

# Fire incidents up but damage costs down

By Joanne Maliszewski  
Staff writer

Farmington Hills experienced 10 more fires in 1983 than in 1982, but the resulting financial loss was about \$50,000 less in 1983.

Financial loss due to the 349 fires logged by the Farmington Hills Fire Department in 1983 stood at \$840,065, according to the fire department's 1983 activities report. In comparison, the

339 fires in 1982 caused \$1,470,925 in damages.

Fire officials attribute the 43 percent drop in financial loss to the department's emphasis on fire prevention activities. These include code enforcement, fire safety inspections, public fire education and arson awareness.

For example, fire inspectors check public and commercial buildings to eliminate potential fire causes as well

as to eliminate anything that could cause fire to spread, said Lt. Richard Marinucci.

Single-family homes and rental property is inspected only on request or complaint, Marinucci added.

The department recorded a total of 3,333 incidents for 1983, according to the annual report. That's up from 1982 by 355 incidents.

The total number of incidents includes the 349 fires and 1,311 medical

runs. The remaining number of listed incidents include miscellaneous (wash downs, for example) and other types of alarms.

In an accompanying letter to the city council, former Fire Chief Larry Karon indicated the increase in total incidents in 1983 was due to increases in building activity, population and traffic.

A reported increase in population from 50,000 in 1981 and 1982 to 62,000

in 1983 also parallels the 10-fire increase last year, according to the report.

Despite the population increase fire damage per person in Farmington Hills dropped to \$13.50 compared to \$14.50 the previous year.

The amount of loss due to fire can be further broken down into types of buildings.

Of the 349 fires, 85 were to one and two-family residences. Damage to these amounted to \$481,600. Loss in contents reached \$152,620.

In comparison, damage to the 13 storage buildings that caught fire to-

talied \$24,350 with \$17,000 loss to contents.

But arson accounted for more than 50 percent of the total amount of loss due to fire in 1983. Of the 349 fires, 60 were determined to be suspicious or incendiary, according to the report.

More damage is caused in arson fires because they generally are set in the middle of the night and in sections of the building that cannot be readily seen from neighbors and the road, Marinucci said. The building tends to burn for quite awhile before the fire is reported.

"Arson fires are generally darn good fires," he added.

## Henrikson attends retail sales clinic

Forrest Henrikson of Worldwide TV Appliance in Farmington Hills recently attended a retail sales clinic conducted by Whirlpool Corporation at the John H. Platts Educational Center in Benton Harbor.

Henrikson received a certificate of achievement upon successful completion of the seminar.

The four day seminar covered selling skills, techniques to help customers make wise home appliance buying decisions, the salesperson's responsibility to the dealer, and product information, including energy efficiency, on Whirlpool home appliances.

Founded over 20 years ago, the edu-

cational center has evolved from a product training school to a facility de-

signed solely for professional continuing education purposes.



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**The Smokeless System**

- Free introductory sessions Monday, September 17
- Tuesday, September 18
- Session runs 4 consecutive days plus 2 maintenance sessions
- Class time 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm

**Cardiac Management**

- Starts Tuesday, September 11
- Session runs 5 consecutive Tuesdays
- Class time 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
- Program cost \$40.00

**Stress: A Personal Growth Experience**

- Starts Tuesday, October 16
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# Special EVENTS

## SEPTEMBER

### DAHLIA SHOW

The Michigan Dahlia Association will sponsor the judging and display of the best Dahlia blooms in our area. Saturday & Sunday, September 1 & 2, Central Court.

### "DISCOVERY, NEW HORIZONS IN CREATIVE LIVING"

Will showcase the newest advances in consumer products for home and leisure living. Action orientated displays and live demonstrations will enable viewers to see, try and work with the newest products. Friday - Sunday, September 7 - 9, Central Court.

### FALL FASHION SHOW

The new fall fashions are in for work and play. Westland has the latest fashions for you. Wednesday, September 19, 11 am & 7 pm, Central Court.

### ANTIQUÉ SHOW

Maple Bunch returns with antiques, furniture, china, toys, jewelry and more. Something for everyone in quality antiques. Thursday - Sunday, September 13 - 16, Throughout the Mall.

### LIFESTYLE SEMINAR

This month features Wardrobe Accessorizing with guest speaker, Marlene Coffey, an instructor in modeling and fashion. Learn how to keep a basic dress in your wardrobe year-round by changing accessories. A complimentary continental breakfast will be served. The seminar is free, but reservations are necessary. Call 426-5001. Tuesday, September 18, 10 am to 11 am, Auditorium.

### DETROIT ROSE SOCIETY

A beautiful array of roses from the gardens of enthusiasts throughout Metropolitan Detroit and surrounding areas. The entries will be judged, and the prize-winning blooms put on display. Saturday & Sunday, September 29 & 30, Central Court.

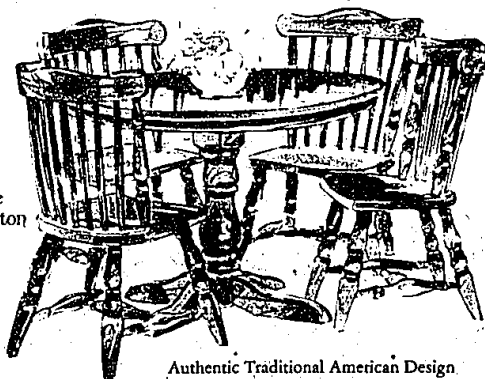
### SNEAK PREVIEW OF OCTOBER EVENTS

- 4-7 Energy Awareness Home Show
- 8 AAA Car Clinic
- 10 Fashion Show
- 12 & 13 Chess Exhibition
- 16 Lifestyle Seminar
- 18-19 Community Bazaar
- 23-26 Fall Car Show
- 27 & 28 Halloween Storytelling

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