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The rocket display inside the Farmington Community Library drew many visitors, while they awaited the start of the sci-fi movies. Mike Schultz liked the rocket model display, while other space buffs were drawn to Star Trek and 2001 displays.

Energy plan praised but tax questioned

By STEVE BARNABY
Farmington editor

Although generally favoring President Jimmy Carter's energy proposal, U.S. Rep. William Brodhead (D-Detroit) is skeptical about the gasoline and automobile tax clauses which, he fears, may have a negative effect on Detroit's auto industry.

Brodhead, whose 17th District includes Farmington, Farmington Hills, Redford, Southfield and parts of Detroit, says as a member of the House Ways and Means Committee, he will be taking a hard look at those sections of the proposal.

"These proposals could give foreign cars an advantage over the domestic car industry," says Brodhead. "We'll have to see if it actually would be any savings by implementing these proposals."

Under the Carter proposal, a limit would be set on gasoline consumption for the next two years. If that limit is exceeded by one per cent or more, a five cent a gallon tax would be levied. By 1985, this could reach as high as 50 cents a gallon.

'President Carter is right that the time for action is here. We've built a society around the automobile. Energy has been cheap. We must cut out waste and change our ways.'

—William Brodhead

The automobile tax would levy a tax of from \$22 to \$49, beginning with 1978 models which get 18 miles a gallon or less. By 1985, cars would have to get 28.5 mile per gallon or better.

Although questioning the proposals, Brodhead admits the expense of gasoline in European countries has forced consumers to buy smaller cars. Gasoline in some European countries is as much as \$2 a gallon.

Brodhead said steps must be taken to combat the energy crisis.

"President Carter is right that the time for action is here. We've built a society around the automobile. Energy has been cheap. We must cut out waste and change our ways."

PROPOSALS CAN be worked out so that Americans can preserve their standard of living, he says.

While Carter has general support for his proposals in congress, Brodhead says his proposals won't come out of the federal legislature in the same way they went in. Already, alternate proposals are being formulated.

"But the worse thing that could happen would be for all the proposals to be knocked down, leaving us with the status quo," he says.

Much of the problem in getting the proposals through is opposition from these groups which are directly affected.

"Every proposal will develop a list of those who are against it. But everyone is at fault and everyone must make sacrifices. We suffer from the other guy syndrome," says Brodhead, about those who say it's all right to pe-

nalize someone else just so it doesn't have an impact on them.

Carter's energy bills will hit the committees this week; Brodhead projects that they will be voted on by the entire house around July 4.



WILLIAM BRODHEAD

Up, up and away Space fantasizers hit the launch pad

The mysteries of outer space, as well as a fascination with space travel, have become hobbies for many Americans, so it was hardly surprising when about 150 Farmington area residents braved overcast skies and drizzles last week to watch a rocket launching.

The sight of all those people gazing skywards caused many a puzzled look on the faces of travelers on Twelve Mile who wondered what all the commotion was about. But spectators knew exactly what was going on—a model flight demonstration presented by the Great Lakes Association of Rocket.

Harry Newman and his fellow model-rocket buffs brought all their gear to the Farmington Community Library on Twelve Mile as part of the Science Fact to Science Fiction Fair.

While nine model rockets were launched, many in the crowd commiserated with a misfire and rejoiced when the countdown ended with a perfect launch.

"My rocket never took off like that," said one enthusiast as he followed the travel of the Patriot, one of the largest rockets launched at the fair.

Fortunately for the spirits of the crowd, the rain held off until the launchings were finished. Many spectators had the chance to view the rocket exhibit inside the library, as well as see films ranging from the animated "Forbidden Planet" to a Japanese television pilot with a science fiction script similar to Ultraman.

The model rocket displays including plastic and flying models; a "2001" exhibit; Star Trek posters and informa-

tion; and space photographs and displays from NASA.

Many in the crowd, however, were serious model rocket students, some of whom would like to start a Farmington area club similar to the Great Lakes Association of Rocketry, an east-side based organization.

And the library's all-day fair gave rocket buffs a chance to get together and talk about their favorite sport—sending probes into the unknown, even for just a minute.

Part I: A look at Hills fire service

By LYNN ORR

With about 80 paid volunteers and two full-time employees, himself and Fire Marshall William Gearhart, Farmington Hills Fire Chief Van De Voort provides fire protection for a community of 55,000 people with a yearly budget of \$419,000.

After 13 months on the job and working with a budget that could only be called skimpy when compared to fire department budgets of nearby cities, Van De Voort describes his goal as dollar effectiveness in providing fire services.

"I want to provide the best service I can for the dollar, while attempting to improve everything we have," he said.

Although he sees a part full-time, part volunteer program somewhere down the road for Farmington Hills, he doesn't believe the timing or the dollars are currently there to effect any wide-scale change.

"For one thing, you have to go step-by-step in beginning any kind of program, and what we're trying to do now is work with what we've got," he explained.

