

# Hills family escapes fire; home's 1st floor gutted

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...BILL AND Terri, as well as their daughters, Kaleigh, 4, and Shelby, 7, escaped injury. The Gribecks' cat, Penelope, was still in the burning house when firefighters arrived at 2199 Middlebelt, near Showassaw. Penelope is believed to have remained in the burning house for about 14 minutes before a firefighter rescued the cat by breaking a window and letting her jump outside. "That's all they (Kaleigh and Shelby) wanted to know -- if the cat was all right," Bill Gribeck said. He said he had been asleep on the downstairs couch when something woke him up. Gribeck saw the fire, which firefighters believe started near the couch, and tried for a few

minutes to extinguish it. When he realized he was unable to extinguish it himself, Gribeck said he shouted upstairs to his wife to get the kids, who were watching TV, out of the house. Once the children were taken outside, Terri Gribeck said she ran back into the burning house and called 911 for help. By the time she reached the phone at the back of the house and returned to where her husband was standing in the doorway, the house was filled with smoke she could barely see. **THE GRIBECKS**, both 1976 Livonia Stevenson High School graduates who dated since the seventh grade, were thankful the family was safe but mourned the loss of sentimental

belongings, such as photographs, as well as antiques, a record collection and family Bibles. Some of the photos the Gribecks lost in the fire Thursday night were of a good friend who was recently killed in a auto accident. The family will move to an apartment for 2-3 months until their house is repaired and made ready for their return. Damage to the house was estimated at \$30,000 and \$15,000 to belongings. Farmington Hills police closed northbound and southbound traffic on Middlebelt so firefighters could use a hydrant on the east side of the thoroughfare. Sharon LeMieux contributed to this report.

## police/fire calls

Listed below are some of the Farmington-area police incidents, fire calls and court cases reported during the past week:

**● MOPED MANIA**  
Two unidentified youths have reportedly been racing around and bothering employees of Antonio's Hair Salon, 2957 Orchard Lake Road, March 15, according to a Farmington Hills police report. After employees saw the youths racing around the building, they heard what sounded like a BB shot. They later noticed that four of the cars in the parking lot were damaged with scratches and possibly BBs, resulting in an estimated \$300 to each car. Employees reported that the youths returned March 20 to the salon racing around the lot and throwing rocks.

his jeans and underwear off and exposed himself to her. When she had shouted to the man that she had called police, the man got dressed and drove away. The same man apparently urinated on a Dumpster in the same area more than a week before this incident. **● BOMB THREAT**  
The Farmington YMCA, 28100 Farmington Road, received its second bomb threat this year at about 1:52 p.m., March 19, according to a Farmington Hills police report. A receptionist at the YMCA received a phone call from an unidentified man with a deep voice who said the building and another called the First-Step near the YMCA should be emptied as they "would be blown up." The man then hung up. Police searched the building and found nothing. People were not evacuated. The YMCA also received a bomb threat in January from an unidentified caller.

ported stolen from American Transmission, 29105 Grand River, March 16-18. Wooden pallets valued at \$400 were reported stolen from Kinart, 30800 Orchard Lake Road, March 19. Wire rim wheels valued at \$500 were reported stolen from a 1990 Cadillac parked at the Finnish Center, 35200 Eight Mile, March 14. Two coats valued at \$350 were reported stolen from a 1981 Oldsmobile parked at Dennison's Seafood Tavern, 27609 Orchard Lake Road, March 15. Two chain saw, two drills, a wood trimmer and hedge trimmer valued at \$475 were reported stolen from a garage on Tredwell, March 11-12. A wallet containing some U.S. money and Swiss francs totaling about \$98 was reported stolen from a purse at Harrison High School, 29955 12 Mile, March 16. Golf clubs valued at \$686 were reported stolen from a house on Dohany, March 12-15. A radar detector valued at \$400 was reported stolen from a 1988 Cadillac at Darrell's Shell Service, 27831 Orchard Lake Road, March 7-8. A long-barrel shotgun, AM/FM cassette player, door speakers, cash and coins totaling \$390 were reported stolen from a unit at Independence Green Apartments on Washington Court, March 15-16. Four wire wheels valued at \$600 were reported stolen from a 1990 Cadillac on Glen Cove, March 16-17. A TV, electric guitar, amplifier, microwave, coins and candy bars valued at \$1,400 were reported stolen from a house on Greening, March 17.

