

Creating fireworks show is like conducting

By KATIE KEARWIN

Planning a fireworks display is something like orchestrating a full-fledged opera, according to Arthur Wright, J.L. Hudson special events director and the man in charge of the Freedom Festival fireworks.

"The whole show is looked at from a sense of color and sound and novelties. The way you put these together creates different kinds of shows," he said. "We try to vary the mood."

"You try to create some highs and lows, some louds and softs, some brights and not-so-brights—otherwise it gets monotonous," Wright said. "Even 40 minutes of bang-bang-bang can be boring, unless you vary it with sound and color and combinations." All those factors are meticulously charted.

"Color spreads, bursts of all-gold or all-red, are plotted," the Troy resident said. "I also chart for sound."

Not all fireworks fizzle, whistle or pop. "A lot of them just puff. There's a definite let-down in the show if for a long period there is no sound. Puff, puff, puff gets to be old hat after about half an hour."

Timing is also important, he said, and the shells are fired faster as time goes on.

"We start with a nice, easy pace and build up with time to the crescendo which is the finale. With all that sound and color, there's so much excitement you feel like the world is coming to an end or something," Wright's fate mirrors the expression of a youngster viewing his first fireworks display, when describing the show he has coordinated for 21 years.

Stroh's Brewery co-sponsors the pyrotechnic display.

WRIGHT'S JOB begins in January with programming and placing orders six months in advance. "Many of the

shells are from Japan, Italy, China, Germany and South America," he said. "You have to allow time for them to get here by boat."

Companies don't stockpile fireworks, they are made only on order. James Sord, owner of American Fireworks Co., makes most of the shells for the Detroit show. But Wright said he is always on the lookout for spectacular, unusual and safe foreign fireworks.

"Many countries have their own specialties," he said. Techniques, passed from father to son, are "developed and refined, almost like fine rugs, to the point where the techniques are jealously-guarded secrets."

Each fireworks shell is handmade. "It takes only a few seconds," Wright said, "but every star you see up there is laboriously hand-packed so that when it explodes, you would see a perfect ball in the sky."

"They're real works of art," he said. "You have to admire them when you see it."

Ranging in size from four to 12 inches in diameter, each shell explodes in a sphere of up to three city blocks across, Wright said.

"Each one of those shells (when exploded) is as big across as the tallest office building downtown." Those larger shells cost several thousand dollars apiece, he said. "In each flight, there could be dozens of those shells," but he declined to discuss the cost of the entire display.

"But the easiest half of the show is the fireworks themselves," Wright added. "The most difficult part is the mechanics of staging the shows."

The coast guard, Army engineers, police and fire departments in Detroit and Windsor and riverfront festival committees must be contacted. Because the river is blocked during the fireworks, shipping companies must be alerted 60 days in advance.

THE FIREWORKS ARE shot off from three floating stations. Arranging to hire the necessary barges keeps Wright biting his nails right up until the last minute, he said.

"It's usually two weeks ahead of time I can be reasonably— and that's only reasonably— sure how many I can get." Barge owners are reluctant to promise the ships far in advance, hoping to get a more profitable hauling job for the same time.

"They're not glamorous in any sense to look at but these barges cost from \$10,000-\$250,000 to rent," Wright said. Occasionally, Wright has found himself short a few barges at the last minute. Then he takes a scavenging trip along the waterfront.

"I've had to look up and down the river for a barge like we needed. Then I'd go knock on doors and ask when the barges were free."

One such ship was loaded with machine parts for St. Louis. But it was not due to leave until after the fireworks. "The stevedores worked all night to unload it. We used it and then it was reloaded immediately and took off for St. Louis a few hours after."

Twenty-six workers are needed to put on the show. Three men fire the shells as the rest load, clear and reload the mortars. "If sparks were left in the mortars, the next shot would prematurely ignite," Wright said.

No one has ever been hurt at the annual fireworks, he said. Extensive pre-

cautions are the main reason. "There just can't be too many safety factors," he said.

