

Ladder of success: Hills Fire Chief Richard Marinucci, recently honored, climbs a fire engine ladder. Says Lt. Mike Garr, the department's public information officer, "It's a comment on his ability as a fire chief and especially as a manager."



SHARON LEBLOND/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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tions, which have translated into savings for the Hills department.

"When carbon monoxide detectors first came out, I was able to talk to the Chicago fire chief directly, so we could benefit from their experience with them."

"We're following the national trend when it comes to EMS (emergency medical service)," he said. "That's been the biggest change since I've been with the department from more of a traditional fire department to more capability to respond to medical emergencies."

The medical role is a natural for firefighters who already have strategically located stations and vehicles and the ability to respond quickly.

But the change has also put more pressure and added more runs.

"We respond to many more runs than we used to," he said. "That's the challenge for our department."

Marinucci said the Hills department, which is primarily volunteer with a core of full-time professionals, is somewhat typical

for cities under 100,000 in population. Still, surrounding communities, like Southfield, Livonia and West Bloomfield, have full-time departments.

"This system works real well for us," he said. "If we are able to add a fifth station, manned on a full-time basis (24 hours a day), we can continue to improve our service."

Marinucci said the department has a lot of responsibilities in addition to fire and medical runs, including the handling of hazardous materials. But fire prevention remains a priority for the Hills department, he said. That's why a lot of resources are used in educating children, putting on demonstrations of fire safety and life saving techniques such as CPR, as well as programs that provide free smoke detectors and fire inspections.

"We've cut fire deaths in half over the last 12-15 years," he said. Marinucci and his wife Tina have three children, Jeff, Jill and Jessica. The chief graduated from Western Michigan University in

Department open house Sunday

The Farmington Hills Fire Department's 18th annual open house will be from noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 8, at fire headquarters, 28711 Drake Road between 12 Mile and 13 Mile roads.

The focus of this year's event, which kicks off the 1995 National Fire Prevention Week, will be cooking equipment and heating equipment and smoking materials. The theme — "Watch What You Heat: Prevent Home Fires" — is designed to increase awareness of these three risks.

Scheduled events include a chance to plan and practice a

family fire escape, live demonstrations of kitchen fires, holiday fire safety demonstrations, "Jaws of Life" vehicle extrication and a medical evacuation helicopter.

Doors open at noon. Sparky the fire dog arrives at 12:15 p.m., the Answer Guys perform at 12:30 p.m. and 2 p.m., the vehicle extrication demonstrations are at 1 p.m., 2:30 p.m. and 3:15 p.m., the helicopter arrives at 1:30 p.m. and leaves at 3 p.m. and doors close at 4 p.m.

For further information, call 653-0740.

number 13). He was hired Aug. 13, 1977, as a paid-on-call firefighter, made full-time Dec. 13, 1978, was promoted to lieutenant on Dec. 13, 1981, and made chief on Nov. 13, 1984.

"I'm a lucky man," he said. Perhaps the city of Farmington Hills is lucky as well.

Firefighters offer fire hazard lessons

By BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills firefighters are making a special effort to get the word out about fire hazards as the indoor heating season begins.

With the department's 18th annual open house coming up Sunday, Oct. 8, and with Oct. 8-14 being national fire prevention week, the lesson won't be lost.

The pupils firefighters are looking to attend are the youngsters who attend Farmington area schools and the senior citizens who are sometimes less able to respond to a fire.

"We wanted to start the school presentations before the open house," said Lt. Mike Garr, who directs the department's fire prevention efforts. "This year we've got a new show, 'The Answer Guys,' to show kids how to prevent fires."

The show is the latest in a series of comedy skits the department has used to teach some serious lessons to school children. Beginning Sept. 25, firefighters took their new show on the road to area schools starting at Woodcreek and Our Lady of Sorrows.

By Oct. 12, they will have performed at all of the elementary schools, public and private, as well as several senior complexes in Farmington and Farmington Hills.

"We'll introduce some of the state-of-the-art fire prevention equipment (such as a smoke detector with a 10-year battery) and techniques as well as make a point by showing some appliances damaged by fire," Garr said.

Hills firefighters put on the performances every year to get young children not only to know what to do in case of smoke, fire or other emergencies, but also so they'll remind parents and friends, Garr said.

"It has to be a behavior they do without thinking," he said.

The department has already had a call for a chimney fire and expects some related to starting up heaters for the cold weather

that is coming. But kitchen fires, which are the most prevalent type of fire in the country and in Farmington Hills, will be the focus this year.

"Watch what you heat," is the name of this year's prevention campaign.

Farmington Fire Marshal Joe Schornack said careless cooking is a problem because people sometimes start cooking, then leave the kitchen and forget.

"Another problem is that once someone begins cooking, they may lay down and fall asleep," he said. "Stoves and/or ovens cannot shut off on their own, and continue heating until items are burned or start on fire."

