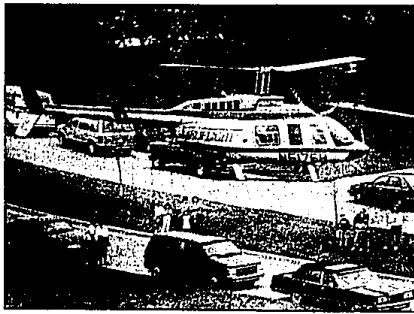


A bird's-eye view was possible for Observer photographer Sharon LeMieux, who took this photo of a Midwest Medflight helicopter taking off to return to its base from a Farmington Hills fire department aerial truck.



## Making safety lessons fun

Continued from Page 1

And there were plenty of smiles and giggles. Throughout the afternoon, kids yanked on their parents' legs as they walked by one fire truck after another or saw an activity that caught their interest.

Sitting in the cab of the large fire trucks, taking a peek at an antique fire engine or looking at displays such as the one on hazardous materials kept visitors busy for hours.

EYES TURNED skyward with the whirring sound of medical helicopters as they flew over fire headquarters on Drake Road and readied for landings across the street. Helicopter personnel opened the doors and let kids sit in the whirlybirds for a few pretend flights.

"You got it Tina," was one mother's pat on the back to her daughter as the child learned the lifesaving technique called Stop, Drop and Roll. For their efforts, kids walked away with a balloon.

While crowds made their way through exhibits and activities or waited to use a real fire hose to extinguish a fake fire, clowns and

Sparky the Fire Dog and Smokey the Bear — appropriately attired — amused the kids, not to mention the adults.

Bleachers were full each time firefighters demonstrated how car crash victims are removed and saved from twisted wreckage.

"If we can sneak in some education time to time with the fun, that's what we try to do," Marinucci said.

While there was plenty for the kids, some exhibits and demonstrations were for adults. A demonstration of what to do in case of a stove grease fire attracted a lot of interest. Everyone seemed to recognize the smell of a burning dinner.

"It confirms the efforts we do in the public schools," deputy fire Chief Peter Baldwin said of fire safety and prevention. "I hope this isn't just entertainment. We try to include education in everything they see here."

LARRY BUCH of Farmington Hills said he learned a lot. "It's been informative for us. We learned what to do if we had a fire. I would not normally have thought of it," he said.

One activity in which visitors got a first-hand look at fire was in the

Fire Safety House. In the small house, visitors got a chance to walk or crawl through a building filled with harmless smoke. Visitors also saw just how fast fire can spread.

"People have no idea what it's like to have their vision obscured. You may know your house very well. But when there's a fire, you can get lost in your own house."

While some lined up for free blood pressure tests by CEMS emergency staff, others enrolled their kids in the coloring contest or signed them up to adopt a fire hydrant.

Just as eyes moved skyward at the sound of the whirlybirds, eyes also crinkled with smiles when they saw a few Dalmatians — the traditional firehouse dog — join the festivities.

ONE OF the first Dalmatians on the scene, Zoya, 15 months, was as excited to join the fun as were the kids.

"She doesn't know what to make of this," Shirley McClure said, holding Zoya back as she eyed the bright red fire trucks and the fire headquarters full of people.

"She'd look great at Station 3 (on Wheeler) on one of our trucks," said a passing firefighter.



Four-year-old Kevan Ventura of Farmington Hills enjoyed putting out a fake fire on a miniature house so much he returned three times to watch the water gush. Kids lined up repeatedly

for the activity, one of the highlights of the 13th annual Fire Prevention Open House, sponsored by the Farmington Hills Fire Department.

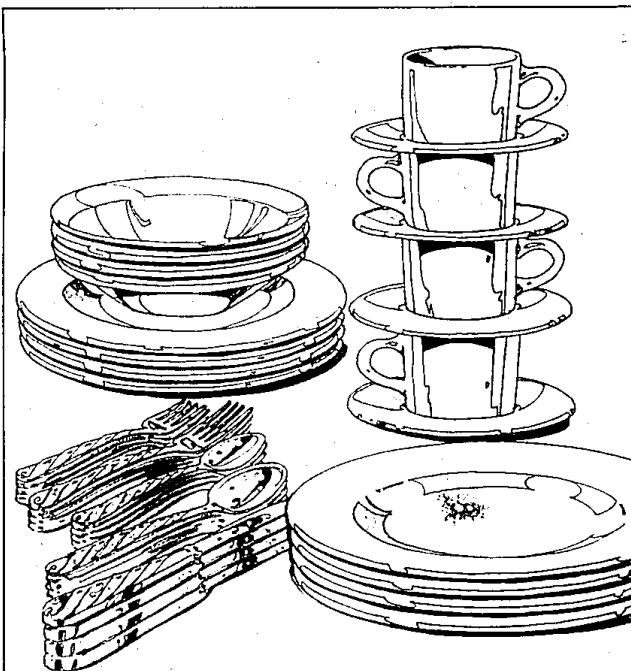


Four-year-old Lisa Buch of Farmington Hills Fire Department as she throws a gets a little help from Todd Salley of the Farmington Hills Fire Department as she throws a gets a little help from Todd Salley of the Farmington Hills Fire Department as she throws a



Photos by  
Sharon LeMieux

Shirley McClure thought it was a good idea to let Zoya, a 15-month-old Dalmatian, visit the Farmington Hills Fire Department's 13th annual Fire Prevention Open House Sunday. After all, Zoya was visiting her ancestors' favorite stomping grounds.



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