De Voort explains.

"Our biggest problem will be internal and right now we are in limbo on how it will work out. The department only started the system last Monday and so far it has worked okay."

Each of the three departments affected have agreed to give the new system a try and if it doesn't work, Van De Voort says he will relieve the men of the extra duties.

"There will be some built in problems with this method of beefing up our daylight fire prevention program, but I feel that if the men use good judgment, things will work out," the fire chief continues.

"The men can't respond with city vehicles and they must report back to their bosses to let them know they are going to a fire."

"If they started responding with city cars or trucks, we might run the problem of having other members of the work crew stranded at the scene of a fire," he added.

"And we don't want that to happen because we want to disturb their routine

duties as little as possible."

The four city workers who will be responding to the fires also are trained volunteer firemen for the city. They are experienced in fire prevention and have attended training programs.

"IF THE men use good judgment and don't respond to insignificant fires, this system shouldn't upset their normal work load too much," the fire chief says.

"But then again it all depends on the conditions. We're trying to plug the holes as best as possible. Slowly but surely the department is improving and with this improvement comes better fire protection for the city."

Van De Voort says response has been

good to daylight fires since he has become fire chief.

"The response has been sufficient to handle the fires that we have had so far and I can't kick that," he said. "Usually about seven to 12 volunteers will respond."

"After 5 p.m. and on weekends, the department shows up in force to fight, but what we are trying to do with these four city workers is improve our fire protection during the day when most of these volunteers aren't around."

"I realize there are still problems within the department and I'm willing to eliminate them," he concludes. "Adding this strength to our daylight watch is one way of eliminating some of our problems."

## Sandwich suspect arrested

Francis Monour, 34, of 2827 Glenmore Heights in Farmington Hills, was arraigned Thursday afternoon in 6th District Court before Judge Michael Hand and charged with armed robbery.

Bond was set at \$20,000. Monour is charged with the May 3 hold-up of Dan's Giant Submarine Shop in Farmington, 11628 Grand River. Police said \$170 was stolen.

After making a license plate check of the get-away vehicle from descriptions given by witnesses, Farmington and Farmington Hills police followed Monour home.

Police said the suspect was seen by several witnesses as he raced to his car shortly after 8:30 Wednesday evening in an attempt to escape after robbing the submarine shop.

Police surrounded Monour's home after his parents refused to let officers enter. Before police enforced a search warrant, the suspect's brother talked him into surrendering to authorities.

Carrying what police suspect was an automatic, the robber entered the store approximately 15 minutes before he forced the attendant at gunpoint to be face down on the floor.

The robber then emptied the cash register and fled the store.

Two other employees were in the store during the robbery. They were unaware of what was happening.

A preliminary hearing for Monour is scheduled for May 14.

## Ethnic flavor spices music at Nardin Park

By CORINNE ABATT

A hometown resource in the person of Astra Kalnins soprano, will present an unusual concert at Nardin Park United Methodist Church, Sunday, May 16 at 3 p.m.

The concert of Latvian folk songs and piano music in honor of ethnic day during Michigan Week which starts this Sunday.

Ms. Kalnins, of Farmington, has performed in opera and on the concert stage throughout the United States and Europe. She was born in Latvia of a Latvian father and a Danish mother.

"The Latvians," she says, "are very proud of their folk songs, and there are thousands of them."

The program will consist of compositions by the modern Latvian composer, Wolfgang Darsinis. Ms. Kalnins will be accompanied by Ilse Strale Dindrichsen, of Toronto, who regularly goes on tour with her.

MS. KALNINS HAS GIVEN many concerts of Latvian folk songs in Canada and recently returned from a European tour where she performed in England, West Germany, Denmark and Sweden.

The Farmington Musicale was really responsible for Ms. Kalnins and her family moving to this area. While they lived in Detroit she commuted to Farmington to attend meetings of the local group of women musicians.

