

Woman puts 'fire' in chimney cleaning business

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not knowing what to do about it. We try to trap them and let them out."

AN AMMONIA-SOAKED rag down the chimney is the quickest way to make a raccoon feel unwelcome, she said, "although we're really not supposed to do that."

A chimney cap (about \$85) is the best way to keep raccoons, birds, squirrels, opossum and rain water out, Moore said.

Before the cap goes on, though, Moore or her three full- and three part-time employees will use wire brushes on fiberglass stalks to loosen the soot and creosote, a flammable substance resulting from the incomplete combustion of green wood.



Jim Cummings of Belleville vacuums the inside of a chimney of a house in Farmington.

Powerful vacuum cleaners are then used to suck out the gunk. There are even some high-tech touches like a video camera lowered into the chimney. "Any damage shows up on the customers' TV screen," Moore said.

An average cleaning costs \$50 and takes an hour, she said.

"You should have your chimney inspected every year," Moore said, "because of animals and water damage. It's just a clay flue in there. Weather can crack it by going hot and cold, hot and cold."

"If you have a fire, the flame can actually go through the crack and set the house on fire."

Chimney cleaners have to know what they're doing, said Moore, who learned the trade in a "hands-on" manner over the past four years.

"We've been to homes where the chimney has been cleaned by some guy working his way through college," she said. "The smoke shelf is the most important part, and it hasn't been touched."

MOORE MANAGED the business before she got the opportunity to buy it. "I caught on quickly, I guess," she said. "I could do everybody's job."

"He (former owner Steve Faulhaber) went into real estate," she said. "He wanted out of this company. He said to me: 'Nanette, you've been through this with me. We've made it a success. Do you want it?'"

"I was like just floored. So I got an attorney and a CPA and made Steve an offer. He went for it — and here I am."

'You should have your chimney inspected every year because of animals and water damage. It's just a clay flue in there. Weather can crack it by going hot and cold, hot and cold.' — Nanette Moore, Downing Street Fireplace owner

Business has been "really good," Moore said in an area where most of the houses have at least one fireplace. Some have as many as four.

"Well, I mean, business has been better. I owe a lot of money, I mean a lot of money. It's going to take awhile to pay off all the debts. But then it takes money to make money."

Her husband, Ron, "basically supports us" with a job in a tool and die shop, Moore said with a laugh.

"He has a really good career, but he puts in time here, too," she said. "He wants to learn the business."

Of course, owning a business during the busy season has its drawbacks. "He (Ron) misses me a lot," Moore said. "I spend a lot of time at work. I almost sleep at the store. I want it to work that badly."



Nanette Moore, owner of Downing Street Fireplace, has Princess, her 4-month-old cat, for company in her Farmington Hills store.

on the agenda

Below are highlights from the agendas of government meetings this week. All meetings are open to the public.

Farmington Hills City Council
Council Chambers
31555 11 Mile
7:30 p.m., Monday, Oct. 15

It's public hearing night, with the following hearings scheduled:

- consideration of introduction of zoning map amendment for the east

side of Highway Avenue south of Northwestern Highway from Single-Family residential district to OS-1, Office Service District. Proponent/owner: G. Garma and M. Karma.

- consideration of cluster site plan for 30460 Haggerty Road, east side between 13 and 14 Mile roads for a planned residential district. Proponent: Douglas Falcon of Gamma Development. Owner: John Biliński.

- consideration of vacation re-

quest for a 12-foot sanitary sewer easement in the Timber Creek site in Section 23.

Under unfinished business, the council will consider enacting ordinances to the city code for Traffic and Motor Vehicle and Historic Districts. Other items include: bid awards for San Marino Golf Course driveway entrance, printing services, rock salt and sign materials; and adoption of a resolution supporting the continued widening 12 Mile between Drake and Haggerty roads.

Farmington City Council
Council Chambers
23600 Liberty
Monday, Oct. 15
7 p.m. — Special Meeting
8 p.m. — Regular Meeting

During the special meeting, council members will discuss proposed changes to the city's sign ordinance. During the regular meeting, the council will:

- hear a report from Girls State representative Karen Peterson.
- consider requests for sign vari-

ances at 24155 Drake and 32411 Grand River.

- discuss a resolution from the cities of Oak Park and Southfield re: Michigan Solid Waste Grants Program.

- recognize Beautification Recognition Week, Oct. 18.

- consider an agreement for cost participation for Orchard Lake Road improvement project.

- consider proposed water and sewer fees and service charges.

- consider bid and printing of the

city's annual report.

- discuss repairs to the Farmington Historical Museum.

Resource Recovery & Recycling Authority

of Southwest Oakland County
43315 Sixth Gate, Novi
8:30 a.m., Wednesday, Oct. 17

This is the regular meeting of the seven-city authority, which includes the cities of Farmington, Farmington Hills, Southfield, Novi, South Lyon, Walled Lake and Wixom. Call 348-4675 for information.

achievers

SANDI LITOGOT, a sixth- and eighth-grade teacher at Dunckel Middle School in Farmington Hills, wrote an article that was accepted for publication recently in *The Social Studies*, a professional magazine for secondary social studies teachers.

Her article is titled "Use of Higher Order Reading/Writing/Thinking Skills in American History on a Secondary Level," according to an item in the O.E. Dunckel Newsletter.

Litogot, a Berkley resident, is working on her doctorate in reading at Oakland University in Rochester.

