

Learns mystery of the depths in submarine

Farmington Hills' Tom Buck will help deliver a 5,900-ton baby later this year.

The new arrival will be the 360-foot-long USS Pittsburgh, an attack submarine presently under construction in Groton, Conn.

The 27-year-old son of Robert and Vera Buck of Farmington Hills says he requested the Pittsburgh's pre-commissioning unit because the submarine will be nuclear-powered. Other submarines he's served aboard were diesel-powered.

"I also wanted to learn all about my submarine and help build it from scratch," Buck said.

As a member of the ship's first crew, Buck is a plank owner, traditionally entitled to a plank from the ship's deck when it's decommissioned.

THE 1975 North Farmington High School graduate reported to the Pittsburgh in April 1984. He has been responsible for ordering supplies ever since.

"I order everything they need on board," the petty officer first class said, "from office supplies to equipment for the reactor. I'm also helping set up my office, and training subordinates in all phases of submarine life."

Once the Pittsburgh is commissioned, Buck's responsibility will increase.

"I'll be accountable for all the ship's financial matters and supplies," the storekeeper said. "Also, I'll be a quality assurance petty officer, responsible for inspecting reactor parts and making sure everything is properly documented."

Buck says his position as quality assurance petty officer is very critical to the ship and the government.

"It requires me to be an expert in inventory management, and help prevent fraud, waste and abuse," he said. "If any overpricing of material, equipment or service is caught, I have to promptly report it."

The Michigan native says he chose the rating because he has always liked

accounting, a field he wants to pursue in college.

But that's not likely to happen this year. Buck says he's too busy helping the Pittsburgh become commissioned.

WHEN THE Pittsburgh enters the fleet, it will be the first submarine and the fourth U.S. Navy vessel to bear the name. Its predecessors include: an 18th-century ironclad gunboat; a 19th-century armored cruiser; and a World War II cruiser, which earned two battle stars for service in the Pacific.

The 360-foot-long submarine is designed to hunt and destroy enemy ships and submarines in wartime using missiles and torpedoes.

Because it's nuclear powered, the Pittsburgh will be able to operate at sea for years — without refueling. The only factors limiting its time at sea are the amount of food it can carry and the psychological endurance of the crew.

"To be a submariner, a person has to be determined to do a good job at all times," said Buck, an eight-year submarine veteran. "He must also be a little crazy to willingly volunteer to lock himself in something that small, which stays under water for long periods of time."

Buck says he volunteered for submarine duty because he enjoys traveling and "...because of the close-knit crew portrayed in movies."

Buck, who is serving on his fourth submarine, has traveled to the Far East, Canada, South America and Europe. "My favorite country is Japan," he said. "The people are friendly, and they always want to assist you in everything and make you feel comfortable."

"By traveling, I've gained an understanding of how other people live. This has helped me see people differently and appreciate their culture more."

Buck plans to make the sea service his career. "By traveling, I've gained an understanding of how other people live. This has helped me see people differently and appreciate their culture more."



In training

Petty Officer 1st Class Tom Buck (standing) trains on a submarine control center simulator at the Navy submarine training center in Groton, Conn.

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MSU names graduates

Michigan State University recently listed Farmington and Farmington Hills candidates for degrees.

Those from the area are: Janet Bain, Jamie Bothwell, Thomas Hart, Thomas Iman, Douglas Williams, John Culver and John Padool.

Also included were: Karen Gilhooly, Gretchen Good, Michael Kourakis, Frederick Kurzaja, Patrick McGorisk, Ernest Pascal, Robert Preitzlaff, Jeffrey Renta, Patricia Schlimmer, Steven Shiovtz and Victoria Wyll.

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CITY OF FARMINGTON COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS (Summary)

A regular meeting of the Farmington City Council was called to order at 8:30 p.m. on March 18, 1985, by Mayor Yoder in Council Chambers, 23600 Liberty Street, Farmington, Michigan.

PRESENT: Bennett, Hartcock, Tupper, Walker, Yoder.
OTHERS PRESENT: City Manager Deadman, Director Billing, Commander Cox, City Attorney Kelly, City Clerk Bushey.

Minutes of previous meeting were approved.

Minutes of other boards were received and/or filed.

Council received an invitation to participate in the Memorial Day Parade, May 27, 1985.

Council issued the following proclamations:

KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL WEEK — April 21-27, 1985 and
NATIONAL LITTERBAG DAY — April 18, 1985
KEEP FARMINGTON BEAUTIFUL MONTH — April 21-May 31, 1985 and
ARBOR DAY — April 25, 1985

TORNADO SAFETY WEEK — March 24-30, 1985

Council adopted Resolutions No. 1 and No. 2 of the Special Assessment Procedure for Street Improvements on Manning, Mayfield and Cloverdale Streets.

Council approved the purchase of one Public Safety administrative vehicle in the amount of \$7,032.89 through the Oakland County Cooperative Fleet bid process.

Council received and filed the Planning Commission's Six-Year Capital Improvement Program for 1985-1990.

Council established a Public Hearing at 8:00 p.m., April 1, 1985, on the proposed use of Federal Revenues Sharing Funds for the 1985-88 fiscal year.

Council increased its appointees to the Farmington Community Library Board from two to four members effective no later than July 1, 1985.

Council dissolved the Community Development Loans and Grants Committee.

The following appointments to Boards and Commissions were made:

Construction Board of Appeals — 4 year Term:
John Hills and William Ingalls.
Farmington Historical Commission — 3-year Term:
Robert Walker, Rita Monahan and Barbara Butler.

Monthly bills were approved for payment.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

RALPH D. YODER, Mayor
JOSEPHINE M. BUSHEY, City Clerk

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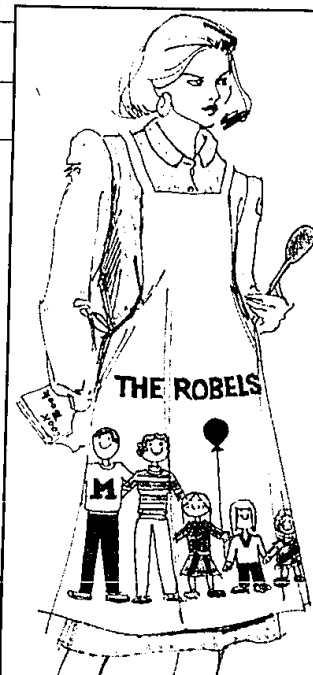
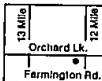
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