

Open house combines learning, fun

BY TOM BAER
STAFF WRITER

Officer Ray Marchewitz had some good advice for a young shooter on the pistol range at the Farmington Hills Police Department.

"Don't do that," said the officer, a "note of urgency in his voice. "Don't ever point a gun at anyone, loaded or unloaded."

The youngster murmured an apology and then hoisted the big pistol toward the screen and pulled the trigger. Good shot! A simulated bad guy went down with a simulated bullet in his leg.

To shoot or not to shoot in a game that simulated a police situation was a popular feature with the Farmington Hills Police Open House Sunday. Youngsters especially seemed to enjoy the game.

"The purpose of the annual cop shop open house is to show the public that "we're a community-oriented police department," said Hills Chief Bill Dwyer.

"We want people to know that we do a lot more than arrest people and write violations," the chief said.

Perhaps 3,000 people came during the four-hour event, officials estimated.

"I got such a kick out of seeing the kids enjoy themselves," Dwyer said. "And a lot of adults were asking questions. People were really getting close to their police department."

There were displays and demonstrations about the work done by law enforcement people. Parents could have their children fingerprinted for identification purposes. Information on "Neighborhood



STAFF PHOTOS BY DANIEL GARRETT

Clowning around; Julie Wray (right) and her daughter Morgan, 4, seem to enjoy the antics of clown Jack Robinson, a Farmington Hills firefighter, at the Farmington Hills Police Open House.

Watch and crime prevention programs were given out.

This year, Farmington Hills residents were asked to fill out a questionnaire. It asked their opinions about the local police and crime in the community.

The open house also had clowns, bean bag tosses and cake walks. A dunk tank — with youngsters throwing the balls — had police en-

det Mark Mostick hitting the water dozens of times.

David Bolt, 14, of Farmington Hills found the mark with his thrown ball, and so did his brother, Mike, 12.

Kids and adults alike seemed to like the tour of police headquarters — especially the jail cells — if their comments are any indication. Prisoners were moved to the city of Farmington cells during the open

house. Prisoners are kept behind glass, not bars, in the Hills lockup, and more than one youngster asked about that. "It's a liability factor," an officer answered.

Said Julie Wray, a Farmington Hills mother who walked through the jail with husband Steve and children Morgan and Jordan, "This is a learning experience. All kids should know about this."

City council approves Farmington budget

A status quo budget has been approved for the city of Farmington, with officials maintaining the same tax rates and dipping into reserves.

The same level of services will be maintained in the coming year. The \$10.2 million budget in-

cludes revenue and expenditures for the general operating fund, debt fund, capital improvement fund, water and sewer fund, highway fund, and Downtown Development Authority special assessment for the 1992-93 fiscal year which begins

July 1. The city council approved the budget on June 1.

Included are 10.05 operating mills, 3.62 debt mills and a special 2-mill operating tax for the DDA district. That equates to about

\$1,025 in property taxes for a house valued at \$150,000.

Topping expenses for the city is the public safety department at 31 percent followed by general government at 22 percent and the public services department at 18 percent.

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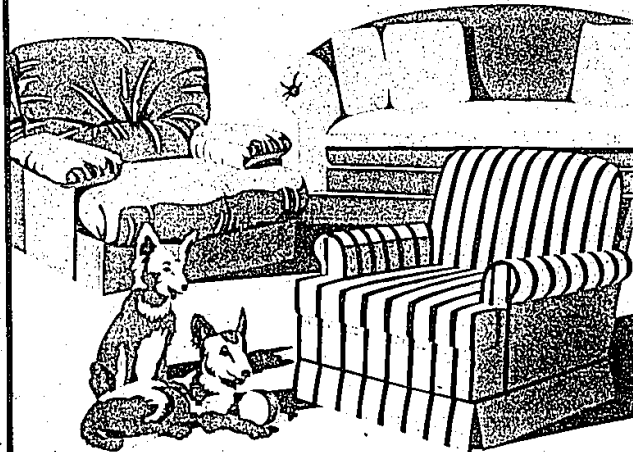
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