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## FARMINGTON/FARMINGTON HILLS **NEIGHBORHOODS**

### Uptown Board named

board of directors and officers were elected by members of the Uptown Farmington Business Association. Ten members will

Business Association. Ten members will serve.

Elected for two-year terms were Charles DuQuet (DuQuet's Jewelors), Barbare Flatt (First of America), Terry Hein (Results Advertising), Paul King (King's Garse) and Dr. John Richardson (Piaza Veterinary Hospital).

Continuing on for another year as directors are Ken Barthelette (Yankee Consignmenta), Dr. Brian Nocella (Nocella Chiropractic), Joan Nuely (Framery One), Mary Teots (Backyard Birda) and Richard Lesnock (Ivorsen's Bakery).

The group elected Barthelette the new president, Teets vice president, and Flatt treasurer. The board meets monthly to plan activities, beautification and membership projects for the Uptown shopping area at Grand River and Orchard Lake Road. Guests and interested persons are invited to attend the meetings. Call Barthelette at 471-0320.

### Working overtime

asketball isn't the only activity that can go asketball isn't the only activity that can go euchre.

In a recent euchre tournament sponsored by the Farmington Hills Recreation Division, the team of Roger Garrell and Tim Emmitt needed an overtime round to overcome Randy Schein and Nathan Schiff in the championship round.

Gift certificates donated by local merchants were awarded to the winners and runners-up. Registrations for the March 26 euchre tournament are being accepted. Call 473-9570 for more information.

#### One lucky youngster

ark Simpson, a G-year-old Farmington Hills youngster, was the lucky winner of a new bicycle at the recent Detroit

Mark, the son of Robert and Sharon Simpson, is n first-grader at Grandview Elementary School the Clarenceville District. A bicycle was given away at each of the 37 circus performances.

# Security salesmen sound alarm

some, but security systems are a necessary part of doing busiess today. Area security experts discuss their trade.

BY BILL COUTANT STAPF WRITER



The cost of pro-

The cost of protecting a business can be alarming if it's done on the chap. Not protecting a business with an alarm system can do it in.

"Forty percent of companies suffering a major fire loss go out of business with Mealpline, a sales representative with Honeywell Alarm Systems, at a recent business crime watch seminar in Farmington Hills.

And that's just for losses from fire. Some companies need a monitor and alarm for temperature, to safeguard valuable computers or other equipment. Another big concern of most businesses is protection from theft.

Andy Ditchary, a former police officer who selis commercial alarm systems for Guardian Security Services in Southfield, said various kinds of protection can help to some degree. Simply putting up a stcker on the outside of a building will deter about 20 percent of potential burglars, he said.

"These are usually basically honest people who come under stress," Ditchary said.

Another 20 percent will lose interest in breaking into a business if they can see an alarm control panel through a window, which tells them that there is, in fact, a security system.

These serves of percent of potential burglars, who are more professional through a window, which tells them that there is, in fact, a security system.

That leaves 60 percent of potential

That leaves 60 percent of potential thieves, who are more professional about their task, he said.

That's where a security alarm system must deliver. But before a business goes out and invests in a good system, it should think about a large potential cost: false alarms.



On guard: Sharon Allen, a Novi resident, is on the job at Guardian Alarm Company in Southfield.

Farmington Hills Police Sgt. Paul Cavan said less than 1 percent of alarms involve actual criminal activity. The department responds to about 4,000 alarms a year as if they were the real thing. That accounts for 13 percent of police responses.

"That's a burden on us, and it's a burden on the taxpayers," Cavan said.

aid.

Cavan blamed "truck-slammers," alarm system companies that sell systems that can be easily set off or don't work, for much of the problem. These companies will often subcontract part of their operation, such as a central alarm station, and won't follow up with service without a separate contract or arrangement.

Part of the cost of using an unreliable alarm system is one imposed by police. Farmington Hills Police issue a warning, but charge no fee on the first false alarm for a given year. The second coats \$20, the third coats \$40, and each false alarm thereafter costs \$100.

"It can get pretty expensive," Cavan said.

There is another good reason to make sure an alarm system is functioning properly and police know who is in the building. Ditchary said.

A corporator vice president, working late one night, was accidentally shot by police responding to an alarm.

Ditchary praised the Farmington Hills Police for their quick response, but added that a good alarm system is necessary for police to respond quickly and, if not eatch the eriminal at the time, then to find the evidence needed to solve the case.

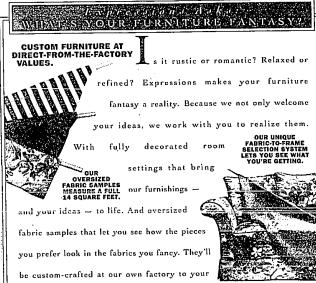
"There is a two-minute window for evidence," he said. "After that, the Cavan blamed "trunk-slammers,

needed to solve the case.

"There is a two-minute window for evidence," he said. "After that, the crime becomes much harder to solve."

A reputable alarm system should be approved by Underwriters Laboratories, which will also lower the insurance premium for a business with an alarm, he said.

Anyone who needs more informa-tion on alarm systems should call the Farmington Hills Police crime preven-tion unit at 473-9640.



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