

Rapt attention



MIKE GARR

Open house: A *Jaws of Life* demonstration was a crowd favorite at the Farmington Hills Fire Department's open house kicking off National Fire Prevention Week Sunday at department headquarters on Drake near 13 Mile. In addition to the demonstration of how firefighters use the extrication equipment to get trapped accident victims out of cars, a burning Christmas tree and a stove fire were crowd favorites. "It was a real success," said Lt. Mike Garr. "We'll be doing it again next year."

Clown from page 1A

smoke detector. That's Garr's cue to talk about real smoke detectors and how to make sure they work. When Garr talks about changing the batteries in home smoke detectors when changing the clock, Tinker and Gadget take him literally, and switch the clocks, not the time, from Eastern Daylight to Eastern Standard.

There is no shortage of slapstick, with St. Clair as Gadget, running into opening doors while driving home important fire safety information.

"Quick, what's the number for 9-1-1?" Gadget says.

These kids are veteran theater-

goers, at least for this performance. They say "stop, drop and roll" in unison when asked what to do if their clothes catch fire. Even so, they like the performance, even though they've seen it before.

"Yeah, I think it's better than last year," says Justin, a second-grader. "I like it when Tinker comes out and gets him with the fire extinguisher."

St. Clair and Strickfaden will take their act to Ann Arbor to see if that department wants to try the same approach.

"We ad lib a lot," said Strickfaden, who doubles as a full-time firefighter in Ann Arbor and a

paid-on-call volunteer at Hills Station 4. "I'm hoping this is something we can do in Ann Arbor."

They have had plenty of misfires, missed lines and other problems. Sometimes the audience catches on, but often the clowns just keep going.

"Every show is a little different," St. Clair said.

The department puts a lot of stock in the shows. In fact, the clowns will perform 39 times in 22 schools before more than 7,700 children and teachers this year.

"I think this generation will have a lot better understanding of fire safety than we had," Garr said.

Optimist club sponsors essay contest

The Breakfast Optimist Club of Farmington/Farmington Hills will sponsor an essay contest entitled "Freedom, Our Most Precious Heritage."

All Farmington-area high school sophomores, juniors and seniors are eligible to enter.

The local Optimist clubs will select three winners. The first place entry will automatically advance to the district competition where it will be judged against

other winning entries from the district.

First prize is an expense paid, four-day trip to the Freedom and Leadership Conference at the Freedoms Foundation in Valley Forge, Pa.

The first, second and third international Essay Contest winners will win scholarships in the amounts of \$5,000, \$3,000 and \$2,000, respectively.

All essays must be original and

submitted by Dec. 1. For more information, contact Sheron Hain, Hearts & Roses Inc., 33238 W. 12 Mile Road, or phone 653-7693.

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Dr. Charlie Shedd, this coming Sunday and Monday, October 16th & 17th. Dr. Shedd is a nationally known minister, lecturer and author of more than 35 books. His best known include *Letter to Karen*, *Letters to Phillip*, and *Remember That I Love You*. Besides preaching at both worship services Sunday, he will speak Sunday Evening on his latest bestseller, *Brush of an Angel's Wing*.

Sunday,
October 16

Worship 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.
"Don't Forget the Birdseed"
Evening program - 7 p.m.
"An Evening With the Angels"

Monday,
October 17

Breakfast with Dr. Shedd - 9:30 a.m.
"How To Be an Attractive Senior and Fun Grandparent"

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