

# Neighbors learn how to reduce fire loss

By Bob Sklar  
staff writer

Keying on the heavy damage in a house fire Jan. 16, Farmington Hills firefighters last week taught neighbors how to reduce the loss of life and property.

The Jan. 16 fire, on Herndonwood Drive near 12 Mile and Inkster, caused more than \$200,000 in structural and content damage to the three-story house, which overlooks a wooded stream.

Despite freezing rain, 41 Pebblecreek Estates residents packed the Farmington Hills Fire Department Station 2 on Middlebelt Feb. 19 for a post-fire analysis led by Fire Chief Richard Marinucci.

The session gave residents a chance to learn about basic fire safety techniques that have proven effective in reducing the loss of life and property nationwide.

"Smoke is the number one factor in fatal fires, not the fire itself," said Fire Marshal Stephen Hume.

Residents saw first hand, on film, how quickly a fire can spread. Using slides taken during and after the fire, Hume showed the extensive damage to the upper levels and roof of the house on Herndonwood.

THE FIRE may have originated in the kitchen because of a cooking accident, Deputy Fire Chief Peter Baldwin said. One firefighter was treated for a knee injury.

The second floor's collapse early in the fire hampered and endangered

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— Shirley Shottroff

firefighters. So Marinucci and his staff took time to explain how heat and fire travel.

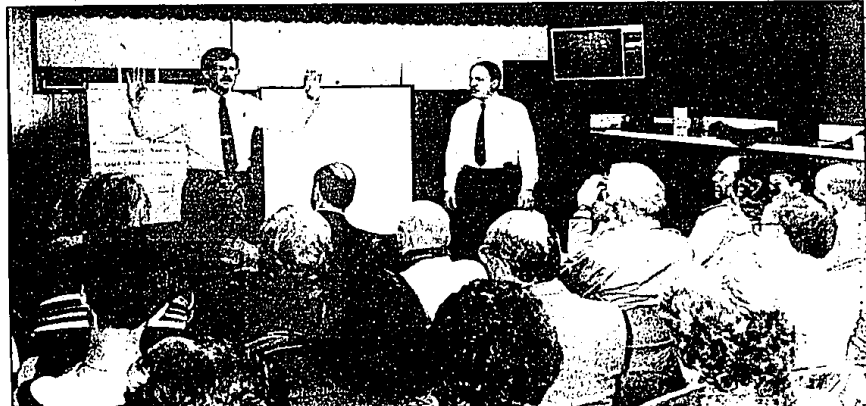
"Even the interior finish of the home was a contributing factor to the rapid spread of fire," Baldwin said. "Heavy smoke damage was evident."

After the presentation, Fire Lt. Michael Garr answered questions about planning home fire escape routes, maintaining fireplaces and selecting and placing smoke detectors and fire extinguishers.

Neighbor Shirley Shottroff said the session was "real informative."

"Most people," she said, "walked away with a little more information than they had going in."

She said the major thing she



Fire Lt. Michael Garr (left) and Fire Marshal Stephen Hume talk fire safety with Pebblecreek Estates residents.

PETER BALDWIN

learned was how fire works.

As she put it: "I learned that high ceilings and stairways are conductors of smoke and heat. I learned that if you sleep with your bedroom doors closed, you keep smoke and toxins from coming in. That gives you extra time, and a better chance

to get out of the house in a fire."

SHOTTROFF ALSO learned why it's important to not only plan fire escape routes, but also have a meeting place outside. "You don't want someone going back looking for someone already outside," she said. Shottroff, who remembers what

the burned house looked like before the fire, called the fire department's pictures of the scene overwhelming.

"I was shocked," she said. "There was nothing recognizable."

Another neighbor, who called fire a scary thing, said she didn't hesitate to change the batteries in her smoke detectors after attending the

session.

The fire department is eager to repeat the presentation. Call the Fire Prevention Division weekdays 553-0744.

"You don't need a fire in your neighborhood to learn how to be safe from fire," Baldwin said.

## Hills officer injured in 6-community car chase

By Jackie Klein  
staff writer

A 27-year-old Southfield man, who was injured in an accident that ended a six-community police chase early Friday morning, was arraigned in Providence Hospital on charges of shooting his father.

The shooting victim, James Turin, 55, was reported in guarded condition at Providence Friday with two gunshot wounds to his body. He was allegedly shot during a family argument at his home on the 24800 block of River Heights Drive in the area south of 10 Mile, east of Berg Road.

