

New blood sought for fire force



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

An Aug. 21 meeting has been scheduled for those interested in serving as paid-callback, or volunteer, firefighters in Farmington Hills.

By Julie Brown
staff writer

The Farmington Hills Fire Department is looking for a few good men and women.

A meeting for those who are interested in being paid-callback, or volunteer, firefighters, has been scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 21. The meeting will be at City Hall, at 11 Mile and Orchard Lake roads in Farmington Hills.

"It's a general informational meeting," said Lt. Tom Shurtleff of the Farmington Hills Fire Department. "We have a need for approximately 12 people at this time."

Volunteer firefighters must:

- Be 18 years of age or older;
- Hold a Michigan driver's license with an acceptable driving record;
- Hold a high school diploma or G.E.D. certificate;
- Have a satisfactory work record and personal history;
- Be in acceptable physical condition;
- Live or work in Farmington Hills or in the immediate surrounding area.

"They have to be able to respond to the fire stations," Shurtleff said.

THE FIRE Department is particularly interested in applicants who can respond to calls during the day and is encouraging women to apply. The department has several women volunteer firefighters.

"Our trouble is getting female applicants," he said. "We haven't been able to attract them."

"The females that we've had have worked out very successfully. They're in the system, and they're happy, they're contented."

The department is seeking mature, established individuals who will, ideally, stay on as firefighters for a lengthy time period, Shurtleff said. The hiring process will be conducted during September, he said, with the recruit school scheduled to begin in early October.

Volunteer firefighters are required to make a commitment to approximately 90 hours worth of training.

"That's fire suppression-oriented training," Shurtleff said. Once firefighters are assigned to a station, they must complete additional training during the 12-month probationary period, including first aid training.

Volunteer firefighters are paid \$7.50 an hour for incident responses during the probationary period, and \$7.40 an hour for participation in department training programs. They receive workers' compensation disability benefits, as required by state law, and some life insurance coverage.

"There is a small term-life policy," Shurtleff said. "We provide a small policy. It's not a major thing."

For additional information, call the Fire Department at 553-0740 during weekday business hours.



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Continued from Page 1

In 1984-85, Farmington's local special education program cost taxpayers \$3 million, Flanagan said. The cost of the regional program offered through the Farmington district cost the county \$4 million, he added.

The center (regional) programs provide education and services on a regional basis for students with severe handicaps. Of the 19,800 special education students in the county in 1984, 1,778 were considered severely handicapped and enrolled in 70 regional programs in 16 local districts, including Farmington.

"There are never enough (severely handicapped students) in one district

to provide the services," Place said. "The center programs are operated by host districts scattered throughout the county."

ALTHOUGH FARMINGTON is a host district which provides programs for certain types of severe handicaps it doesn't serve the full range of impairments. For example, Farmington students who are hearing-impaired go to another district which provides such programs, Place said.

"The regional concept is probably the strength of the center programs," Lewis said.

The program allows students with severe handicaps to receive help without putting the financial burden on each local district, Place said.

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