**● ASSAULT AND BATTERY**  
A 14-year-old Detroit youth faces an assault and battery charge after he reportedly jumped on the back of a staff member at Boy's Republic, 28000 Nine Mile, March 19, according to a Farmington Hills police report. The youth reportedly wanted to enter the administration office through a doorway where the staff member was standing. When the staff member told the youth he was not permitted in the office, the youth jumped on his back and had him in a headlock until the staff member freed himself. The youth then kicked the staff member in the groin. A petition for charges against the youth will be filed with the Oakland County Prosecutor's office and the Oakland County Probate Court, juvenile division.

**● INDECENT EXPOSURE**  
An unidentified man exposed himself to a 32-year-old West Bloomfield man who was jogging on northbound Drake about 1 p.m. March 20, according to a Farmington Hills police report. The jogger saw a car stop at Valley Forge and Drake roads and a man in the car wave to him, asking for directions. The jogger went up to the car to find that the driver was dressed only in a T-shirt and was fondling himself. When the driver tried to grab the jogger and pull him into the car, the jogger broke free. The driver then left at a high rate of speed on northbound Drake. **● THEFTS REPORTED**  
Studs and lumber valued at \$1,774 were reported stolen from Meadowridge Condominiums on Meadowridge, March 18-20. Jewelry valued at \$1,550 was reported stolen from a suitcase at Holiday Inn, 38123 10 Mile, March 15-17. Checks valued at \$950 were re-

**● DAMAGE REPORTED**  
Someone who was shooting a BB gun is blamed for damage to two cars and a front door on Fernhill, March 17. Windows on a 1984 Dodge were broken resulting in an estimated \$600 damage. Damage was estimated at \$400 to the windows of a 1983 Dodge. Damage to a front door was estimated at \$50.

# Local cops: L.A. beating 'intolerable, uncalled for'

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blow inflicted. An estimated 25 Los Angeles-area officers were at the scene of the beating, which was recorded on video by an onlooker and broadcast over national television. The incident has focused attention on the issue of excessive force, and prompted the U.S. Justice Department to begin a nationwide review of police brutality. No complaints of excessive force against either Farmington-area department are pending, the chiefs said, although each department has its share of non-brutality concerns and complaints from citizens which are always investigated. Both stressed their departments are run in a professional manner, and while necessary force is sometimes used in arrest situations, it has never become excessive.

"Our officers are trained. We're known as a very professional police department in the state," Dwyer said. "We're community oriented. We're reactive, not proactive." Dwyer added that officers need to work together in today's world to unite against crime. "Today's officer understands his authority shows," he said. "He doesn't use that as a tool. He has respect for the individual on the street and expects respect back." IF A situation like the one in L.A. were to occur locally, both chiefs said they would handle the situation through an internal investigation and proceed with prosecution if necessary. "Citizens have to understand their police departments see this as the most serious type of offense," Lauffoff added. "If you step out of those bounds, you will be held strictly accountable.

"The most important thing to me is that these kind of basic rights are never violated, and if they are, then we will step in immediately." Dwyer commented. "You set the tone of the department," he said. "The men and women have to be made aware you will not condone brutality." If departments are managed properly from top to bottom, officers would know what behavior is acceptable and what is not, Lauffoff added. "It's a totally unacceptable situation any time excessive force is used. People say 'those things can happen.' No they can't unless there's total breakdown in hiring, training and supervision." "I truly and sincerely believe this wouldn't occur in Farmington Hills," Dwyer added. The Associated Press contributed to this story.

# Welcome mat out for Gulf soldiers

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**SCHREMSER HOPES** congressional approval will come within 90 days. "We'd really like to have those boys in here," Schremsner said. "Vietnam vets are in their 40s and 50s. It's much better to get a younger bunch in here." Although there is no AmVets Post

in the Farmington area, the closest post at 1217 Metcamin in Westland will accept new members from this area, said Leo Akubeno, AmVets member and Vietnam War veteran. We were the first ones to have Vietnam vets," Akubeno said. "Membership here has increased, but not because of Desert Storm." The Westland Post has 418 mem-

bers. AmVets is open to people who have served for at least 30 days with honorable discharge.

The Hometown and Observer and Eclectic "Creative Living" section has the largest selection of suburban display real estate ads in the metro area.

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GRAND RIVER WEST OF MIDDLEBELT IN THE WEST RIVER SHOPPING CENTER NEXT TO SUPER 476-9844  
PERFECT WEAPON (R) 10:00, 12:20, 2:40, 4:45, 7:30, 9:45, 11:30  
THE HARD WAY (R) 10:00, 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00  
THE DOORS (R) 10:00, 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00  
TEENAGE MUTANT TURTLES 10:00, 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00  
THE SECRET OF THE COZMOES 10:00, 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00  
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