TIMOTHY TURRIN was arraigned Friday by Magistrate Eugene Friedman on three charges of assault with intent to murder, pos-

session of a firearm in the commission of a felony and failure to obey a police officer's signal.

Bond was set at \$100,000 cash or surety, pending an examination Feb. 12 in 46th District Court. No information was available on how the suspect pleaded at his arraignment.

In the incident at 2:30 a.m. Friday, Southfield police officers were called to the home and found Turin in the bedroom. He was treated for gunshot wounds by Southfield Life Support Unit paramedics and taken to Providence.

According to Officer Gary Conat, Southfield police spokesman, the suspect left the house in the family car, a gray Honda.

SOUTHFIELD PATROL officers at 2:57 a.m. spotted the car at Nine Mile and Berg Road. The driver fled

**Farmington Hills Officer Mark Meredith was treated at Botsford General Hospital, Farmington Hills, and received stitches for a gash behind his ear.**

at a high rate of speed in the early morning snowstorm and turned off the headlights, Conat said.

He was chased by police units from Southfield, Farmington Hills, Livonia and Redford Township through those communities, as well as Novi and West Bloomfield. The Honda eventually struck a

Farmington Hills police car at Eight Mile and Inkster Road.

The suspect, three Farmington Hills police officers and a Livonia officer were injured in the collision.

FARMINGTON HILLS Officer Mark Meredith was treated at Botsford General Hospital, Farmington

Hills, and received stitches for a gash behind his ear.

Farmington Hills Police Sgt. Gary Hawald sustained neck and rib injuries and Officer Gilbert Kohls suffered neck and back injuries, but neither required hospital treatment.

Livonia Police Sgt. Dennis Farmer drove himself to St. Mary Hospital, Livonia, where he was treated for cuts to his hand. Farmer was hurt when he hit with his flashlight the side window of the car being chased. Police said he was trying to get the suspect to leave his car.

Kohls and Hawald joined the pursuit near Eight Mile and Inkster about 3 a.m. Friday. They followed the suspect's car north and west through Farmington Hills, often losing sight of it because of falling snow.

FARMINGTON HILLS police rejoined the pursuit near Eight Mile and Farmington Road before breaking it off at Beech in Redford Township, where Southfield officers took over.

At Telegraph, the suspect made a U-turn and headed west on Eight Mile.

Approaching Inkster, the suspect's car struck Hawald's westbound patrol car. The suspect's car left the road and hit a brick wall, then returned to the road, where it crossed three lanes and struck Kohls' patrol car.

It then continued westbound. Shortly past 3:30 a.m., the suspect lost control and his car struck Meredith's patrol car in the far westbound lane of Eight Mile, just east of Inkster in Southfield.

### business briefs

If you recently opened a shop, captured an award, earned a promotion, are planning a new venture or project, or have information about other business-related happenings — and there's a Farmington-area connection, we'd like to hear from you so we can share your news item with other Observer readers. Send items to: Business Briefs, Farmington Observer, 33203 Grand River, Farmington 48024.

#### HE'S PROMOTED

Plante & Moran, a Southfield accounting and management consulting firm, has promoted Gregory Thomas of Farmington Hills to tax associate.

Thomas joined the firm in 1985.

He worked for another CPA firm before joining Plante & Moran. He specializes in accounting methods, taxation of trusts and estates and closely held businesses.

He is involved in community and professional organizations, including the Washburn County Estate Planning Council and the University of Michigan Alumni Association.

#### MALL DEALERSHIP

Bob Saks Oldsmobile of Farmington Hills has opened the first dealership showroom in a Michigan shopping mall. The satellite showroom is near Lord & Taylor on the second floor at Twelve Oaks Mall, Novi.

Saks decided to open the Bob Saks Auto Show in the mall as a convenience to the public. The front of the Bob Saks Auto Show opens into the mall.

Patrons can walk in to see a Delta 89, a Cutlass Ciera and a Cutlass Calais International Series on display. The dealership plans to rotate the cars two to three times per month.

"So far, the people who have stopped by the auto show have been shocked," said Mark Michigan, satellite showroom manager. "Everyone seems to think this is a great

idea, and the traffic has been very promising."

The mini showroom has a small video wall that shows Oldsmobile products in action.

Sales representatives can show customers product catalogues, color clips and, with the help of their computer, can even find out what cars are immediately available for delivery.

