

House leveled, man charged with arson

By Helen Niemiec
staff writer

Little remains of the Hersch family home in Franklin following a Thursday afternoon fire that gutted the brick ranch on Franklin Park Drive. But there was a silver lining.

Though the \$266,800 home was leveled, police and fire officials said the cooperation from neighbors and neighboring communities led to the arrest of a man for arson less than five hours after the fire started.

No one was home at the time of the fire. Neither family members nor firefighters were hurt in the blaze. Homeowner Ed Hersch could not be reached Friday.

Frederick Boyer, 47, of Detroit stood mute at his arraignment Friday before 46th District Judge Bryan Levy on a charge of arson and breaking and entering. Arson carries a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison, while breaking and entering has a 15 year maximum sentence.

Boyer is being held in Oakland County Jail since he did not post

the \$150,000 cash surety bond. The preliminary examination is May 31.

POLICE CHIEF Edward Glomb said that without the help of neighbors and the assistance of the Southfield and Farmington Hills police departments, the crime could have gone unsolved.

"The house was totaled," Glomb said. "There was no evidence because the house was destroyed."

A neighbor called Franklin police to report a suspicious man walking from the house. He was dressed in a security guard's uniform.

Franklin police put out a bulletin to neighboring departments. About an hour later, Southfield police had a call that a man matching the description tried to get into the FTD headquarters building on Franklin and Northwestern. By the time Southfield police arrived, the man had run away.

Farmington Hills police spotted a man in a security uniform walking on 12 Mile Road between Middlebelt and Orchard Lake Roads. Boyer was questioned and brought into the Farmington Hills station, where he was picked up by Franklin police.

Inkwell provides information about primary and secondary education issues and students from the Farmington area. Send information to: Inkwell, The Farmington Observer, 21898 Farmington Road, Farmington 48338. Items will not be taken over the phone.



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lution problems.

Also offered at the seminar was a computerized environmental survey, results will be published by the students in a spring magazine.

BEACH BASH

Parents of seniors at Harrison High School are planning a senior all-night party with the theme of "Beach Bash" on June 9 from 10 p.m. until 5 a.m. the next morning.

The purpose of the party is to provide safe, supervised, alcohol- and drug-free fun for graduating seniors. Some of the party highlights include a Las Vegas party, moonwalk, swimming and disc jockey.

Parents are seeking donations from area businesses that may be auctioned off or given as door prizes. Those interested in donating may call Dale Doecker at 477-1050.

SCIENCE FAIR

Four Farmington Hills residents and Detroit Country Day School students won top honors in their division at the 1991 Metropolitan Detroit Science and Engineering Fair, held April 10-13 in Detroit.

Senior David Kuba won in the earth and space division, sophomore Sarah Webster in the physics section, and junior Josh Schare and sophomore Heather Shenkman who both won in the two behavioral science divisions.

Science projects of 2,732 junior and senior high school students from 166 schools in the Detroit area par-

ticipated in the competition. Country Day swept 11 of 13 first place awards at the high school level.

INTERNATIONAL AWARD

Power Middle School teacher Martie Porta, also a Farmington Hills resident, has been awarded the Michigan Education Association's Elizabeth Siddall Award for 1991 for her "commitment to international understanding."

"By providing students an educational environment that fosters acceptance of and comfort in cultural and racial diversity, and by sharing your time and resources with students in the Caribbean area and in Europe, you are enhancing the possibilities of lasting world peace," said James Gregory, who chairs the MEA's International Understanding Commission.

A banquet was held April 26 honoring Porta and other human rights awarders for 1991.

WRITING WINNERS

Farmington Public Schools has three of 11 statewide winners in the 1991 National Council of Teachers of English Promising Young Writers Program, and had eight nominees sent from the district.

Farmington winners include:

• Mark Springer of East Middle School, who offered a piece called "A True Champion" as his best sample and did an impromptu piece about "A Quiet Summer's Day."

• Kathryn Rudman of O.E. Dunkel Middle School, who offered a short story called "Life's a Beach" and wrote an impromptu piece on a day at a bowling alley.

• Sean Hassell of Power Middle School, who offered samples of poetry, then wrote an impromptu piece about he and his brother discovering a new jungle gym and an injury that resulted.

Other nominees included Linda Lachin and David Brum of East, Sarah Green and Tom Stamboulis of Dunkel and Carri Owen of Power. Students were nominated by their eighth grade language arts teachers, submitted a sample of their best work and then wrote an impromptu essay. Locally, the competition is sponsored by the DELTA Department in Farmington schools.

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3 named to Farmington boards

Several Farmington residents were appointed, or re-appointed, in April by the city council to serve on city boards and commissions.

They include:

• Christian Stiehl, w.o., will serve as the Republican representative on

the city's Board of Canvassers, to fill a vacancy. His term will expire in December of 1991.

Thomas Lyczkowski will fill a vacancy on the city's Historical Commission, with his term to expire in March of 1994.

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THIS WINTER, THOUSANDS OF CHILDREN WILL BE STRICKEN WITH DIABETES. THE REAL TRAGEDY BEGINS WHEN THEY'RE TREATED FOR THE FLU.

During flu season thousands of children are stricken with insulin-dependent diabetes. These children are usually between the ages of 5 and 16.


Unfortunately, many parents and emergency-room personnel often confuse the warning signs of diabetes with the flu. Or, in some cases, urinary tract infection.

The major warning signs for diabetes to watch out for are: frequent urination, excessive thirst, extreme hunger, dramatic weight loss, nausea and vomiting. As well as irritability, weakness and fatigue. Generally, these symptoms appear over a three or four-week period, but do not appear as suddenly as flu symptoms.

If the child is not treated immediately, his or her blood sugar can go out of control leading to what is called diabetic ketoacidosis. Which in turn can lead to diabetic coma. The warning signs for diabetic ketoacidosis include excessive urination, great thirst, stomach pain, nausea and vomiting, dehydration which can lead to dry lips and sunken eyes, rapid breathing, followed by sleepiness.

So this winter, do something to really protect your child during flu season.

Learn the symptoms of diabetes.

A message from the American Diabetes Association. 

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