



Gilreath uses a large vacuum cleaner to insure that soot will not enter the house.

Chimney sweeps make home safer

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angle or is blocked, it would be necessary for work to be done from the outside.

If the flue is blocked by fallen bricks or other objects, the sweeps drop a 17-pound weight down the flue to break the obstruction.

The average cost, depending on the chimney, ranges from \$25 to \$55, Gilreath said.

Along with having the chimney cleaned and inspected, there are other things a homeowner can do to help prevent chimney fires.

Loose newspapers and green or wet wood shouldn't be burned in a fireplace, Gilreath warned. "Loose newspaper can carry sparks right up into the fireplace," he said. "It shouldn't be used as an incinerator to burn trash."

Coal, hard or dry wood and tightly rolled newspaper logs can be burned, he said.

Fire extinguishers for the chimney are available from the business for less

than \$10. The extinguishers put out the fire by generating a mixture of gases.

The Gilreaths have been in the chimney sweeping business for two months. They became interested in it after meeting Garden City chimney sweep Paul Glass.

High Hat sweeps wear black top hats and black suits as they go about their work. Lapeer explained that a sweep can't fall as long as he wears a hat.

But the business is serious about its work. It will give free inspections and speak on the subject at meetings.

"We felt that there was a need for it," Ray Gilreath said.

"Safety for people is a reason," Marie added. "I feel that people need to be educated. Just because you burn the wood in the fireplace, there's more to it. There's maintaining it too."

There's another advantage to having your chimney cleaned. The Gilreaths said chimney sweeps are thought to bring good luck.

"A woman told me her husband went back to work after we were there," Marie Gilreath said.

Home show set at K of C hall

The second annual Farmington Home Show will be at the Knights of Columbus hall on Middlebelt between Grand River and Nine Mile, starting 4 p.m. Friday, Feb. 18, through Sunday, Feb. 20.

This show is sponsored by Farmington Lumber Co. and H.A. Smith Lumber Co. Combined, these two companies have served the contractor and home owners of the northwest area for over 100 years.

There is no admission charge to this

show, which is open to the public. There will be on display many of the newest products used in the construction of both new homes as well as remodeling existing homes.

If you have a problem and would like to discuss it with an expert, stop by the show and get advice from representatives of such companies as Armstrong, Andersen, Owens Corning, to mention a few.

There will be drawings for gifts on Saturday and Sunday.

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2nd Annual Farmington Area Home Show

St. Francis Knights of Columbus Hall
21900 Middlebelt
Friday, Feb. 18 5-9 pm
Saturday, Feb. 19 11 am-8 pm
Sunday, Feb. 20 12 Noon-5 pm

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