

# Mobile home fire claims dog

A small dog died of apparent smoke inhalation in a fire at the Little Valley mobile home park Saturday. No people were home at the time of the accidental blaze at 20832 Tuck.

First on the scene at 12:50 p.m., Farmington Hills police officer Tom Shiva found flames at the service door leading to the hot water heater. Heavy smoke drove him back.

Farmington Hills firefighters extinguished the fire within 10 minutes.

The fire appeared to have started in the crawl space when a heat tape plug short-circuited. The heat tape was on a water pipe beneath the mobile home, Fire Chief Richard Marinucci said.

Damage was estimated at \$21,000, according to the fire report.

A neighbor told police he heard a small explosion at 12:40 p.m. and smelled smoke about 10 minutes later. That's when he went outside and saw smoke coming from a neighboring home.



An exterior view of the mobile home that burned in Farmington Hills Saturday afternoon

# Panel will try to solve noise conflict

Continued from Page 1

ing an Aug. 23 guitar concert. Center executive director Dorothy Pfaff was ticketed for disturbing the peace. She has yet to go to trial on the misdemeanor offense, which upon conviction carries a maximum penalty of 90 days in jail and \$500 fine.

The ad hoc committee, Fox said, is expected to "ensure that the parameters of the RA-1A residential zone (that the center is in) are not violated."

With planning commission approval, the center has special approval to have the outdoor concerts in a residential zone. In 1988, the planning commission also approved construction of a new bandshell for outdoor concerts.

Fox said she also hopes the com-

mittee will work with the Community Center to determine if proposed programming for the summer meets the intent of the planning commission's ban and is amenable to neighbors.

**SOME CONCERNS.** Fox said, such as the Livonia Symphony or opera, with or without amplification, will be loud enough to again irritate neighbors. In a list of suggestions to the city council, Fox said the concert should have an emphasis on "music in a natural setting, on natural (unamplified) instruments, among natural trees."

Unlike the planning commission ban, though, Fox sees no problem using a microphone outside the center for announcements with one voice only.

Fox also suggested a review of the

city ordinance controlling outdoor events. Outdoor concerts could fall under the same type of special approval required of the Elks' annual Ox Roast, to assure compatibility with neighborhood standards.

Farmington Hills Planning Commission chairman Joanne Smith said she would prefer to see Community Center officials and nearby neighbors work out their own conflicts over noise.

"If they work out a compromise, the Community Center can always come back to us," Smith said.

But Community Center president Lawrence Freedman said center officials don't know what to do other than to live under the planning commission's ban.

"Right now, we don't know what to do with the neighbors. Really, at

this point there is nothing to talk about. I think the Community Center has put forth every amount of effort it can. We need cooperation," Freedman said. Center officials maintain the ban could hurt the center financially.

To center officials, cooperation means a tangible sound measurement that concerts and weddings can reach without incurring the wrath of neighbors or the planning commission.

"We are not after putting the center (financially) under at all. Everybody approves of the programs. The amplifiers are killing us. That's our only objection. The Community Center was never intended to be anything like that. What started out as a puppy has grown up into a loud barking dog," Shortt said.

# Injured suspect is still in hospital

Richard Merritt Harrison, 17, of Lathrup Village, shot in the arm by Southfield police Friday night while fleeing the scene of a reported armed assault, remained in Providence Hospital under guard earlier this week.

Harrison is charged with assault with intent to murder and possessing a firearm during the commission of a felony.

The youth is one of two arrested in connection with the assault. Harrison's companion, a 14-year-old Southfield boy, was arrested and

charged with breaking and entering. Southfield police rushed to the office building at 29255 Northwestern, north of 12 Mile and east of Inkster, Friday evening after the custodian there called for help.

The custodian said that one of the youths breaking into the building aimed a handgun at him, threatening his life and then fleeing in a car.

Police from neighboring Franklin Village and Farmington Hills joined Southfield police, who captured Harrison after he was shot. The 14-year-old was captured by Franklin police.

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