

## \$50-million park planned

# Space World launch set for 1080

By LEONARD POGER

Suburban Detroit residents will be able to make their own trips to "Blastar Galactica" or "Star Wars" starting in 1980.

A Livonia-based company has received approval for construction of nearly all major elements of a \$40-50 million-plus theme park in southwestern Wayne County. It will be based on space travel and the future. The development, called Space World, will be on 36 acres just north and east of the I-75 freeway interchange at Will Carleton Road in Huron Township. The site is within 20-30 minutes driving time of western suburbs. Planning the development is Space

World, Inc., based in Livonia and headed by Philip Austin, a former engineer with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and president of Space Colonization, Inc., part of his own Contamination Control Laboratories, Inc., all located in Livonia.

Austin, 42, of Livonia, plans to open the development by the spring of 1980. The firm planning the development had first tried to locate the park in Ypsilanti Township, just off the I-94 freeway at Whitaker Road. But township officials didn't take action in time for work to be completed in time for the 1980 opening. Austin decided to move to the Huron Township location. Austin stressed that Space World

will be primarily educational and not be another Cedar Point or strictly an amusement park. Goals of the park will be to "relate space to people," and Austin said that this type of a project has never been done before in America.

When completed, Space World will have a 22-acre lunar colony to let earthlings know what they can expect to find on the surface of the moon.

Space World plans also include an unidentified flying object museum, an interplanetary space shuttle exhibit, zero gravity demonstrations, a 1,000 seat theater in which presentations will be given so that viewers will have a "Star Wars uplifting feeling," Austin said.

"Space World will give visitors a chance to see what it would be like to visit other planets," Austin said. There will be illusions and "hands-on controls" for visitors to handle.

Part of the development will also let people have a peek at what the future of the earth will be like, Austin commented.

"Space World will show how the space program can raise our standard of living," he said.

Austin, who did work for NASA on the Mercury, Gemini and Apollo space programs, said that the public is wondering "What kind of feelings will I have when traveling in space?" and Space World will help answer some of their questions.

"There is a strong need to teach people about these experiences," Austin said he first started to develop a Space World-type development on a small scale after he was continually asked at social events and church about space travel and the astronaut program.

He designed the concept for Space World on a single Sunday and felt that it would only be an attachment to his Contamination Control Lab offices on Farmington Road near Schoolcraft in Livonia.

But it soon grew and was expanded into a separate development.

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## OCC students are on increase

Oakland Community College's fall enrollment stood at 20,037 at the close of late registration this month. This record enrollment surpasses the previous high of 18,875 set in 1975 and represents a 1,175 increase over last fall.

Orchard Ridge, Farmington Hills, remains the college's largest campus with 8,500 students followed closely by the Auburn Hills campus with 6,194.

"The increase in enrollment can be attributed to a concerted effort to familiarize the community with the

advantages of the college and the addition of several new job related programs," says OCC interim President Derek Nurney.

Eighty-one students registered in the new auto body vehicle repair program at the Auburn Hills campus. The new culinary arts program at Orchard Ridge also reached maximum enrollment. Expansion of facilities and course offerings in the computer science program produced a 27 per cent increase in enrollment.

## Want to babysit handicapped person?

A special concern of parents of mentally handicapped children over the years has been finding sitters.

Now, a new project being developed by three local agencies is attempting to fill this need.

The Macomb-Oakland Regional Center (MORC), the Oakland County Association for Retarded Citizens, and the Macomb County Association for Retarded Citizens are putting together a special sitter program designed to provide families with trained, inter-

ested people from the community to sit for their mentally handicapped sons and daughters when needed.

"We know from past experience that these families have a difficult time finding someone to sit for their son or daughter even for a few hours or an evening," said Jane Dewey, MORC recruitment specialist. "Because of this, we decided to help these families out by recruiting people from the community who would like to provide sitting services to these families."

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