Finally, she convinced her husband and children to move out here. The members of the musicale will act as hosts and usher for the May 16 concert.

Opera is a special love of the Farmington soprano. Over the years she has sung with the Michigan Opera Theater and the Michigan Opera Company which came after the opera theater group and with many

symphony orchestras. One of her roles which she speaks of with particular fondness is Mimi in La Bohème.

Ms. Kalnins has given her program of Latvian music on Detroit television and in Carnegie Hall.

Marlowe Belanger, ethnic day chairman, says the concert is open to the public free of charge and will include a reception tea afterwards.

WORKING WITH MRS. BELANGER on the planning are Nardin Park assistant minister, Rev. Meredith Moshauer and Mrs. Ina Grapenthin, minister of music and coordinator of the fine arts committee.

There is a bit of an element of suspense around the church and this concert. Rev. Moshauer sees it as a forerunner of more to come.

"We have a natural setting for concerts," Moshauer said, "both from the size of the facility and the parking. We can seat 600 to 700 in the Fellowship Hall or 600 in the sanctuary and it is all air conditioned."

Starting with a concert Oct. 10 featuring the Detroit Symphony, a group of Detroit Symphony musicians and Mrs. Grapenthin at the harp, the church hopes to follow this with four or five more concerts of equal quality.

These would be open to the general public and hopefully encourage the kind of community audience that the Oratorio series has done in the Birmingham and Episcopal Church series has in Royal Oak.

Mrs. Kalnins combines her concert career with a full-time position as a medical assistant at the Woodland Medical Center. She and her husband have a son, Edwin, 15, and a daughter, Mrs. Liza Jacobson.



Latvian-born Astra Kalnins, now of Farmington, will give a concert of Latvian folk songs to kick-off the Michigan Week celebration for Farmington and Farmington Hills. Those looks and smiles of approval from the concert planners come from the Rev. Meredith Moshauer of Nardin Park Church, Mrs. Ina Grapenthin, minister of music, and Mrs. Marlowe Belanger, Michigan Week ethnic day chairman. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

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## Children's fun set for libraries

Farmington area, both have a host of events coming up. May at the Farmington and Farmington Hills branch libraries.

On May 14, from 10:30-11 a.m., a puppet show will be at the Farmington branch.

2550 Liberty. Another puppet show presentation will be at the branch on May 15, from 2:30-4 p.m.

Children with a green thumb interest will be able to see two movies at the Hills branch, on May 20, from 10:30-11 a.m. The

movies will be "Straw Bear and The Selfish Giant." The Hills branch is located at 2277 Twelve Mile.

On May 21, from 3 p.m., at the Hills branch, the movie, "Headline Hunters" will be presented. It is the story of two chil-

dren who take over the town newspaper when their father becomes ill.

The series of children's activities will be rounded out on May 22 at the Farmington Library when a session in creative drama will be presented from 2:30 p.m.

## Post-abstract world on view through May 15

By LESLIE MASTERS

Philip Pearlstein is one of the best-known painters in the country today. He is famous for his larger-than-life portraits and paintings of nudes.

The reason for this fine reputation is obvious in Pearlstein's latest exhibition, a showing of his recent paintings and drawings at the Donald Morris Gallery in Birmingham.

"I try not to get enamored with my work. I am interested in the method of painting, not in the subject. I am always trying something about the painting process, not about the subject I choose to paint," Pearlstein said.

This unemotional attitude toward the subject leads the artist to record every part of the body with equal detail and interest. Knuckles and feet become fascinatingly complex; the smooth, hard sheen of a leg is no more important than a toe or face.

In fact, in many of the paintings the eyes of the model are closed so they are able to exert any emotional influence at all.

Pearlstein said he plays music while he paints to "discourage any talking or rapport between the models and myself. This might break my concentration on the painting process."

He laughingly admits this is partly because he has to pay his models, but the reality seems to be he wants to concentrate solely on recording what he sees, without any distraction or emotion getting in the way.