The proximity of the mall to the main dealership facility allows a salesperson to return to see additional models and colors, or to have a particular model brought to the mall showroom.

Saks expects the average daily mall traffic of 50,000 people to give him additional exposure to the Novi and Farmington Hills area market.

"We expect to have between 28,000 and 30,000 people pass by our showroom each month," said Tony Patenella, dealership general manager.

"We also plan to include our products in all mall activities, such as fashion shows, which will give Oldsmobile even more advertising."

Bob Saks' facility in the Novi Mall is only the 18th in mall showrooms in the United States. Oldsmobile now has seven of the mall showrooms.

#### ELECTED TO BOARD

Eleanor Breitmeyer-Gebert of Farmington Hills was elected to a three-year term on the Michigan Cancer Foundation Board of Trustees.

Jimmy Lounce of Farmington Hills was named an honorary life member of the board.

The Michigan Cancer Foundation is a Torch Drive/United Way Agency.

#### NEW VP

Frank Vandeputte of Farmington Hills was promoted to marketing vice president for O/E Learning.

The Troy-based training specialist firm offers classes in the operation of all types of computer hardware and software. It also offers classes in automotive education and personal financial education.

Vandeputte was formerly director of marketing for O/E Learning training centers. His responsibilities include supervising marketing representatives for the training centers and directing all marketing support efforts.

He was with IBM for 10 years as a

marketing manager before joining O/E Learning in 1986.

#### BUILDERS SHOW

The 70th Annual Builders Home, Flower and Furniture Show, hosted by the Farmington Hills-based Builders Association of Southeastern Michigan, will be held at Cobo Hall in Detroit March 19-27.

Several Farmington Hills companies will exhibit their products at the show.

Quality Homes specializes in selling mobile homes offering contemporary options like built-in stereos, skylights, microwave ovens, built-in fireplaces, whirlpools and carpeting.

State Wide Aluminum Products offers custom replacement windows, storm windows and steel doors that help save energy, control icing, and reduce heat loss, condensation, drafts, noise and dust.

Portable Spas Plus specializes in spas, hot tubs and jetted baths. It's the exclusive area dealer of Sonoma brand portable spas. It carries a line of Jacuzzi and Polyspense brand spas, hot tubs and jetted baths.

Clutter Control specializes in custom adjustable closet systems and organizational materials for the home. It also offers an adjustable closet system that can be installed by the company or the consumer.

Brinks Home Security specializes in economical residential and commercial security systems.

The show features exhibits and demonstrations in many phases of construction, renovation, heating and cooling, landscaping, home furnishings and interior design. Tickets are \$4 at the door, \$3 in advance.

#### TRUCK SAFETY

A pamphlet explaining how motorists can help reduce the increasing number of car-truck accidents in Michigan is available free to the public at all AAA Michigan offices statewide.

The local office is at 33133 12 Mile, Farmington Hills.

The pocket-sized pamphlet, "Cars and Trucks: Sharing the Road Safely," was compiled as a result of AAA's comprehensive study of nearly 100 heavy truck accidents in the state.

From 1983 through 1986, total fatal accidents in Michigan rose 14 percent, but fatal crashes involving trucks jumped by 88 percent.

## WIN A VALENTINE'S SHOPPING SPREE!



## FOR SOMEONE YOU LOVE.

This Valentine's Day, you can win your heart's desire... in Twelve Oaks' Sealed-With-A-Kiss Contest.

Just fill out an entry form at the Gift Wrap Center, February 11-14. And you could win a sensational \$500 Shopping Spree at any of our stores.

We'll even wrap your Valentine's gifts free! So come into Twelve Oaks for all your Valentine's Day needs.



#### Entry Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

#### Official Rules

1. Only one entry per shopping visit.
2. No purchase necessary.
3. Contest is open to all persons over eighteen (18) years of age.
4. Employees and their families of Twelve Oaks Mall Shopping Center and Agents or affiliates are not eligible for drawing.
5. Entries must be received by February 14, 1988.
6. Prize: \$500 Shopping Spree for the stores within Twelve Oaks Mall.
7. Winner is responsible for all local, state or federal taxes. Prize must be redeemed by February 20, 1988.
8. Participants need not be present to win. Winner will be notified by mail or phone.
9. Drawing to be held on February 14, 1988.
10. No alternate prize or cash will be awarded.
11. Persons may enter by searching the form or a brochure of it to Twelve Oaks Mall Management Office, 27500 Novi Rd., Novi, MI 48050.