

Party mayhem leads to charges



Farmington Hills police will seek charges against a number of teenagers who looted and set fire to a house on Trillium Monday. A party allegedly planned by the 15-year-old resident of the home raged out of control after he left to be with his family.

BY PAUL R. PACE
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Two Farmington Hills teens could face a serious charge of arson and up to six others could face larceny charges as a result of an unsupervised house party that raged so out of control, an upscale Farmington Hills home was

looted and burned Monday. Farmington Hills Police Chief William Dwyer said the department was still interviewing teenagers who were at the home in the 26600 block of Trillium Drive on Sunday evening. Dwyer said a 15-year-old sophomore at North Farmington High School planned the party while his parents

were at a cottage in Fenton. The boy left about a half-hour after the party started at 9:30 p.m. to meet his parents at the cottage, driving up with a friend. However, up to nearly 100 14-, 15- and 16-year-olds eventually descended to the house where beer and liquor were being raided from inside. Drugs were also being used, said police. The chief said some of the teens were so drunk they had trouble standing. Dwyer said eventually the home was looted of alcohol, sports memorabilia and jewelry. One 16-year-old boy, a student at Farmington High School, was found to

have some of the stolen property in his parent's basement on Monday, Dwyer said. He has already been charged with one count of larceny. While the department interviewed 20 of the teens by Wednesday, Dwyer said up to 30 more will be interviewed before the investigation concludes this week. The fire was called in at nearly 3 a.m. Monday, Dwyer said. No one was injured. The chief said it appeared the fire was ignited in a lower level recreation room in the back of the home. Damage is estimated at \$1 million.

Please see MAYHEM, A2

Father's Day Contest

Picture Dad! We're celebrating Dad this year with a special contest. Send us a favorite photograph of you and your Dad with a short caption, explaining why it's your favorite (funny, sentimental or just interesting). We'll hold a drawing of all entries and award a winner from each Observer Newspaper with two tickets to the Ford Senior Players Championship golf tournament at the Dearborn TPC, July 8-14. Participants are expected to include Tom Watson, Hale Irwin, Tom Kite and senior "rookies" Fuzzy Zoeller and Ben Crenshaw. All tickets include a free shuttle bus ride to the front gate of the TPC. To enter, send your photo to Joni Hubred, 33411 Grand River, Farmington, MI 48335. Photos will not be returned. All entries are due by 5 p.m. Thursday, June 6. Even if your name isn't selected for a prize, you'll have a chance to show Dad how much he means to you. We'll have a special page on Father's Day, Sunday, June 16, where we'll publish the photos.

Ford Motor Company
SENIOR PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP

IN THE PAPER TODAY

ENTERTAINMENT



Under the stars: There's plenty to choose from at the DTE Energy Music Theatre in Clarkston, Meadow Brook Music Festival in Rochester and Freedom Hill Amphitheatre in Sterling Heights. /B1

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Sun shines on Memorial Day

Hundreds of local residents turned out on a bright, warm Monday morning to watch Farmington's annual Memorial Day parade, which traveled down Grand River beginning at 10 a.m. Organized and sponsored by American Legion Posts #346 and #190, the parade included local dignitaries, service clubs and Scout troops from Farmington and Farmington Hills. In addition to honoring Michigan's Citizen Soldier Mark Kraus and Guardsman of the Year Jeffrey Edwards, organizers chose to recognize local emergency services workers. Farmington Public Safety Officer Robert Schulz, Hills firefighter John Dresden and Hills Police officer John Crump all received plaques. Their superiors talked about the "new battlefield on American soil" and a war fought in part by "domestic defenders."

"The men and women who are going to be standing on the front lines are standing before you today," said Farmington Public Safety Director Gary Goss.

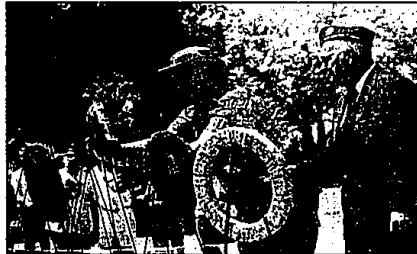
Guest speakers included Farming-

ton Mayor Jim Mitchell, Hills Mayor Nancy Bates, State Rep. Andrew Raczkowski and Col. Frederick Bromm.

In his presentation to Kraus and Edwards, Col. Bromm said, "These two fine soldiers represent everything that's great in America, and everything that's right. They are role models for others to emulate."

After wreath laying ceremonies at the Sept. 11 memorial and the war memorial near the Masonic Temple, the public was invited to enjoy hot dogs and beverages at the Groves Walker American Legion Post on Grand River.

Award-winning parade units announced there included Lanigan Elementary, Cub Scout Pack #118, Girl Scout Neighborhood #40, American Legion Auxiliary Unit #360, Hills District Fire Chief Dave Chrieco's Allegan fire truck, the color guard from American Legion Post #190 and trucks from the Farmington Hills Fire Department. This year's designated marching band was from North Farmington High School.



Solemn moment: American Legion Post 190 Commander Ed Heidelberg and 18th District Commander E.K. Brown place a wreath at the monument.



Top of the world: Diane and Mike Keils offer a good view to daughters Michaela and Olivia.



Spreading the word: American Legion Auxiliary members from the Groves Walker post won a trophy for their unique marching unit, which promoted their membership drive.

School board talks superintendent salaries

BY SUE BUCK
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With several area school districts conducting superintendent searches, Farmington Public School Board members want to hang on to a valued administrator—Bob Maxfield. They know he is a man with many choices. "To make a long story short, we've had a little awakening in this compar-

ison study we have undertaken," said Linda Enberg, who chairs the superintendent's evaluation committee. "Just as there is a shortage of teachers around, there is a greater shortage of superintendents right now. With the greater shortage of superintendents around, economic teachers would be glad that we are seeing supply and demand in work. Salaries have gone up accordingly."

Enberg, Frank Reid, and Gary Sharp

met in committee May 27. School Board President Cathy Webb also sat in.

The board is expected to vote on a recommendation at its 7:30 p.m. June 4 meeting. After that, a contract would be drafted.

Maxfield has a rolling three-year contract, Reid said. A new contract would take him to 2005.

Though the committee received numbers from financial consultants Plante

& Moran on school superintendent salaries, the information was in letter form without identifying the districts.

Reid wants to do more research before the June 4 meeting.

"Bloomfield is doing a superintendent search right now and because of where they are in their salary proposition, their candidate pool is not good," Reid said. "They are getting assistant

Please see SALARIES, A4

American spirit:

Mike Gluski, Jim Rue, Bill Kretler and Fred Fernandez produced shirts, hats and sweatshirts with the phrase "Let's Roll."



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL DREZLER

Charitable idea turns into fight over trademark rights

BY PAUL R. PACE
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Farmington Hills resident Bill Kretler admits he didn't imagine an idea he and three buddies came up with to help the victims of Sept. 11 would embroil them in a game of trademark rights.

Kretler and his Farmington and Farmington Hills friends Jim Rue, Fred Fernandez and Mike Gluski, decided back in December to do something for

the victims of Sept. 11 and came up with idea to subcontract clothing apparel with the popular phrase "Let's roll" sewed on them.

"We would donate the money after the time we spent on it," he said.

"Let's roll" has been the unofficial rally cry used by President Bush in America's fight against terrorist attacks.

The line became popular after one of

Please see RIGHTS, A9