"I think seeing my work hanging together in a show completes the whole process for me. I don't get a



PAINTER PHILIP PEARLSTEIN

change to see my work after I finish painting it.

"I put it in the rack and go on to another. Coming to a show to see my work gives me a chance to view it much the same way as I would see someone else's art. Then I can decide objectively what the paintings are about and if they are what I wanted to do," he said.

The paintings at the Morris Gallery are huge and fill the gallery with their presence. The scale of the paintings make the figures seem disturbingly close. They protrude out of their space and encroach into ours; they sprawl dispassionately on beds and brightly-colored rugs.

Their flesh is starkly white and mer-

cilessly detailed with wrinkles and veins. The figures slump awkwardly, creating compelling shapes and angles on the canvas.

Pearlstein achieves this effect in his paintings by two methods. The first is to design the canvas carefully before he starts to paint. Pearlstein calls himself a "Post-Abstractionist," and approaches his canvases as abstract compositions.

He pays close attention to the shapes and directions he is setting, and carefully plays one form against another and one color pattern to contrast with another.

The other method Pearlstein uses is to paint every detail as true to his vision as possible. He sees the figure as an object devoid of any emotion and tries to paint an accurate record of what he sees.

In spite of the artist's insistence on dispassionate accuracy, the paintings are not emotionless. The quality of the almost super realism, coming from abstract concepts, makes the paintings powerful, emotional statements that jolt and shock. They also achieve monumental stature and great value.

The confidence and joy Pearlstein gets from the process of painting is obvious. The dedication to and concentration on his painting shows in the quality of his results. An encounter with an artist who has intensity and fulfillment in his art work reinforces the knowledge that creativity is basic and something in which to rejoice.

Philip Pearlstein's work will be on view at 105 Townsend, Birmingham, through May 15.

## Family's homeless after trailer fire

A Farmington Hills resident and her two children were left homeless Wednesday afternoon when a fire completely destroyed their mobile home.

Cathy Poe, 3020 W. Eight Mile in Farmington Hills, and her children, ages one and three, escaped injury shortly after 3 p.m. Wednesday when a gas stove caught fire and gutted the trailer. Mrs. Poe rents

Fire officials tried last week to help the homeless family appealing to several local organizations for assistance.

After the fire, Mrs. Poe, whose husband is a Marine and away on duty, received immediate help from a neighbor. Apparently, gusty winds blowing through the trailer spread the fire from the stove to other combustible materials nearby, fire officials said.



## MEXICAN FIESTA

MAY 12-16

A little bit of Mexico at Livonia Mall. Come enjoy this lively, colorful event! There'll be Mexican food, soccer, mariachi, sombrero, paintings, bread, pottery, flowers, suits of armour, all handmade. Lots of entertainment, too!

**THURSDAY**  
6-9 p.m. Father Dusty on the Banjo  
**FRIDAY**  
6-9 p.m. Mexican Folk Dancers  
**SATURDAY**  
2-3 p.m. Mariachi Players

**DAILY PIATA BREAKING**

For the Children (under 7, please)

All proceeds go to HOLY REDEEMER CHURCH GRADE SCHOOL

**BEETLE BOARDS OF AMERICA DISPLAY**  
May 12-16

A brand-new idea in rolling billboards. Volcanoes, oceans, take now, you could get a new paint job and \$20.00 a month (if your car is accepted as a Beetleboard).



## LIVONIA MALL

7 Mile Rd. at Middlebelt

Open Daily 'til 9  
Sun Noon-5 p.m.



Dr. Chung Hao Tai of Farmington Hills is invited to participate as a scholar-diplomat in the U.S. State Department's seminar on East Asian Affairs, Washington D.C. The seminar will be on May 17-21. Dr. Chung is the chairman of the University of Detroit political science department. A native of Taiwan, he has been at UD since 1962.