SOME YEARS, WRIGHT is on the main barge during the show. "It's important that all the people involved in designing the show know what's going on out there."

But, from the barge, a viewer does not get the full effect of the show. Shells are encased in paper bags. The propelling charge sends the shell about 600 feet into the sky, Wright said. But that charge and the bag covers only go about 50 feet of the way.

"There is a continual rain of brown paper bags and burning sparks around the barges." Clouds of smoke surround the barges as the shells are set off, obscuring the view, Wright said. "Also, there's 1,000 feet between the barges, so you can't see both sides."

So Wright stands on shore some 200 yards away, watching the display from different vantage points. He follows the show's progress on paper and in the air. "I listen to the reaction of the crowd," he said. "This is how we determine pretty much what people like, so we can change the next show with better guidelines."

Adults tend to prefer the blossoming color spreads, he said. "Children like the novelties," Wright has his own favorites, of course.

"Because I know the romance of hand-packing, it's probably the chrysanthemums. They're the biggest

shells we fire and the most perfect." Wright said he sometimes overhears more than oohs and ahs, while listening to crowd reactions. "I pick up comments from parents: 'Can you imagine somebody being paid to do this?'"

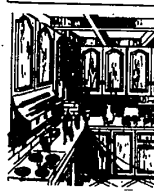
Most watchers underestimate the complication involved in preparing the huge display, he said. "Most people don't realize how much goes into it. They think it's just a matter of going out and lighting a few fuses."

Wright enjoys the fireworks, but with a few reservations.

"I certainly look forward to it, but my most relished moment is when it's over and has been done safely and been a good show," he said. "I feel the release of a lot of pressure."

Safety worries are always in the back of his mind, he admitted. "There's an anxiety you can't ignore. You can say it doesn't bother you, but don't believe it."

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CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS PLANNING COMMISSION

PUBLIC HEARING

8:00 P.M.

July 17, 1979

Farmington Hills City Hall
31555 Eleven Mile Road
Farmington Hills, Michigan 48018

The City of Farmington Hills Planning Commission will give formal consideration to a proposed amendment to the City of Farmington Hills Zoning Ordinance, which Amended Ordinance would in part read as follows:

Section 1.

Article XV. Industrial Research Office District is hereby added; which article in part shall read as follows:

SEC. 1500A. PREAMBLE:

The IRO, Industrial Research Office Districts are designed to provide for uses which are office or research type or industrial uses which have limited impact outside of the industrial building. The district is designed to be used in areas which do not border lands indicated as single-family residential on the City's Master Plan. The district is intended to encourage uses which have a high value per acre of land that will supplement the City's tax base. Certain businesses are permitted within office buildings as accessory uses.

The following regulations shall apply in all IRO Districts and shall be subject further to the provisions of ARTICLE XX GENERAL PROVISIONS and ARTICLE XX GENERAL EXPECTATIONS and all other applicable provisions of this Ordinance.

SEC. 1501A. PRINCIPAL USES PERMITTED:

In an IRO Industrial Research Office District, no building or land shall be used or building shall be erected except for one or more of the following specified uses unless otherwise provided in this Ordinance:

- Any use charged with the principle function of basic research, design, and pilot or experimental product development.
- Office buildings for any of the following occupations: executive, administrative, professional, accounting, writing, clerical, stenographic, drafting and sales.
- Data processing and computer centers, including service and maintenance of electronic data processing equipment.
- Banks, credit unions, savings and loan associations.
- Hospitals, clinics and medical offices; medical laboratories.
- Any of the following industrial uses when conducted wholly within a completely enclosed building:
 - The manufacture, compounding, processing, packaging or treatment of such products as bakery goods, candy, cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, toiletries, food products, hardware and consumer goods, die, grunge and machine shops.
 - The manufacture, compounding, assembling or treatment of articles or merchandise from the following previously prepared materials: bone, canvas, cellophane, cloth, cork, feathers, felt, fiber, fur, glass, hair, horn, leather, paper, plastics, precious or semi-precious metals or stones, sheet metal (excluding large stamping such as: automobile fenders or bodies), shell, textiles, tobacco, wax, wire, wood (excluding saw and planing mills), and yarns.
 - The manufacture of pottery and stoneware or other similar ceramic products using only previously pulverized clay, and kilns fired only by electricity or gas.
 - Manufacture of musical instruments, toys, novelties, and metal or rubber stamps, or other small molded rubber products.
 - Manufacture or assembly of electrical appliances, electronic instruments and devices, radios and phonographs.
 - Laboratories, experimental, film or testing.
 - Models or flasks.
 - Assembly halls, display halls, convention centers or similar places of assembly when conducted completely within enclosed buildings.
 - Other uses similar to the above uses.
- Accessory structures and uses customarily incident to the above permitted uses.

