

THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 1992

FARMINGTON
NOTES

A 'model' citizen

Francis Takla of Farmington Hills won the title of Mr. Barbizon 1992. He's now the school's male model of the year. Sponsored by Barbizon of Michigan, competition was held May 31 at the Novi Hilton.

Takla, a recent graduate of North Farmington High School, will be competing in the Mr. Barbizon International Model search competition in San Antonio, Texas, in October.

Takla, the son of Raymond and Antoinette Takla, plans to continue his education at Central Michigan University this fall. He also plans to continue his modeling career.

Such fine neighbors

Good neighbors, those members of the Farmington Neighbors Club. The group held a fashion show back in April and now the Rain-How Connections is \$3,300 richer.

Proceeds from the luncheon/fashion show went to the Rain-How Connection, a Michigan-based, non-profit organization that fulfills the wishes of terminally ill children.

The money will be used to grant a wish for a child in the Farmington area. Club members will be informed as soon as a wish is received.

Business security

Farmington-area business people are invited to attend a seminar on security 2-3 p.m. Thursday, June 16, at the Southwest Oakland Cable Commission offices, 24021 Research Drive, Farmington Hills.

Farmington Hills police officers will discuss auto theft prevention and how to protect a business from criminals. Many simple and inexpensive procedures can be used to create a more secure atmosphere, police say.

The seminar is sponsored by the Farmington Hills Freeway Park Association. For a reservation, call Lark Samouelian at 473-7266 before June 15.

Chiefs reveal danger of fireworks

A toy doll was blown up, a firefighter's shirt was melted and bottle rockets were exploded as the Southeast Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs attempted to show how dangerous fireworks can be at a recent demonstration in Farmington Hills.

By CASEY HANS
STAFF WRITER



Area firefighters are hoping for a quiet Independence Day holiday — a season which runs from several weeks in June through July 4.

For them, a busy season will mean bad burns and injuries, mostly to children.

"Over the years, these figures run pretty constant," said Dave Smith of the state Fire Marshal's office. "Parental supervision is still very important."

Due to both legal and illegal fireworks accidents in Michigan last year, there were 21 cases of burns, six eyes lost, six limbs lost, 28 lacerations and nine fractures.

Of those, 73 incidents involved children ages 7-10 and another 22 incidents involved children ages 11-16.

The Southeast Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs hosted a demonstration of illegal fireworks in Farmington Hills Monday, in which they blew up two toy dolls, burned and melted a firefighter's shirt, and sent bottle rockets and other illegal devices shooting all over a field south of the Nine Mile fire station.

The display showed just how unpredictable fireworks can be.

"There really are no guarantees with this stuff," said Farmington Hills deputy Fire Chief Peter Baldwin. He said in Farmington Hills, there has been at least one bedroom fire attributed to



Child's play: Farmington Hills Fire Inspector Alan Ellis demonstrates how easily polyester burns when a sparkler, a legal commodity, meets the cloth.

fireworks, numerous bushes caught on fire because of them and reports of kids purposely shooting fireworks across the street at neighbors.

Even legal fireworks can cause injury when not properly supervised, fire officials said. Fireworks which are legal to purchase and use include:

- Paper caps with no more than .25 grain of explosive per cap.
- Toy trick noise makers, devices

which contain 15 milligrams or less of an explosive.

- Sparklers, steel wires partially coated or tubes which shoot out sparks when lit.

- Fountains, including tubes and caps which emit a shower of sparks and sometimes a whistle when lit.

- Toy snakes, which produce a large, snake-like ash upon burning.
- Smoke bombs, or similar items,

none of which can produce an external flame.

Royal Oak Fire Chief Bill Crouch said Michigan fire officials have been trying for years to get legislation on the books putting teeth into enforcing the sale of illegal fireworks.

"It never passes," he said. "People lose their eyes, their lives and nothing gets done. It's ludicrous."

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