KURT OSTRANDER, an architectural draftsman for James P. Ryan Associates of Farmington Hills, took

first place in the architectural category of a recent drafting competition.

Ostrander's winning drawing is of a monumental (u-shaped) stair section and details in the food court of a planned 480,000-square-foot shopping mall in Maryland.

Ostrander, who lives in Farmington Hills, received a bachelor of science degree from Southfield's Lawrence Technological University in 1988. He will receive a cash prize and James P. Ryan Associates will receive a plaque.

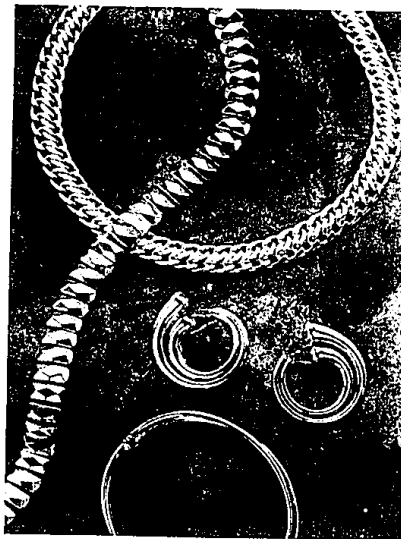
Awards will be presented at a luncheon during the 75th annual Michigan Society of Architects convention Oct. 17.

James P. Ryan Associates special-

izes in regional and urban planning for new, expanded and renovated commercial projects.

CLAUDINE CERMAK, 23, a former Farmington Hills resident who now lives in New York City, recently appeared on the NBC-TV show "Friday Night Videos" in a walk-on role. Cerma usually works behind the scenes as an assistant talent coordinator for the show. An NBC spokeswoman said, "This is the first time she's gotten to go on the air."

Items for Farmington Achievers may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 21898 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336, or dropped off at the newspaper office.



ITALIAN GOLD JEWELRY COLLECTION

Tuesday, October 16
10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Livonia
Thursday, October 18
Noon to 8 p.m., Birmingham
Friday, October 19
Noon to 8 p.m., Rochester
Fine Jewelry Salon

An exquisite collection of 18K and 16K gold necklaces, bracelets, rings and earrings, and a luxurious selection of diamond necklaces and bracelets. For yourself or as holiday gifts, nothing surpasses that of fine jewelry.

Jacobson's

We welcome Jacobson's Charge, MasterCard® and VISA®
Shop until 9 p.m. on Thursday and Friday. Until 6 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday.

PTA council announces new schedule

Regular meetings of the Farmington Area PTA Council have been scheduled for the 1990-91 school year, and all are open to the public. Meetings are held on Wednesdays and begin at 8 p.m. Unless otherwise noted, they are held at the Farmington Public Schools central office at Shawwassee and Raphael.

Meetings are scheduled for: Oct. 24, Nov. 28, Jan. 23, March 20, April 24 and May 22.

A Tuesday, Feb. 5, meeting will be held at Warner Middle School, as part of a regular school board meeting, so winners of the PTA Reflections Contest can receive awards. Tuesday, Feb. 26, a Founders Day Dinner will be held at a location yet to be selected to celebrate the founding of the National PTA.

There are 1,550 members in the Farmington-Area PTA, 68,000 PTA

members throughout the state and 6.6 million members in the National PTA which includes several overseas American schools and others in Washington, D.C.

Local PTA membership drives are currently under way. At Highmeadow Common Campus Elementary, the efforts of teacher Marilyn Greenstein have already given the school 200 percent staff membership to date.

Trane Co., 24317 Indoplex, Sept. 29-30.

A tennis racket and tools valued at \$1,220 were reported stolen from a car on Farmington Road, Oct. 8-9.

● MISTAKE MADE

A 1981 Toyota Corolla valued at \$500 was returned to Auto-Tech, 33054 Eight Mile, in Farmington Oct. 3 after it was mistakenly hauled away as scrap metal.

● DAMAGE REPORTED

Windows on the front of a house on Thornybrae were broken with a rock Oct. 10. Damage was estimated at \$300.

A glass door was smashed at a vacant building on Eight Mile, Oct. 3-9. Damage was estimated at \$350.

police/fire calls

Listed below are some of the Farmington area police incidents, fire calls and court cases reported during the past week:

● THEFTS REPORTED

A men's gold link bracelet was reported stolen from a house on Maple in Farmington. The item was reportedly taken in August, but not reported missing. It was valued at \$1,105.

A radar detector valued at \$150 was reported stolen from a car parked at North Farmington High School, 32900 13 Mile, Oct. 5.

Tools valued at \$2,824 were reported stolen from a house under construction on Linden, Oct. 6-7.

A gold watch valued at \$4,000 was reported stolen from a house on

Creekbend, Oct. 11.

A stereo cassette player valued at \$425 was reported stolen from a unit at the Cedar Brook Apartments, 23870 Middlebelt, Oct. 10-11.

A stereo, clothes, radar detector and eye glasses valued at \$1,905 were reported stolen from a car on Montclair, Oct. 10-11.

Cases containing 30 cassette discs valued at \$450 were reported stolen from a car at Twelfth Estates Condominiums, 30056 12 Mile, Oct. 10-11.

An answering machine and camera valued at \$120 was reported stolen from a construction trailer on Research Dr., Oct. 9-10.

A bed liner, valued at \$250 was reported stolen from a truck at the