

Autumn scheduled to weigh in this month

By Raymond Bullock
special writer

The length of the day decreases by 1 hour and 52 minutes as autumn arrives in September.

On Sept. 1, sunrise was at 6:57 a.m. and sunset was at 8:08 p.m. for a total of 13 hours and 9 minutes of daylight. On Sept. 30, these times are 7:28 a.m. and 7:15 p.m. for a total of 11 hours and 13 minutes of daylight.

Three planets are visible in the morning sky in early September. The brightest object, rising in the east before the sun, is Venus. Below Venus,

and not as bright, is the planet Mars. Below Mars is Mercury, always a difficult object to see. Also nearby is the blue-white star Regulus in Leo.

A triangular grouping between Mars, Mercury and Regulus occurred on the morning of the 6th.

THE MOON is to the left of brilliant Venus on the morning of the 12th. The next morning the moon is to the left of Mars.

New moon is on the 14th. It is between earth and the sun and is not visible.

skywatch

Saturn will be found 3 degrees above the moon on the evening of the 18th. On the following evening the moon has moved into the constellation of Scorpius and the orangish-red star to the left of the moon is Antares.

In the morning sky on the 21st, Venus has moved to within 0.6 degrees of Regulus. Mars is below and to the left of

the pair. Also on the 21st, the moon is at first quarter phase. Mercury is at superior conjunction with the sun on the 22nd. It is behind the sun and is not visible.

AUTUMN OFFICIALLY begins at 10:08 p.m. on the 22nd. At that time the sun is overhead for anyone on the equator. Because of the tilt of our planet, the sun can be 23 1/2 degrees north of the equator or 23 1/2 degrees south. When the sun crosses the equator, going from north to south, autumn begins. The sun will rise due east and set due west.

Jupiter will be 4 degrees north of (above) the moon at 2 a.m. on the morning of the 24th. On the evening of the 23rd the moon will be approaching Jupiter. On the evening of the 24th the moon has passed Jupiter. The motion of the moon from one night to the next is very apparent when compared to the position of a bright star or planet. A nice alignment of Venus, Mars and Regulus occurs on the morning of the 26th. Regulus is above and to the right of Venus, Mars is below and to the left. Venus will appear to pass Mars early next month.

The full moon that occurs at 8:08 p.m. on the 28th is a special one. This is the Harvest Moon, the full moon that occurs closest to the first day of autumn.

Because the angle of the moon's orbit with respect to Earth's horizon is low in autumn, the moon will appear to rise in about the same part of the sky,

at about the same time each evening, and look full for several evenings in a row.

In fact, each moon rise for the four nights starting with the 27th will all occur within a single hour. The times are 7:09 p.m. on the 27th, 7:28 p.m. on the 28th, 7:47 p.m. on the 29th, and 8:07 p.m. on the 30th. The light scattered by the moon was a help to farmers, allowing them to continue their harvesting after sunset, hence it was called the Harvest Moon.

To learn more about the stars of autumn, come out to Cranbrook Institute of Science for a planetarium show. The program for September is "Autumn Skies and the Harvest Moon." For more information, call the 24 hour information line at 645-3100.

Raymond Bullock is coordinator of astronomy at Cranbrook Institute of Science.

Enhanced emergency phone line in works

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dent's phone number will automatically appear on a computer terminal screen in the dispatch center of the police headquarters.

"If for any reason, the caller is unable to complete the call or is unable to communicate with the dispatch center, the call can be traced to an address and help can be sent to the address," said Farmington City Manager Robert Deadman.

In those communities that do not

have the original 911 emergency system, the fire/police departments have special emergency numbers. Occasionally, people in an emergency cannot find the correct number. In some cases, residents have dialed the emergency number of another city, causing further delay in response, said Farmington Hills Police Chief William Dwyer.

"It's a problem throughout the country. There are just too many numbers to remember," Dwyer said. The E-9-1-1 system will be "a dramatic improvement in service to the community."

We'll have to educate people that they have to dial E-9-1-1, not 9-1-1 — there is no 11 on the dial."

EVERYONE in the county is not proposing it at this time, future plans for the emergency system include a "caller locator file," Deadman said.

This would allow the caller's address, telephone number and whether the call is coming from a single-family home or apartment, or commercial building, to appear on the computer terminal.

"Under this system, it removes the necessity of the dispatcher attempting to locate the address through the use of the telephone number," Deadman said.

Under the proposal, the county would pay 100 percent of the initial \$600,000 cost of rewiring that will be necessary to accommodate the E-9-1-1 system countywide, said Farmington City Manager Robert Deadman.

The rewiring will allow Farmington residents, for example, to dial E-9-1-1 and be automatically connected with the Farmington Department of Public Safety. This is particularly important when communities share several ex-

change numbers. The 47 exchange extending through Farmington Hills, Farmington and Novi, for example, Deadman said.

COUNTY OFFICIALS also say they will pay 50 percent of the cost of maintaining the system while the individual communities pay the remaining half, Deadman said.

County officials have also agreed to pay 50 percent of the cost of updating telephone number information, he said. In Farmington's case, Deadman said, the maintenance fee would cost the city about \$2,700 annually. The city would also have to buy a computer terminal to receive information available through the E-9-1-1 computer files. The terminal's cost is expected to run \$2,000-\$5,000, Deadman said.

Costick indicated that Farmington Hills staff will study the cost factors involved with their participation. Unlike the smaller Farmington department, though, Farmington Hills may need more than one terminal because police and fire calls are now handled by three dispatchers per shift. Farmington has one dispatcher per shift.

Jazzed-up cars shown

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He has been driving Fords since his California days when he and his older brother would take roadsters to dry lakes for racing. The hard, dry dirt of southern California's dry lakes make them optimal for racing, Clark said.

Members of the Michigan Roadsters, a small street rod club, Clark and Patty have enjoyed street rodding their whole married life.

AN ASSIGNMENT in Libya with Mobil Oil left the Kiblers road-test, but Clark compensated by "hot rodding oil tankers across the desert."

"It's not just a sport for guys," Patty said. "It's a neat way to meet people. No matter what state you're in, there're families involved."

The winner of several street rod events in previous conventions, Clark said, "I never bring a roadster to win, we come to have fun."

Clark fills it with premium unleaded gas and said he gets great gas mileage. He has taken it to more than 140 mph, and that's conservative, he said. Smooth moon disc wheels help cut down wind resistance and make it easier to reach top speeds.

"PEOPLE TEND to think of them (roadsters) as jalopies, but they're really more sophisticated than most family cars," Clark said.

Street rods must meet all the safety requirements of modern cars, including seatbelts.

"I'm a Ford fan," Clark said.



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