



Firehouse friends: Inspector Denny Hughes shows off Pluggy the robot to youngsters during the fire department open house last Sunday.



Young squirler: Jason Aleman, 4, of Farmington Hills, gets a firefighting lesson from Ted Prusinski of Station 3.



Award winner: Rose Lacy, who knew what to do when a youngster choked on a hot dog, is honored with a plaque and a handshake from Fire Chief Rich Marinucci.

# Day at firehouse draws large crowd

BY JOANNE MALISZEWSKI  
STAFF WRITER

Matthew Brown's smile said it all as he was transformed — with face paint — from a three-year-old boy to a Dalmatian fire station mascot.

"This is my first time at the open house. My wife mentioned it and so I brought him," said Matthew's father, Tim, of Farmington Hills.

It was a first time for a lot of visitors Sunday at the 15th-annual Fire Prevention Open House. But there were plenty of familiar faces, particularly of children, who knew exactly where to go to find their favorite activity.

In fact, word is this year's popular open house accompanied by beautiful clear weather drew more visitors than ever before as people complained about the lack of parking on nearby streets.

"It took me a lot to arrange the weather," said Lt. Mike Garr, open house coordinator, adding he estimates 6,000 visitors attended this year's open house.

But it was the kids and their fascination with all things related to fire departments, including Sparky the fire dog, clowns, and Dash Dakota, the fire marshal in search of the battery bandit.

See OPEN HOUSE, 6A

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