Schornack cited statistics for the United States that showed:

■ A fire department responded to a fire every 15 seconds.

■ Someone is killed by fire somewhere in the United States every two hours.

■ An injury as a result of fire occurs every 19 minutes (4,275 deaths in 1994).

■ More than \$250 in property was lost to fire per second in 1994.

Farmington Hills' Garr said fire professionals are proposing a safety checklist to help prevent fires related to cooking, heating equipment and smoking:

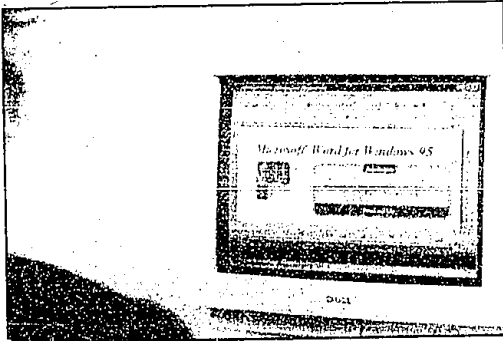
■ Stay with the stove while you cook. Most fires occur when no one is watching.

■ Remove combustibles from the burner area. Keep the surface free of grease. Always empty the oven before using a self-cleaning feature.

■ Remember the 3-foot rule: Measure a safe distance (3 feet) between heating equipment and anything that can burn, including people and pets. Always turn off heating equipment before leaving the home or going to sleep.

■ Watch the smokers in your house carefully. Careless disposal of smoking materials is the major culprit. Flush ashtray contents or douse with water. Keep matches up high and out of the sight of children when not in use.

Windows '95: Pamela Weeks, branch operations manager for Kelly Services in Farmington Hills, demonstrates the company's tutorial program for Windows '95.



DAN DEAN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Windows '95 software means more training for employees

By JILL HOCKMAN
STAFF WRITER

To temporary office worker Shawn Hawe, last month's release of the new Windows 95 software meant more than a breakthrough in computer technology.

It meant she had to learn another new software program. Hawe, a West Bloomfield resident, is a Kelly Services "temp" who jumps from one office job to another, filling in for regular employees who are out of town or on leave and helping short-staffed offices cover their workload.

She's often hired — and paid more — because of the software she can work with. So when a new program like Windows 95 is released, it's in her best interest to learn it. Like many temporary employment services, Kelly offers free software training to its workers.

And like many temporary employees, Hawe took advantage of that training a few weeks after Windows 95 was released. She hasn't been called on to use her new skills yet, but it's important to be ready, she said.

"The more skills you have, the more money you're going to make," said Hawe, who's familiar with a long list of graphics, word processing and spreadsheet programs. "That's one of the reasons I've tried to learn everything I have."

Throughout the West Bloomfield area and metro Detroit,

temporary employment services are gearing up to help the companies they cater to adapt to Windows 95. Employment service officials say their workers will be trained on Windows 95 when companies need them. And in most cases, those services offer large companies the same training that their workers receive.

But as a rule, most employers take at least a few months to switch to new software programs. "In order for a large organization to change its software platform, it's a pretty expensive endeavor," said Steve Armstrong, vice president of Kelly Services for the Detroit region.

So for now, employment agencies are fielding few calls for Windows 95 training or temporary workers with Windows 95 experience.

"I haven't found that many people in this area have upgraded to it yet, but we're expecting it," said Christina Hornberger, branch manager of the Entech Personnel Services office in Walled Lake. Entech workers will begin training on Windows 95 this fall, she said.

Susan Moyland, office automation manager for Manpower's southeastern Michigan area, reported an equally slow switch to Windows 95 among Manpower customers throughout the area. "Quite a few companies that I've talked to are anticipating

switching over in the next six months," she said. "We are planning on doing some proactive measures by getting a pool of people ready."

Being a part of that pool can be a boost for temporary employees.

"We found that these temporary employees that have a fairly lengthy repertoire of software knowledge — they pick up new ones really fast," said Armstrong. "Pay is definitely increased based on the number of software skills that a person uses on an assignment."

"When you go from customer to customer, it's particularly important to have a variety of skills," Armstrong said. Martha Marotta, a West Bloomfield temp who works for Entech, agreed. "Sometimes you never know what the client has," she said. "It helps to know a little bit about everything."

Marotta picks up temporary office work when she's not working for her husband's contracting company. She said she'll train on Windows 95 when she needs to.

"I generally don't get training on something until I go to an assignment that has that requirement," she said. That training is thorough enough to help her feel confident on the job, she said.

"If I have the opportunity to go to a temp assignment that has Windows 95, I won't bat an eyelash," she said.

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2 to 6 pm
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4/WEDNESDAY
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Sparkling ideas for dates-of-note and evenings especially for the fuller figure woman
Clairewood

6/FRIDAY
EXPRESSIONS BY LOUIS FÉRAUD
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International Designers

7/SATURDAY
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9:30 AM TO 6 PM. THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, 9:30 AM TO 8 PM.
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