



Cheryl Flynn

### Parks group names new director

Cheryl Flynn, of Rochester Hills, has been named executive director of the Oakland Parks Foundation. Flynn replaces Frances Greenbaum, of Bloomfield Township, now director of development for the Birmingham Community House. Flynn has been active in community service projects for the past 11 years. As a member of the Little Traverse Conservancy of Petoskey, she helped preserve Colonial Point on Hart Lake, a forest with trees over 100 years old. As a 10 year member and current vice-president of the GFWC-Rochester Junior Women's Club, Flynn has chaired several of the organization's fundraisers. Flynn is a mechanical engineer and graduate of the General Motors Institute. She has been a senior project engineer at the GM Tech Center in Warren, a sales and service manager for GM in upstate New York, and a partner with her husband, James, in their manufacturers representative company in Rochester Hills.

"CHERYL BRINGS a strong business background to her new job and we are looking forward to great things happening in the future," said John Thurber, board president. The Oakland Parks Foundation was established in 1983 to raise funds to preserve and enhance parks and recreation in Oakland County. Some of their past accomplishments include the Cohn Amphitheater and Visitors Trail at Independence Oaks County Park, a Boston Marathon Camp Scholarship Fund, the Great Escape Nature Camp, a Memorial Garden, platform tennis courts at Waterford Oaks County Park, the restoration of the Milkhouse at Addison Oaks County Park, and the Music in the Park series. The Foundation also established "Friends of the Parks" and the Oakland Land Conservancy. "The Parks Foundation's mission is the wise use of leisure, lakes and land in Oakland County," Flynn explained. "I am hopeful we can develop the important work of the foundation through the decade of the '90s and beyond." Flynn welcomes inquiries about the Oakland County Parks Foundation at 335-2771.

### consumer mailbag

**Q.** How often should a fireplace chimney be cleaned? Why do they need cleaning?

**A.** When wood burns, it gives off volatile gases. These gases cool and condense as they travel up the chimney, forming creosote. With subsequent use, the creosote is reheated and can ignite causing a fire up inside the chimney. A chimney fire which burns at up to 3,000 degrees can melt the mortar between bricks or send flaming meteorites out over the roof and yard setting fire to whatever it lands on.

Creosote build-up varies with the type of burner used, type of wood burned and how the fireplace or stove is operated. Woodburning stoves because of their high energy efficiency form a quicker build-up than traditional fireplaces. Soft wood, such as pine or cedar, produce more creosote than hardwoods, like oak or birch. Slower burning fires result in more creosote. Build-up can be reduced by operating your fireplace at high volume for a short time at the beginning and end of use. Chimney flues should be inspected annually. The chimney needs cleaning if bricks appear black and/or "furry." The rule of thumb is annual cleaning for frequently used (4-5 times weekly) and once every three to five years for occasionally used (1-2 times a month) fireplaces or woodstoves.



Terry Gibb

Chimneys can be cleaned either professionally (check your local yellow pages) or by renting the equipment and doing it yourself. Creosote cannot be cleaned away by the powder products. These products contain aluminum sulfate that is of no use against creosote and may corrode metal chimneys and cause a fire hazard itself.

Chimney cleaning is not hard — just messy! It can be done by one person in about three hours. A cool day (40 degrees) is the best time to clean because the draft will be pulled up the chimney and reduce the dust from the opening going into the room. Basically, chimneys are cleaned by pushing a snag-fitting wire brush up and down the chimney flue until all the creosote has been brushed off the bricks and the brush remains clean. This can be done from the fire box or the roof. However, if done from the roof less dust will drift into the room. After the dust has settled into the fire box, a wet handbrush is used to scrub the walls inside the fire box and up into the flue. The damper and smoke shelf should also be dusted free of creosote dust.

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