

# State works to increase arson awareness

Arson in Michigan causes many deaths and countless injuries, as well as costing residents here millions of dollars in increased insurance premiums.

Michigan taxpayers paid out \$60 million last year in direct arson losses. This figure does not include the intangible expense of funerals, medical and legal expenses, lost wages, outside living expenses, business interruption losses, and firefighting and law enforcement costs.

To focus attention on the problem of arson, Gov. James Blanchard has issued an official declaration designating May 7-13 as Michigan Arson Awareness Week.

"We all carry the brunt of the expense of arson, most notably in what we pay in insurance fees," said Farmington Hills Deputy Fire Chief Peter Baldwin.

It's everyone's responsibility to report tips on maliciously set fires because arson is a hard crime to prove, Baldwin said.

IN RECENT weeks, Farmington Hills has experienced a rash of mailbox fires. But Baldwin warned that "whoever is lighting the mailboxes can graduate to bigger things."

The Michigan Arson Prevention Committee (MAPC) — representing police officers, firefighters, insurance agents, business and government — is promoting the anti-arson observance.

MAPC attacks arson on several fronts. The first is a reward program that pays up to \$2,000 for information leading to the arrest or conviction of arsonists. Michigan residents can call Arson Control at 1-800-44-ARSON or their local fire department.

The toll-free arson hotline, sponsored by MAPC, pays up to \$2,000 for tips leading to the apprehension of those responsible for arson. In 1988, rewards totaling \$20,000 were awarded to tipsters.

MAPC also supports seminars and schools for local fire personnel, insurance representatives, adjusters and investigators. The arson prevention group also initiates a number of public awareness programs to draw attention to this crime.

## All-night party is scheduled for Mercy graduates

Graduating seniors from Mercy High School will get an early taste of summer June 7 at their all-night graduation party.

The theme for this year's party is "89 Hits the Beach," to be held from 11 p.m. to 5 a.m. at the Farmington Hills school, 11 Mile and Middlebelt.

It is sponsored by parents of the Class of '89; about half the parents are working on the project, according to publicity chairwoman Mary Sue Ewing.

A total of 204 students will graduate from the private school this year. The Mercy effort is part of the national Project Graduation movement, giving graduates a good and safe place to have fun. The party will follow a formal graduation ceremony at Meadow Brook Music Theatre Pavilion.

Grads will step into a world of palm trees, nautical accessories, ship flags and balloons, as part of the beach theme.

In addition to serving food throughout the party, parents plan a variety of activities, including: carnival and casino games with play money, an "auction" with donated gifts, a moonwalk, bumper pool, a dunk tank, a recording studio, dancing and movies. A caricaturist, graphologist and videotape of the graduation ceremony are also planned.


In addition, each graduate will receive a special gift.

Cost of the K-Key party is \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. Many gifts and cash donations were made by many area merchants, friends, and parents of the graduates, Ewing added.

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Consolidated financial statements of the CORPORATION OF ...

ASSETS

Cash and balances due from depository institutions	2,823
Accounts receivable	14,547
Inventory	800
Prepaid expenses	4,520
Other assets	2,200
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>24,890</b>

LIABILITIES

Accounts payable	10,000
Notes payable	10,000
Other liabilities	4,890
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>24,890</b>

EQUITY CAPITAL

Common stock	100
Retained earnings	24,790
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>24,890</b>

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