

Fire burns 2 rooms at Hills' Park Motel; officials seek cause

BY WILLIAM COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

A Thursday morning fire at the Park Motel on Grand River extensively damaged two rooms but caused no injuries.

Hubert Dodge, 27, said he woke up, smelled smoke and looked out his window to see flames coming from a room close to the motel office.

"I ran into the office and told the manager and he called (9-1-1)," said Dodge, who lives at the motel.

Firefighters from Station 3 arrived at about 10:26 a.m. and were joined a few minutes later by Station 1 firefighters.

The manager, Jason Miller,

made sure everyone was out of the rooms but said the woman who was renting the room where the fire started, had already left.

"I have the registration card, but I can't release anything else right now," Miller said.

Fire Marshal Steve Hume said the cause of the fire is still under investigation and some material was sent to a lab to determine the cause of the blaze.

"There is some confusion about whether the people renting the room or other people were there at the time," Hume said, "when people were there is key to our investigation."

Hume said Farmington Hills police are interviewing two peo-



Motel fire: Farmington Hills firefighters survey the damage at the Park Motel Thursday.

ple in connection with the fire as well.

Three young Oklaans, who had come north to visit friends in the area, had stayed at the Park the night before and smelled the smoke when they awoke.

"I said, 'Gosh, we gotta get out of here,'" said Chris Scott, 18.

Scott, Robert Bradley, 21, and Doug Shover, 22, were staying in a unit close to Grand River at the time.

"That's a hell of a way to get a check-out call," said Bradley. Police had Grand River Road completely blocked from Haynes to Orchard Lake for about a half

hour before restoring traffic to the north lanes.

Eric Hooper, 23, said he could see the smoke from a mile away at his apartment on the north side of Nine Mile, across from the West River shopping center.

The fire had started in unit 3 and had extended underneath the eaves and into unit four.

Miller was later taken to Botetford General Hospital where he was treated for smoke inhalation and released.

Damage to the motel was estimated at \$100,000 and damage to contents was estimated at \$10,000.

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AGENDAS

Below are highlights from the agendas of meetings this week. All meetings are open to the public.

Farmington Hills City Council
City Hall, 474-8115
Regular meeting
Council chambers
7:30 p.m. Monday, May 19
Agenda items include:
■ Consideration of award of contract to provide and install a citywide Novel/NT computer network to Graycon Services, Inc. in the amount of \$1,320,740.
■ Consideration of adopting a policy regarding political activities in city-owned buildings.
■ Consideration of future maintenance of Danvers Pond.

Farmington City Council
City Hall,
Regular meeting
Council chambers
8 p.m. Monday, May 19
Agenda items include:
■ Consideration to approve a transportation enhancement grant application in cooperation with Farmington Hills for Farmington Road landscaping and city bicycle path.

Farmington Board of Education
Lewis Schulman building

Regular meeting
7:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 20
Agenda items include:
■ Discussion of 1997098 millage levy.
■ Award of bid for roof restoration and replacement.
■ District wide computer bid award.

Farmington Hills Zoning Board of Appeals
City Hall, 474-8115
Regular meeting
Council chambers
7:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 20
Agenda items include:
■ Permission for a temporary structure and use in order to erect a 30 by 60 foot shelter for a Hospice of Southeastern Michigan special event at 25911 Middlebelt to be erected on Monday, June 1 and removed Sunday, June 8.

Farmington Hills Planning Commission
City Hall, 474-8115
Regular meeting
Council chambers
7:30 p.m. Thursday, May 22
Agenda items include:
■ Consideration of introduction of a proposed planned unit development for a shopping center and residential development on Orchard Lake and Northwestern Highway.

Hills' police open house today

Today's Farmington Hills Police Open house will feature something for everyone. Safety will be a theme for the "Seat Belt Convincer," a piece of equipment that shows how effective the devices can be in an accident. Several officers will bring their "best friends" for a demonstration of how dogs help police in many ways, from drug detection to life saving. The open house is from noon to 4 p.m. at the city complex at 11 Mile and Orchard Lake. The public is invited to the free event.

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Phone: (810) 478-7875

TREATING THE PAIN OF ARTHRITIS

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The reason for this hesitancy by doctors is because of the long life of arthritis. Rheumatism occurs in only 5% of cases. If a physician starts you on strong pain medication, then within a year or less he will face the possibility of having to treat a need of addiction for the pain medication. In contrast, medication like Mobic, naproxen, and celecoxib not only reduce the ability to block pain, when it is used, but also have fewer side effects than the codeine-morphine combination. They can be taken for a long time. Never drugs like fentanyl and oxycodone, have side effects that limit their long term use.

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