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amount of water used to "surround and drown" the fire, left massive damage.

"There was some sort of flammable liquid used," Baldwin said. "With all that wood in the attic, once it got up there, nothing was going to stop it."

Marinucci said 44 firefighters were on the scene with five lines within a few minutes of the call. But the combination of an accelerant (possibly gasoline) and the large open attic joisted by "a ton of wood" trusses gave firefighters little chance of preventing a serious loss.

Preliminary estimates put the loss at \$300,000 for the house and \$170,000 for the contents. Glengrove, south of 14 Mile and west of Halsted Road, is in an area of expensive houses.

"Thanks to the location of the fire, visibility inside the house was good, the heat was not too intense for firefighters, and no one was injured."

"They (firefighters) really came in a hurry, but they were quiet," said Hartman's neighbor Karl Borbi. "When we went over there the fire was just on the east side. But the whole roof was on fire in minutes."

Borbi said a neighbor at first

thought there was another bomb scare, like one last July in which explosive chemicals had to be removed from the basement of another neighborhood house.

"He saw the police car," Borbi said, adding that neither he nor his neighbors were concerned for their safety in light of the incidents.

Fire in office, too

But police and firefighters are concerned about the fire, especially because of a similar incident involving the doctor's Southgate office last week. On March 14, a gas can with a wick was discovered in front of that office, but it had self-extinguished.

"It looks exactly like the same thing," Marinucci said of the Southgate incident.

Farmington Hills police consider the arson and the arson attempt in Southgate to be related. Police Lt. Chuck Nebus said police are searching for a motive in order to get "genetic suspects."

Anyone with information can call the Hills police at 464-6181. Lt. Mike Garr, Hills fire prevention specialist, said the last major fire, on Avon, caused about \$150,000 in damage on June 23,



SHARON LEBLIEVY/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Looking for clues: Officials look through the Hartman house on Glengrove for indications that the fire was an arson.

1994. Coincidentally, that fire took place at 37645 Avon. The Glengrove fire was also had a 37645 street address.

"The parents did the right thing," Baldwin said. "They were able to get upstairs, get their kids and get out."

The landscaping looks intact against the brick-work front patio. But the white sign offering a \$5,000 reward through the Michigan Arson Committee is telltale

against its gloomy backdrop of charred roof and boarded windows.

Hartman could not be reached for comment.

Class from page 1A

Barringer said. "They didn't want us to leave."

Student Roundtable — which represents all three Farmington public high schools — wanted to work on having less rivalry and more rallying together.

Roundtable president and North Farmington student Jamie Loasia and vice-president Christine Clervt of Harrison helped devise a community service day as a result.

Volunteer Center stepped in to coordinate the 14 sites where the students turned out. Places like The American House in Farmington Hills were appreciative.

"The residents always love having young faces around," said manager Charlene Rismann.

Nursing homes were only one area for students to donate time. Others turned up to clean out the basement at the Longacre House, do inventory for Farmington Families in Action and move books at the Farmington Branch Library.

All students did yeoman's work, Volunteer Center coordinator Joanna Ratanastharthorn. Those who did KP duty for Meals On Wheels particularly stood out.

"These 11 kids worked like dogs," Ratanastharthorn said.

"They came back with dish pan hands . . . and they were excited."

Next year, organizers will try to coordinate days when students can help seniors with snow shoveling. They also want to make the activities career-related, if possible.

Not all students were able to volunteer where they wanted, said Student Roundtable faculty adviser Mary Brown.

"They went ahead and did it and they were troopers," Brown said. "They did what we asked them to do."

The first-time event was a success by all accounts. One reason is volunteers received as much as they gave.

"I learned, first of all, (the seniors) really appreciated us sitting down and talking with them," said Harrison junior Casey McDonnell, who volunteered at The Greenery in Farmington.

Added junior Jennifer Battle about getting other students involved: "When I asked everyone how the day went . . . everyone said it was great. I guess you have to discover that for yourself."

"If you can just go out there once . . ."

CLARIFICATION

A March 20 Observer story about Anna Lipar, the new advertising sales representative at the Farmington Observer, should have given her Livonia

telephone number — 1-313-953-2172 — as well as her Farmington one — 1-810-477-5450.

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