SEC. 1502A. SECONDARY USES PERMITTED SUBJECT TO SPECIAL CONDITIONS:

- The following retail and service uses shall be permitted in buildings which exceed one story in height as secondary uses to the principal permitted office uses included in paragraphs 1. through 5. of SEC. 1501A above:
 - Retail business or service establishments.
 - Personal service establishments, such as but not limited to: repair shops (watches, radio, television, shoe, etc.), tailor shop, beauty parlors or barber shops, laundries or dry cleaners, printing or photographic reproduction, photographic art or interior decorating studios.
 - Theaters, bowling alleys, billiard halls, health salons or similar forms of indoor recreation.
 - Restaurants or other places serving food or beverage except those having the character of a drive-in.
- The secondary uses permitted in this SEC. 1502A shall be subject to the following conditions:
 - Such uses shall not be permitted in a single-story building or in a building separate from a permitted principal use.
 - The total area devoted to such uses in a building shall not exceed twenty-five percent (25%) of the total floor area of the building.
 - All secondary uses shall have customer entrances from the interior of the principal building in which they are located.
 - All secondary uses shall provide off-street parking spaces at a ratio of one (1) space for each two hundred (200) square feet of usable floor area, regardless of specific use requirements of SEC. 1504.

SEC. 1503A. REQUIRED CONDITIONS:

- The outdoor storage of goods or materials shall be prohibited.
- Any use established in the IRO District shall be operated so as to comply with the performance standards set forth hereinafter in ARTICLE XIX GENERAL PROVISIONS, SEC. 1909.
- All uses shall receive site plan review and approval by the Planning Commission prior to the issuance of any building permit.
- Off-street loading shall be provided in accordance with the following schedule:
 - For office buildings of less than one hundred thousand (100,000) square feet in gross floor area, at least one (1) loading space, separate from off-street parking, shall be provided in the rear or side yard.
 - For office buildings of one hundred thousand (100,000) square feet in gross floor area, at least one (1) loading space with a dimension of at least ten by fifteen (10' x 15') feet, or five hundred (500) square feet in area, with clearance of at least four feet (4') in height, shall be provided in the rear or side yard.
 - For secondary uses, one separate space, in addition to spaces required for offices, shall be provided for each service entrance to the secondary uses in the rear or side yard only.
 - For industrial buildings, off-street loading shall be provided in accordance with SEC. 1906.
- Access to the loading-unloading area shall be designed in such a manner as to allow trucks to enter and leave the loading area without having to back from or onto the public street.

SEC. 1504A. AREA AND BULK REQUIREMENTS:

See ARTICLE XVII, SCHEDULE OF REGULATIONS limiting the height and bulk of buildings, the minimum size of lot by permitted land use and providing minimum yard setback requirements.

Add to the Schedule of Regulations, ARTICLE XVIII as follows:

ZONING DISTRICT:

MINIMUM LOT SIZE:	IRO Industrial Research Office
MINIMUM WIDTH:	None
MAXIMUM HEIGHT:	None
YARD SETBACKS:	60'
FRONT:	50' (5)
LEAST ONE:	20' (5)
TOTAL:	40' (5)
REAR:	40' (5)
MINIMUM FLOOR AREA:	None
MINIMUM GROUND FLOOR AREA:	None
MAXIMUM LOT COVERAGE:	None

Section 2.

