

# Open house stresses fire prevention

By JOANNE MALISZEWSKI  
STAFF WRITER

Test your detector. It's sound advice.

That's the theme for the 15th Annual Fire Prevention Open House, hosted by the Farmington Hills Fire Department, noon to 4 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 4, at fire headquarters, 28711 Drake Road, between 12 and 13 Mile roads. The open house kicks off national fire prevention week.

In keeping with this year's theme at the popular open house, fire fighters are offering free smoke detector batteries for visitors. Fire fighters also are reminding homeowners that Oct. 25 — when clocks are turned back from daylight savings time — is also the time to change batteries just to be on the safe side.

As in years past, the open house promises to be an afternoon of fun and education. The fire safety house will again be featured so kids can learn — in an honest-to-good-

ness smoking house — just how to get out safely. For parents, a stove fire demonstration will be featured. "It's our number one fire problem in the community," said open house coordinator Lt. Mike Garr. "We have to keep drilling that home."

A survival helicopter will be one hand, as will an antique fire truck, and other fire equipment. Farmington Hills police crime prevention personnel also will be distributing educational materials. Children also can practice making emergency 911 calls so they know what to do in case of emergency, while parents can get their blood pressure checked free of charge. The jaws of life rescue equipment also will be demonstrated.

In cooperation with the American Red Cross, a community blood drive is scheduled in the lower level of fire headquarters. Sixty pints are needed, Garr said. If you want more information on the blood drive or wish to reserve a time, call the fire department at 553-0740.

The open house also will feature fire department clowns, Max the dalmation, a magician and Miss Farmington. Face painting is sure to be popular among the kids. This year, kids will get a chance to be painted up as a dalmation. The ever-traditional dunk tank also will entertain the crowd.

Information booths also will be a part of the open house and will feature Farmington Families in Action and recycling. Members of the Farmington Hills city clerk's staff will be one hand for voter registration as well.

The following events also are scheduled at the open house:

- 12:15 p.m.: magic show.
- 12:45 p.m.: Sparky the fire dog.
- 1 p.m.: survival flight helicopter arrives.
- 1:30 p.m.: jaws of life demonstration.
- 2 p.m.: awards presentation.
- 2:30 p.m.: survival flight helicopter leaves.

• 2:45 p.m.: jaws of life demonstration.  
• 3:15 p.m.: clowna revue.

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## Video math from page 1A

and are expected to be available in school and local library systems, she said.

The program is the brainchild of superintendents Robert Macfield of Berkley and James McCann of Lamphere. The issue was raised before a recent meeting of Oakland superintendents who endorsed the idea, Rose said. Taping on the three segments was done during the summer.

"It's a way for the schools to reach out to the home," said McCann, who chairs the superintendent's technology committee for Oakland Schools. "We wanted to take it one step further. I see this as a start — it's going to expand from there."

Farmington math/computer coordinator Richard Strauss worked on the project, helping with scripting and content. "It's letting parents know how math is different than what we learned in school," he said. "It's so that parents are doing something supportive."

Numerous teachers from throughout Oakland County are featured in the math series, including three Farmington elementary school teachers: Joyce Heenan

of Beechview, Barb Bachman of Wood Creek and Gay Williams of Highmeadow. Rose said using the Farmington teachers was logical, because of their extensive training in the math area. "They're cutting edge people," Rose added.

Strauss said with teachers being trained, it's time schools got parents into the act too.

The program is designed to make math understandable for everyone, Rose said. "It makes sense — that's the beauty of it. It's teaching kids to look at the reasonableness of their answers."

Rose said Oakland Schools hopes to produce a second video program for use this winter. Possible topics include helping kids with homework or the whole language approach to teaching young students.

Oakland Schools is asking parent feedback and questions on the programs be directed to a toll-free number, 1-800-242-1233. The line will record comments and refer questions to appropriate local school officials. The phone number will be shown at the end of each segment.

## Kids fingerprinted at Ground Round

The Ground Round restaurants — including the one on Orchard Lake Road north of 13 Mile in Farmington Hills — will be providing identification fingerprinting for children and ID cards from noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 27.

The ID cards, provided by local

police departments and the State Police, will be issued throughout the day. Cards will include each child's fingerprints and all pertinent identification that parents can refer to in the event of an emergency.

The Ground Round's Bingo Tie

Clown will be on hand to give out prizes to the children. No purchase is necessary to receive the IDs.

Other Ground Rounds are located on Woodward and 13 Mile in Royal Oak and at Six Mile and Newburgh in Livonia.

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