

Chimneys require caution, care

The trees are changing and wind has a little bite. But before you start thinking about settling down in front of a nice fire, you might want to think about having that chimney cleaned.

"Some people will use a fire place only about five times a year for more romantic reasons while some will use their fire place as a heat source all winter," said Farmington fire prevention specialist Lt. Mike Garr of the Farmington Hills Fire Department. "Either way, the fire place should be cleaned and inspected."

Garr said a recent chimney fire at a residence on Nine Mile was

an example of a common problem: the homeowner had forgotten to open the flue. In that case the house filled with smoke. But often, chimney fires start because of creosote buildup in the chimney or because the chimney is in poor repair and the heat escapes and starts a fire behind a wall. In those cases, the fire is often discovered by a neighbor, because it's only visible from outside.

Some tips on preventing chimney fires include:

- Use only the chimney and stovepipe specified in the installation instructions for the wood burning stove.

- Be sure that the chimney is properly installed before it is enclosed in a wall or "chase."
- Keep the venting path short, with as few bends as possible.
- Install chimney cleanouts to make soot and creosote removal easy, especially for wood stoves.
- Have your chimney cleaned each heating season before you use it.

"We do not make recommendations as to what company you hire to clean your chimney," Garr said. "Just be a good consumer. Check around to see that the company does a good job."

For further information, call the Hills fire department at 553-

0740.

The week of Oct. 3-9 is National Fire Prevention Week. To mark the occasion, the Farmington Hills Fire Department will have its open house from noon to 4 p.m. Sunday at fire headquarters, 28711 Drake Road.

Fire Prevention Week is scheduled around the anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, said Fire Chief Richard Marinucci. The event will include a chance for kids to dress in fire fighting gear, a fire safety house, a sprinkler trailer to demonstrate how sprinkling systems fight fires and magic show for kids. The public is encouraged to attend.

2 men found guilty of liquor violation

Waleed Eid, 46, and Faten Eid, 38, both of Farmington Hills, were found guilty Sept. 23 of selling liquor without a license.

Visiting 6th Circuit Judge Frederick Balkwill set sentencing for Nov. 1.

The two were charged with selling liquor in Waleed's Restaurant on Northwestern Highway to two Farmington Hills police officers

in February of 1992. They each face up to one year in prison for the felony conviction.

POLICE/FIRE CALLS

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

- **FIRES**
Farmington Hills firefighters from station 2 put out the fire of a lawn equipment trailer at 9:30 a.m. Sept. 22 on Middlebelt south of 12 Mile. The fire, caused when gasoline ignited, caused \$2,000 in damage.
- **INTERFERING WITH POLICE**
Farmington Hills police arrested a 17-year-old Hills resident who was among several teens blocking the entrance to Papa Romano's at about noon Sept. 24. The other teens left when police asked, but the 17-year-old stayed and tried to solicit money, telling police he wanted to get something to eat.
- **THEFT**
A 22-inch green Lawnboy lawnmower worth \$350 was stolen from a garage at a residence on Brandon in Farmington Hills Sept. 24.
Cash in the amount of \$250 was stolen from a room at the Year-

- veLodge on Haggerty Sept. 24.
A wallet with credit cards and cash worth \$276 was stolen from the Shell gas station on 12 Mile Sept. 26.
An NEC portable car telephone worth \$300 was stolen from an unlocked 1990 Ford Taurus parked on Connaught in Farmington Hills Sept. 24-25.
A \$1,500 40-inch color TV was stolen from a residence on Glenbrook in Farmington Hills Sept. 26.
Twelve money orders worth \$500 were stolen from an unlocked cash register at the Arbor Drugs store on 12 Mile in Farmington Hills Sept. 12.
A display system worth \$6,000 was stolen from GRT Management on Enterprise from March 5 and Aug. 27.
A \$400 car telephone headset was stolen Sept. 25 from a 1989 Ford Taurus parked on Maplelun in Farmington.
A Farmington public safety officer discovered a briefcase in the middle of Lakeway near Valleyview Sept. 26. Someone had stolen an automatic teller card and \$100 from the wallet inside.

- Police traced ownership to a Loomis resident. The briefcase was taken from a 1980 Fleetwood.
Someone stole a car telephone and compressor Sept. 27 from the porch of a house on Meadowlark. Both totaled \$300.
- **AUTO THEFT**
A black 1989 Ford Ranger pickup worth \$7,500 was stolen from the Little Valley Trailer Park on Tuck in Farmington Hills Sept. 25.
A blue 1990 Plymouth Sundance was stolen from the Steak and Ale on Orchard Lake Sept. 25. The car had the keys in it.
- **BREAK-IN**
A \$300 Sony compact stereo system, \$200 in CDs, a \$116 men's leather jacket and \$452 men's jean jacket were stolen from a unit at the Polo Club Apartments on Polo Club in Farmington Hills Sept. 25. The rear door wall had been pried open.
- **FRAUD**
Purchases of \$421.55 were made without the permission of the owner of a credit card at the

- Target store on Grand River in Farmington Hills Sept. 25.
Purchases of \$592.64 were made without the permission of the owner of a credit card at the Target store on Grand River in Farmington Hills Sept. 25.
Employees of Republic Bancorp on Northwestern Highway in Farmington Hills told police that their credit cards, used for business expenses, had been fraudulently used. Charges of \$2,304.97 were made to the accounts between July 15 and Aug. 23.
A resident on Glogary in Farmington Hills told police she wrote a check for \$1,000 to a 26-year-old Dearborn man to pay for roof repairs to her house. The man cashed the check but had not made the repairs as of Sept. 27.
- **VANDALISM**
Tires were slashed on a red 1991 Pontiac Grand Prix parked on Hawberry in Farmington Hills Sept. 24-26 causing \$380 in damage.
- **EMBEZZLEMENT**
Cash totaling \$1,399.75 was missing from the Taco Bell on 10 Mile Sept. 26.

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This nationwide program is sponsored by the American Psychiatric Association, National Institute of Mental Health, Harvard Medical School Department of Psychiatry, National Mental Health Association, National Manic-Depressive and Depressive Association, and McLean Hospital in Belmont, Mass.

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