Section 1904 is hereby amended to read in part as follows:

SEC. 1904 - OFF-STREET PARKING REQUIREMENTS:

1. Change paragraph 12, 4, (2) and paragraph 12, 4 (3) to read as follows:

- Business offices or professional offices except as indicated in the following item (3).
 - One (1) for each two hundred (200) square feet of usable floor space for the first 15,000 square feet, plus two (2) additional spaces.
- One (1) for each two hundred (200) square feet for that area in excess of 15,000 square feet of usable floor area.
- Professional offices of doctors, dentists or similar professions.
 - One (1) for each one hundred (100) square feet of usable floor space for the first 5,000 square feet.
 - One (1) for each one hundred (100) square feet for that area in excess of 5,000 square feet of usable floor area.

Section 3.

Section 1907 paragraph one and two are hereby amended to read in part as follows:

SEC. 1907 - SIGNS:

1. Change paragraph 1, j, to read as follows:

j. UNLESS OTHERWISE PROVIDED FOR IN THIS ORDINANCE, the number of freestanding signs in any use district shall be limited to one (1) per building, as defined in paragraph 1 above.

2. Change paragraph 2 by adding the IRO District as follows:

OS-1A, OS-3 and IRO Districts: One (1) freestanding sign for each major or secondary freestanding sign for each freeway frontage and one (1) wall sign per building.

3. Change paragraph 3 by adding the IRO District as follows:

Street Setback	Distance From RA In Feet	Maximum Area In Square Feet	Maximum Height In Feet
OS-1A, OS-3, IRO	(1)	50	(4)

4. Change paragraph 3, footnotes (2) and (4) to read as follows:

(2) The height of a sign shall not exceed thirty (30) feet, but in no event shall the sign project above the highest point of any building on the lot.

(4) Freestanding signs not exceeding eight (8) feet in height may contain a maximum of two hundred (200) square feet in area. Signs exceeding eight (8) feet in height shall be limited to thirty (30) feet in height, but in no event shall the sign project above the highest point of any building on the lot, and shall not exceed fifty (50) square feet in area.

Section 4.

Section 1914 is hereby in part to read as follows:

SEC. 1914 - WALLS AND BERMS:

1. Change paragraph 1, (6) to read as follows:

B-1, B-2, B-3, B-4, ES, OS-1, OS-1A, OS-2, and IRO Districts

Section 5.

Section 2003 is hereby in part to read as follows:

SEC. 2003 - HEIGHT LIMIT:

Add the following as paragraph 2 to SECTION 2003 Height Limit. Designate the existing paragraphs as "1. Height Exceptions":

- Height Exceptions, Roof Top Equipment
- Penthouse or roof top structures for the housing of elevators, stairways, tanks, heating and air conditioning equipment, and other similar apparatus may be erected above the height limits of the zoning district in which located when, after review by the Planning Commission, the plans are found to meet the following conditions:
 - All roof top equipment and apparatus shall be housed in a penthouse or structure constructed of building material compatible with the material used in the principal structure.
 - Penthouse and structures shall be set back from the outermost vertical wall or parapet of the principal structure a distance equal to at least two (2) times the height of such penthouse or structure. The height of such penthouse or structure shall in no instance exceed ten (10) feet.
 - Such penthouse or structures shall not have a total floor area greater than fifteen (15) percent of the total roof area of the building.

Any person who is interested is invited to participate in the discussion of the proposed zoning change. Hearings will be held at the City of Farmington Hills City Hall on any business day between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

FRED HUGHES, Chairman
City of Farmington Hills
Planning Commission

CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS PLANNING COMMISSION

PUBLIC HEARING

8:00 P.M.

