

# Family rebuilds life after fire

**BY BILL COUTANT**  
STAFF WRITER  
A fire that gutted a historic house in Farmington Hills has left the owners struggling to live a normal life, but grateful that no one was home at the time.

"They're trying to restore some of the furniture," said Carol Powell, who saw her house on 11 Mile across from the Farmington Hills city complex gutted. "But most of the furniture was destroyed."

Powell and her husband, Tearl, had completed extensive work on the house, which is registered as a historic home. The original house

was built in 1881. Farmington Hills firefighters put out the fire on Feb. 23 after police detective Darnel Krauss called it in. The fire is blamed on an electrical problem. But officials could not be more specific. "The probable cause is electrical because of the amount of damage, and the fact that there was no other reason to believe that there was any other source that could have caused the fire," said Deputy Fire Chief Pete Baldwin.

The Powells and sons Tearl Jr., 9, and Louis, 7, are staying with relatives. She said builders esti-

mated that the family would be able to move back into the house in about 12 weeks. Two dogs, a cat, a family of hamsters, and two birds were destroyed in the fire.

The estimated loss has exceeded \$300,000, but the insurance company told the Powells that to start from scratch would cost from \$400,000 to \$500,000, Powell said.

Baldwin said timbers that support the house could have been damaged to the point where they would have to be replaced. That would involve jacking up the

house and could prove to be expensive.

Powell said because the house is historic, she will have to attend a meeting with the historic commission to be sure the construction meets guidelines. "They've been on my side," Powell said.

Although the Powells' insurance would reimburse them if they chose to live in a hotel or apartment until the house is rebuilt, they plan to stay with family members.

"It's been hell," Powell said. "It's like being homeless. Thank God for our family."

# Farmington to fill board vacancies

The City of Farmington is looking to fill several vacancies on boards and commissions.

There are three open spots on the Beautification Commission, one on the Planning Commission, and one on the Construction Board of Appeals.

Interested residents may fill out an application form at city hall, 474-5500.

To be eligible, a person must be a resident of Farmington for at least three years and be a qualified and registered voter of the city.

The Beautification Commission meets the second Wednesday of the month. There are 15 members on the board with an ex-officio member from the Department of Public Service. The position is a two-year term.

The Beautification Commission advises the council of recommendations for the beautification of the city, promotes and publicizes projects, and acknowledges community and private projects.

The Planning Commission

meets at 8 p.m. the second Monday of the month. There are nine members on the commission, which is assisted by the city manager. The position is a three-year term.

Duties of the Planning Commission include: making and adopting the community master plan; the city comprehensive six-year capital improvement plan; approving subdivision plans; reviewing and approving building site plans; approving special exception uses; and making recom-

mendations to the city council as to amendments to the zoning code or zoning map.

The Construction Board of Appeals meets when necessary to hear appeals. The term is two years. State law requires members have qualifications to hear appeals.

The Construction Board of Appeals interprets the building code by building officials, the use of substitute materials, and methods of construction.

# Local woman to serve in St. Pat's court

**BY M.B. DILLON**  
STAFF WRITER

For the second time in three years, a Plymouth colleen will reign over Detroit's St. Patrick's Parade.

Kathleen Brigid O'Rourke, 17, was named Maid of Erin Feb. 27

at the 35th annual Maid of Erin Pageant at the Irish-American Club in Detroit. Eileen Marie Fallon of Plymouth was Maid of Erin in 1991.

O'Rourke is a senior at Plymouth Canton High School, where she is class president and on the

honor roll.

Selected as runners-up were Ann Marie Feighan, 19, of Washington, Mich., and Karey Kathleen McGlinch, 22, of Farmington Hills.

The Maid of Erin and her court will make St. Patrick's Day ap-

pearances on the J.P. McCarthy and Denny McLain radio shows on WJR and WXYT.

**All that Jazz**



**Mercy concert:** Mercy High School presents "A Lifetime of Jazz" featuring Lionel Hampton (right) and his quartet and the Jimmy Wilkins Orchestra at 3 p.m. Sunday, March 13, in the school's Rosemary Clooney Auditorium, 29300 11 Mile Road, Farmington Hills. Michigan Court of Appeals Judge Myron Wahls (left), a longtime advocate of the arts, is the honorary chairman. Tickets are \$50, which includes premier seating and an afterglow jam. Tickets for the concert only are \$20. For information, call 476-3270 or 476-8922.

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**STATE OF WISCONSIN: CIRCUIT COURT: ROCK COUNTY: SMALL CLAIMS**

**BRENNAN, STEEL, BASTING & MacDOUGALL, S.C.**  
P.O. Box 1148  
One East Milwaukee Street  
Janesville, WI 53547  
vs. Plaintiff/Case No. 92 SC

Case Classification: 31001

**JAMES FLYNN**  
21503 Green Hill Road, No. 254  
Farmington, MI 48335  
Defendant.

**THIS STATE OF WISCONSIN:**  
The undersigned, clerk of said court, do hereby certify that the plaintiff named above has filed a lawsuit or other legal action against you.

Within forty (40) days after March 4, 1993, you must respond with a written demand for a copy of the complaint. The demand must be sent or delivered to the court, whose address is Rock County Courthouse, 81 South Main Street, Janesville, WI 53540, and to ATTY. WILLIAM R. VEGT, Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is Brennan, Steel, Basting & MacDougall, S.C., P.O. Box 1148, One East Milwaukee Street, Janesville, WI 53547. You may have an attorney help or represent you.

If you wish to dispute this matter, you must be in the courtroom, Rock County Courthouse, 81 S. Main Street, Janesville, WI, on the 3rd floor in the Small Claims Court on the 14th day of March, 1993. If you do not appear a judgment will be awarded the plaintiff.

If you do not demand a copy of the complaint within 40 days, the court may grant judgment against you for the amount of money or other legal action requested in the complaint, and you or may be liable for the cost of the complaint. A judgment may be entered as provided by law. A judgment awarding money may become a lien against any real estate you own now or in the future and may also be enforced by garnishment or seizure of property.

Dated the 26th day of February, 1993.

**BRENNAN, STEEL, BASTING & MacDOUGALL, S.C.**  
By: William R. Vegt  
State Bar No. 91988024

**POST OFFICE ADDRESS:**  
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