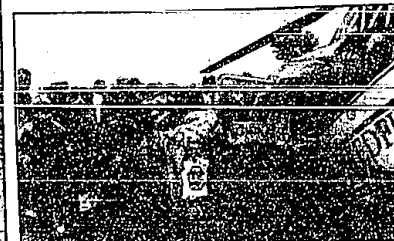




Scout's curiosity: Brett Rippon, 10, was at the Farmington Hills Fire Department's open house Sunday with his dad, Brian, and his Boy Scout Pack No. 389 of Nardin Park Methodist Church. At right, Megan Passman, 5, of Farmington Hills, puts out the fire with the help of FFEMT specialist Jim Etzin. Passman was accompanied by her buddy, Torey Beare.



Video view: Above, Paul Darmon of Farmington Hills and his son, Zachery, 3, were both focused on the fire safety message. Below, a windy landing of the Medflight drew a crowd.



Fire open house hauls out fun, tacks on lessons

BY BILL COULTANT
STAFF WRITER

There were shows, clowns, fire demonstrations and those very popular red fire hats for kids, but the Farmington Hills Fire Department's open house tagged a lesson on fun.

It's impressive to see a Christmas tree go up in flames in about a minute.

Sean MacNeil, 4, was impressed by the demonstration,

and his dad Cameron, a Hills resident, said they'd seen plenty that reminded them about fire safety.

"This is our first time here," he said of the open house. "They're doing a great job."

Kay St. Pierre brought along sons Jimmy and Tyler, both 8, who had learned about the danger of leaving on an iron and the importance of staying a distance

'This is our first time here. They're doing a great job.'

Cameron MacNeil

from heaters.

"You're supposed to stay 36 inches away," said Jimmy.

And behind the fun, the message was fire prevention. The de-

partment's skit about "The Answer Guys," two "experts" on fire prevention, got plenty of laughs even though many of the kids attending had seen the skit in their school.

"Kids really dig me," said "Ted," one of the Answer Guys. "But I think I'll have to have my (buck teeth) dental work enlarged."

The skit focuses on fire safety,

especially in the kitchen where most fires start. Among the slapstick and puns, Ted and Phil (really firefighters Denny Hughes and Don St. Clair) give kids the word, along with Lt. Mike Garr, about fire safety.

Firefighters also demonstrated the "Jaws of Life" used to force open crashed vehicles to free their occupants. And the Medflight helicopter's landing and

take off were a highlight.

There were plenty of clowns, including "Stitches," who doubles as firefighter Marie Schroeder, and "Bobby," also known as firefighter and former NHL performer Robert Picard.

"The weather was just right," said Garr of the cloudy four hours. "If it had been sunny earlier we might not have had as many people attend."

Democrats sponsor candidate debates

The Farmington Democratic Club is sponsoring two candidate debates tonight beginning at 7 p.m. at the Farmington Hills City Council Chambers.

From 7-8 p.m., mayoral candidates Aldo Vegnozzi and Paul Sowerby will square off. From 8-9 p.m., city council candidates Vicki Barnett, Nancy Bates,

Dennis Fitzgerald, Ben Marks and Terry Sever will debate the issue.

Barry Brickner will act as moderator, and Michael Shpiece will ask questions.

During the mayoral forum, each candidate will make an opening statement and then question each other for five minutes. Shpiece

will then question the candidates for 10 minutes. After fielding questions from the audience, the candidates will conclude with a two-minute closing statement.

The city council forum will follow a similar format except that the candidates will not question each other due to time constraints.

Skaters to take to ice for diabetes cure

On Saturday, Oct. 14, players in the Farmington Hills Hockey Association will be skating to raise money for the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation International at the just-opened Farmington Hills Ice Arena on Eight Mile Road.

is to raise \$100,000 for the charity and to thank the community for its sponsorship of the hockey program and new facility, according to Glenn M. Gardner, event chairman.

In addition to pledges, the Hockey Association also needs donated prizes for the young skat-

ers. Some examples are food, tickets to theaters and sporting events, gift certificates and sporting equipment and jerseys.

Volunteers are needed to help with the drive. Call the Farmington Hills Hockey Association at 474-1328 for more information.

FFIA to host sessions for parents tonight

Farmington Families in Action along with four Farmington middle schools are hosting sessions for parents of sixth-graders at 7:30 p.m. today.

The sessions will provide a forum for discussion of high-risk situations common to middle school including the real world of drugs in the suburbs, how to prepare children to face confrontations, and a presentation by the

police department explaining the high-risk situations they see kids encounter.

The sessions are free. For information, call 473-8575.

String fling

Farmington High and Power Middle School orchestras will present "String Fling," a free music concert at 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 22, at Farmington High, 32000 Shilwassee. Farmington High's Norm Logan and Power Middle School's Richard Cardecia direct the orchestras.

Resident poet

Farmington Hills resident Louisa Schultdt has her original poetry published in "Tomorrow Never Knows," a compilation of poems collected by The National Library of Poetry. His self-reflective poem is entitled, "Quest." Schultdt has been writing for 64 years, dating back to high school. He lives in Grand River Village. The National Library of Poetry solicits poems through contests and publishes them in widely-distributed hardback volumes.

Winery willies

Seek previews of this year's Haunted Winery take place Friday through Sunday, Oct. 13-15. Times are 7-11 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 7-10 p.m. Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. The Haunted Winery will be open for nightly scares, Oct. 19-30 (except Monday, Oct. 23). Admission is \$6 for ages 13 through adult and \$3 for children 12 and younger. The Haunted Winery, 31506 Grand River, is sponsored by the Farmington Historical Commission.

FARMINGTON FOCUS

Slick support

Valvoline at 32686 Grand River will donate \$3 to Farmington Families in Action for every oil change completed Friday and Saturday, Oct. 13-14. Money donated will help FFIA with its ongoing Drug Awareness Month. Also, Farmington Public Schools will be planting red tulips donated by Steinkopf's Nursery Monday, Oct. 16, to support the red ribbon campaign.

Memory lane

From the Oct. 13, 1955, edition of the Farmington Enterprise:

A photo caption depicted a resident placing another piece of sidewalk on Shilwassee Road, between Power and Orchard Lake roads. Most residents on the street have sidewalks in front of their property. That follows the city's decision to run sidewalks on both sides of the road between Power and Orchard Lake.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 33411 Grand River, Farmington 48335; faxed to 477-9722; or dropped off at the newspaper office. For the computer alternate, the Internet E-mail address is: pachy@oconline.com.



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