July 17, 1979

Farmington Hills City Hall
31555 Eleven Mile Road
Farmington Hills, Michigan 48018

The City of Farmington Hills Planning Commission will give formal consideration to a proposed Amendment to the City Zoning Ordinance (Resolving Request No. PC-3-6-79), which would remove from the North 1/2, Section 12, City of Farmington Hills, County of Oakland, State of Michigan, being more particularly described as:

Lots 163 and 164 of Supervisor's Plat of Woodcreek Farms #1, T.1N., R.9E., as recorded in Liber 55, Page 33A and 33B of Oakland County Records.

This property lies on the Southwest side of Northwestern Highway between Thirteen Mile and Valley Roads. The above-mentioned request would remove the above-mentioned property from its present RA-1A, Single Family Residential District Classification to OS-3, Special Office District Classification, being more particularly described as:

The proponent in this matter is the City of Farmington Hills Planning Commission, which seeks this rezoning in order to bring the property into conformance with the proposed master plan.

Any person who is interested, is invited to participate in the discussion of the proposed zoning change. Copies of the zoning text, zoning map and Application for Rezoning may be observed at the Farmington Hills City Hall on any business day between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

FRED HUGHES, Chairman
City of Farmington Hills
Planning Commission

Public: July 5, 1979

CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS PLANNING COMMISSION

PUBLIC HEARING

8:00 P.M.

July 17, 1979

Farmington Hills City Hall
31555 Eleven Mile Road
Farmington Hills, Michigan 48018

The City of Farmington Hills Planning Commission will give formal consideration to a proposed Amendment to the City Zoning Ordinance (Resolving Request No. 3-5-79) which would remove part of the Northwest quarter of Section 2, City of Farmington Hills, County of Oakland, State of Michigan, being more particularly described as:

The Southeast 35 ft. x 120 ft. lot of Glen Acres Subdivision, T.1N., R.9E., Section 22, as recorded in Liber 57, page 13, Oakland County Records, from RA-4, Single Family Residential District to P-1, Vehicular Parking District.

In the balance of lot 7 of Glen Acres Subdivision, from RA-4, Single Family Residential District to B-1 General Business District.

This property lies on the South side of Northwestern Highway East of Orchard Lake Road.

The proponent in this matter is William J. Robertson, who seeks this rezoning in order to use the property for swimming pool sales and parking.

Any person who is interested, is invited to participate in the discussion of the proposed zoning change. Copies of the zoning text, zoning map and Application for Rezoning may be observed at the Farmington Hills City Hall on any business day between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

FRED HUGHES, Chairman
City of Farmington Hills
Planning Commission

Public: July 5, 1979

CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS PLANNING COMMISSION

PUBLIC HEARING

8:00 P.M.

July 17, 1979

Farmington Hills City Hall
31555 Eleven Mile Road
Farmington Hills, Michigan 48018

The City of Farmington Hills Planning Commission will give formal consideration to a proposed Amendment to the City Zoning Ordinance (Resolving Request No. 4-5-79), which would remove part of the East 1/4 of Section 34, City of Farmington Hills, County of Oakland, State of Michigan, being more particularly described as:

Lots 11, "Assessor's Grand River Crest State Subdivision #2" a resubdivision of lots 608 to 625, 474 to 481 inclusive and vacated alley of "Grand River Crest No. 2" a subdivision of a part of the E 1/4 of Section 34, T.1N., R.9E., City of Farmington Hills, as recorded in Liber 55, page 4 Oakland County Records, and also the S 25.50 ft. of lot 626 Grand River Crest No. 2, as recorded in Liber 30, page 2 Oakland County Records.

This property lies on the East side of Colwell Street North of Grand River. The above-mentioned request would remove the above-mentioned properties from their present RC-4, Multiple Family Residential District to P-1, Vehicular Parking District.

The proponent in this matter is William Kummeneich for Taco Bell Restaurant, who seeks this rezoning in order to construct a parking lot.

Any person who is interested, is invited to participate in the discussion of the proposed zoning change. Copies of the zoning text, zoning map and Application for Rezoning may be observed at the Farmington Hills City Hall on any business day between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

FRED HUGHES, Chairman
City of Farmington Hills
Planning Commission

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