

Fun with balloons

This balloon sculpture is just one of many seen this month outside Let's Party, a new store in the Village Commons shopping center on Grand River in downtown Farmington. According to managing partner Cindy Jendrychowski, the many sculptures on display took two nights of work and "drew a tremendous amount of interest. People just didn't know we did this kind of thing." Let's Party also does full-time party decorating. It stocks items for special holidays such as Halloween. Jendrychowski said they would try to put one balloon sculpture per weekend out while the weather stays warm.



Electricity can pose fire hazard

Used wisely, electricity is a valuable household tool that can provide a wide variety of benefits at the flip of a switch. Misused or abused, however, it can be a hazard.

The National Fire Protection Association says that 13 percent of all fires are caused by the misuse or abuse of electricity," says John Keller, public safety coordinator for Detroit Edison. "As we recognize Fire Prevention Week Oct. 9 to 15, it is a good time to remind people how to use electricity safely."

Keller offers the following National Safety Council checklist of actions to help prevent or reduce the impact of electrical fires:

- Have plenty of wall outlets for

lamps and appliances to avoid "octopus" connections.

- Be sure the UL (Underwriters Laboratories) label is on all electrical appliances.

- Use kitchen wiring heavy enough to carry that extra current needed by such electrical appliances as toasters, waffle irons and grills.
- Replace cracked or damaged electrical power cords and extension cords.

- Make sure extension cords have the right capacity for the tools or appliances with which they are used.

- Have extra fuses on hand.
- Keep a flashlight handy and in operating condition for checking

fuses and other items in emergencies.

- Store electric cords away from sharp objects that might cut or tear their insulation.

- Place small stoves and heaters where they can't tip over.
- Keep oven and broiler pans clean and free of grease.

- Keep covers on electrical outlets. If you have infants or small children in the house, this is a must.

- Test smoke detectors regularly to see that they are operating properly.

- Inspect fire extinguishers regularly and recharge them when necessary.

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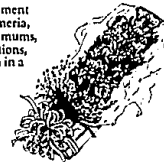
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