"Our tax base is not conducive to full-time services because the homeowner is bearing the brunt of the tax load in Farmington Hills. If the people of the community want something better than what we've got, they'll have to provide it through their taxes."

VAN DE VOORT is very appreciative of the cooperation and budgetary allowances he's received thus far from the city council, but he admits that Hills fire service is fiscally lacking when compared to neighboring Southfield or Livonia.

While Livonia spends between \$25-28 per capita on fire services and Southfield spends about \$30 per capita, Farmington Hills spends about \$7.60 per person.

And because the city charter mandates a step-by-step mill increase, the kind of dramatic escalation in the city budget necessary to significantly affect the fire department's budget isn't expected to materialize.

Residents who want Farmington Hills to remain a basically rural community, with a small commercial and industrial tax base, will have to settle for the department's deficiencies unless they want to shell out from their own pockets, according to Van De Voort.

"Fire service is like any other service, you get what you pay for," Van De Voort said. "And today, these services take a lot of dollars."

THE KIND OF FIRE service a community has affects insurance rates for commercial, industrial and residential property owners as well.

"With a volunteer system, about the best insurance rating class you can get is a six," says Van De Voort. And the only way to improve the rating in Farmington Hills is to upgrade the water and hydrant distribution.

The insurance rating system works on a deficiency scale, the higher the number, the poorer the system is rated, and the higher the insurance premiums are.

Hydrant distribution, water distribution, fire prevention programs, and fire operation all are taken into account in establishing insurance ratings, Van De Voort said.

"If you drop three classifications, it will affect the homeowner, while one or two declines will affect the commercial and industrial rates," he added.

Water distribution is Farmington Hills' deficient area. "There are whole subdivisions without water, like Normandy Hills," he said. "All we can bring in is tank water or relay water all the way in there. This is a real deficiency."

CURRENTLY, 20 people are working out of station 1; 17 out of station 2; 20 people out of station 3; and 18 people out of station 4 in the Hills organization. The city needs to hire about five firefighters but is prevented from doing so because of pending court action.

The volunteers are paid on a per hour basis for each run they make. Monday through Friday during the day two men are on stand-by at each station, responding to either medical or fire emergencies. Volunteers are paid \$7 per hour for each incident and \$3.50 per hour for training or standby duty. According to Van De Voort, the volunteers are interested in improving their skills and many are taking courses at Oakland Community College, including some officers' courses. Forty-three of the volunteers are licensed ambulance attendants and 23 are certified as emergency medical technicians.

Fire Marshall Gearhart investigates all fires, and in some cases, turns information over to the Police Detective Bureau for further study.

Van De Voort is especially pleased with Farmington Hills participation in the Western Oakland County Mutual Aid program, which allows firefighters to call on other communities to get help when a particular community's department is overwhelmed.

Although Van De Voort admits that much of the fire equipment is outdated, he believes he's seen marked improvement in the equipment during his year-long tenure.

He includes Nomax fire coats for all the firefighters; additional smoke masks; reserve hose, a "very expensive" air compressor to fill air bottles for masks; and numerous tools among those improved items.

"Within the limits of their dollars, you have to take your hat off to the city council," he said.

Vehicle equipment at the four stations includes: three full-size pumps; a 1959 pumper at station 4 which is in need of replacement; a ladder truck or platform lower; two medical units; two squad rigs; and a rescue squad at station 3.

A mini-pumper was also purchased this year to give the department reserve capability, he added.

Sound fiscal management is also a strong point with Van De Voort, and he has been able to make some purchases of new equipment through intradepartmental savings.

"We've standardized the purchasing system, so we can make a lot of savings," he says, adding that stock mask repair equipment and a \$3,000

(Continued on page 1A)

Botsford invites public to hospital

With a shiny new addition to display, Botsford Hospital is conducting an open house from 1-4 p.m. on May 1 on the hospital grounds, 2960 Grand River.

Persons interested to see how their community hospital serves them are welcome to attend. The new facility is the professional building which houses the ambulatory surgery and outpatient x-ray services.

Residents are invited to bring their children who will have the opportunity to have their height checked as

well as to be weighed, temperature taken and to receive a hospital ID bracelet, surgical masks and caps.

Free services offered to adults are blood typing, blood pressure testing, nutrition consulting by a registered dietitian, cardiopulmonary resuscitation and hug of life demonstrations.

Ladies of the hospital guild will aid the dietary department of the hospital with refreshments and distribution of souvenirs. Red Cross volunteers will conduct a tour of ancillary facilities of the hospital.

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WATCH OUT

Spring often brings with it the danger of packs of dogs roaming through the street. To learn more about a new problem for children and adults, turn to Page 7A.



When Sherwood doesn't seem to care much for rockets which are ready for action, his attention is directed toward the launch pad, where the Patriot is about to soar into the wild blue yonder. The rocket streaked out of sight in seconds and made a near-perfect near-vertical landing on a nearby rooftop. (Staff photos by Harry Marshall)