



# Rouge River cleanup set for June 1 in Hills

By Joanne Mallazewski  
staff writer

Get out your old clothes and a pair of boots. A pair of gloves wouldn't hurt either. The Rouge River needs your help.

It's that time of the year again for the volunteer cleanup effort in Farmington Hills. Rouge Rescue 1991 is scheduled to begin at 8 a.m. Saturday, June 1.

The morning will begin with registration of volunteer workers. City officials are expecting 200-300 volunteers plus city staff who will operate the heavy equipment needed to pull logs and debris out of the river. Volunteers will be asked to help carry debris from the river to dumpsters.

This year's cleanup site is behind Cedaridge Apartments, south of Grand River, on the west side of Middlebelt Road, just north of Belfast Avenue.

"There's some real heavy log jams

**Work will begin immediately after registration and should be completed by 11:30 a.m.**

through this portion of the river," said Jean Barrett, assistant to the Farmington Hills public services director. "We're focusing on this area and hopefully property owners along the river will join in and clean their portion of the river."

THE IDEA, Barrett said, is to return the river to its natural state by removing debris and logs that have accumulated and block the natural course of the river and its ability to cleanse itself.

Debris and logs block the main river course, forcing the water into

different courses. River bank erosion results, Barrett said.

This is the first year the cleanup is behind the Cedaridge Apartments. In past years, volunteers have cleaned up the river nearby behind the Farmington Nursing Home and behind Here's restaurant, east of Middlebelt, Barrett said.

Volunteers can show up on the cleanup day and register. But Barrett is asking interested residents to give her a call first so she knows how many will be on hand for lunch. Work will begin immediately after registration and should be completed by 11:30 a.m., followed by lunch. Volunteers also will receive Rouge Rescue 1991 T-shirt.

Barrett can be reached in the public services department at 473-9520.

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## Candidate wants to focus on budget

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search Center advisory board.

Locally, DeVries spearheaded the Citizens for Quality Schools committee which opposed the operating millage increase in the district last February. DeVries has vowed to oppose any new operating tax in the future. "I felt the passage of that millage (in February) wouldn't have done the district any good," he said. "We need to focus on the money we have."

"People who think you can get better education by throwing money at it are wrong. You've got to elect a school board candidate who wants to control spending and taxes."

HE HAS GONE on record, however, supporting the building of a new middle school and believes the district should attempt passage of bond issues to construct such new buildings. He believes, for example, it would have been more efficient to put up a new building for \$7 million

than a \$3.35 million project at Gill Elementary.

The district should "unload unproductive assets and put up new ones" such as Ten Mile School which is being used as an administrative annex, DeVries said. Perhaps the district could seek out potential buyers, such as the 47th District Court next door, he added.

He calls the recent pink-slipping of 84 teachers unnecessary, and said the district should look for further

cuts in administration. "Your kid's teacher should be the last one to go," he said.

An East Grand Rapids native, DeVries and his family have lived in Farmington Hills since 1980 and reside in the Hunt Club subdivision behind Hillside Elementary.

"I like living in Farmington Hills," he said. "I've seen a lot of improvement in the community, and I think it's got a good future. For everything we've got going here, we've got to have the best schools."

## Air quality at Gill Elementary to be tested after odor lingers

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he added.

School board trustee Cathleen Webb, who has two children attending Gill, said she and other parents are comfortable with the way the situation has been handled.

"As a parent, I have no concern for the safety of my children in the

building," she said. "I know it's an inconvenience for the staff, but that's the price of progress."

Duff said the problem rooms have been sealed off and in one classroom, holes are being drilled and vents to the outside to help. The rooms will be carpeted as part of the school renovation, and new ventilation and windows installed.

The \$3.35 million renovation package, which received preliminary approval last fall, is designed to increase the school's capacity to 500 students by adding six classrooms to the building and new carpeting and ceilings, update electrical lighting, add some cabinetry and update emergency and sound systems.



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