

Roll on Rouge . . .

Volunteers clear away debris, logjams in annual river rescue

By Alice Collins
staff writer

"I understand some of the fish are coming back, but I think it's going to be two or three more years before a man can bring his grandchildren to the Rouge to fish."

O.J. Nori, a retired resident of Farmington Hills, was one of 150 volunteers helping out Saturday morning at the Rouge River cleanup site behind the Cedaridge Apartments on Middlebelt in southeastern Farmington Hills.

"It's such a shame this river was allowed to get so filthy and polluted through the years," he said. "My original interest in the Rouge began 40 years ago when I lived in Dearborn. That was long before the Rouge cleanup was started."

The volunteers helped clean the debris and logjams out of the river at the Farmington Hills site Saturday morning. The effort was part of the annual Rouge River Rescue participated in by communities all along the river as it winds its way south through Oakland and Wayne counties.



Ben Niemiec, right, lives on the Rouge River in Farmington Hills. The day was hot and sunny and the mosquitoes joined the volunteers during Saturday's cleanup.

RECENT HEAVY rains in the area, including a Friday night storm, raised the river and made it a little trickier to work in. "The water's real high, we've had to curtail work in a couple of spots, we wanted to get to," said Jean Barrett, assistant to the Farmington Hills public services director and the person in charge of the cleanup.

"The storm blew out some of the log jams but created different and bigger ones than we had." Everyone was being especially careful, she said, "and EMS is standing by."

In addition to the rapid flow of the water, workers had to contend with poison ivy, endless mud and hungry mosquitoes.

BUSY ON THE LINE passing debris from the river to the trucks taking it away was Chris Donlon, a college student home for the sum-

mer. She was covered with mud from top to bottom. "We're moving a lot of stuff, that's for sure," she said.

"The fact that the river's high has been a help in floating some of the logs out of there," said Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi.

Plenty of gloves were being distributed. "We're allowed to turn in the dirty gloves and get clean ones. This is my third pair."

"It's wonderful to see the whole community rally around some-

thing," said councilwoman Nancy Bates. "There's one woman down there (helping along the river bank) who's in her late 70s."

Near the other end of the age scale was Dawn Sevy, 11, who came with her father, David Sevy. He brought his daughter as a learning experience, he said.

"You've got to give something back to the community, and we've got to give something back to nature, too. If we don't do it, who will?"



photos by SHARON LAMIEUX/staff

Above, Rob Lay of Walled Lake and Tanya Osborn of Farmington Hills display the size of some of the logjams. At right, Megan Lemmon (left) of Farmington Hills and Rosemary Blucher of Dearborn Heights pass along some of the debris that was blocking the river's flow.



police/fire calls

Listed below are some of the Farmington-area police incidents, fire calls and court cases reported during the past week:

- BOMB THREAT**
 An unidentified man with a voice described as deep and coarse called a law office on Northwestern Highway May 28, and announced twice, "There's a bomb in the building," according to a Farmington Hills police report.
 Police checked the building and found no bomb or anything out of the ordinary.
- LIGHTNING STRIKE**
 Firefighters discovered a 10-inch hole in the roof of a house on Parklane that is believed to have been caused by lightning, according to a Farmington Hills fire report.
 The homeowner returned home about 7 p.m., Friday, May 24, to find the main circuit breaker had blown and the telephone wasn't working. Even after restoring power, the TV remained inoperable, as well as the cable box. He also was unable to turn off the furnace blower. He then called firefighters who climbed to

the roof and found the hole.

- CAR FIRE**
 About \$500 damage resulted May 23 after a defective catalytic converter on a 1991 Isuzu Trooper overheated. The heat from the exhaust converter melted and burned carpeting inside the utility truck that was eastbound on M-102, north of Grand River. The fire was out when firefighters arrived, according to a Farmington Hills fire report.
- THEFTS REPORTED**
 An undetermined amount of cash and cartons of cigarettes were reported stolen from Country Ridge Market, 31102 Haggerty, May 30.
 A VCR and jewelry valued at \$1,397 were reported stolen from a house on Alycekey, May 24-28.
 Jewelry valued at \$3,200 was reported stolen from a house on Lake Park, May 28.
 A color TV valued at \$350 was reported stolen from a room at Knights Inn, 37527 Grand River, May 18-28.
 A 1991 Buick valued at \$16,000 was reported stolen from the Charter House, 21017 Middlebelt, May 30.

- A 1988 Chevrolet valued at \$10,000 was reported stolen from the Michigan National Corporation lot, 27777 Inkster, May 30.
 A computer valued at \$7,100 was reported stolen from the Burger King Corporation, 32605 12 Mile, May 16-30.
 A car phone, blouse and pants valued at \$370 were reported stolen from a 1990 Ford and 1987 Buick on Oakpointe, May 29-30.
 About \$250 cash was reported stolen from a unit at Independence Green Apartments at Grand River and Halsted, May 24-25.
 Speakers and a cassette valued at \$300 were reported stolen from a 1985 Ford on Oak Point Circle, May 30.
 A compact VCR and car phone valued at \$1,800 was reported stolen from a 1988 Mercedes Benz at the Holiday Inn, 38123 10 Mile, May 27-28.
- DAMAGE REPORTED**
 Damage was estimated at \$200 when someone shot the driver's window of a 1987 Chevrolet with a BB or pellet gun May 27-28.

Area man dies in head-on crash

An 81-year-old Farmington Hills man was killed in a head-on crash May 24. The accident happened at 9:50 p.m. on Farmington Road south of 13 Mile.

Gerald Willard was pronounced dead at the scene. He was driving a 1983 Mercury northbound on Farmington Road when a southbound 1989 Ford pickup truck crossed the center line and hit Willard's car 890 feet south of 13 Mile, said Sgt. Ray Cran-

ston of the Farmington Hills Police Department's Traffic Section.

The pickup was driven by Emanuele Mancini, 22, of West Bloomfield. Mancini and a passenger, Lisa Arpinio, 20, of Livonia, were seriously injured and transported to Botsford General Hospital in Farmington Hills, Cranston said.

"No seat belts were used in either vehicle," Cranston said. "Alcohol may be involved. Chemical tests

were taken but the results are not back yet."

The death was the second of 1991. The first occurred May 21 when Darryl W. Busser, 43, of Farmington Hills was struck by a pickup truck as he bicycled on Freedom Road. Busser died when he was removed from life support systems at Botsford General Hospital at 11 a.m. the following morning.

Hills water, sewer rates rise July 1

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Farmington Hills water and sewer users will have to dig deeper into their pocketbooks beginning July 1.

Water users will get a 74-cent increase per 1,000 cubic feet on use after July 1. The increase includes a 54 cents per 1,000 cubic feet from the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department and 20 cents per 1,000

cubic feet for operation and maintenance expenses from Oakland County, according to Tom Blasell, Farmington Hills public service director.

The county serves as Farmington Hills' agent for water and sewer services from Detroit. The county, Blasell said, recommended that the 1991-92 water and sewer increase be passed on to the consumer.

The increases mean that the current quarterly charge of \$8.54 will

increase to \$9.28 per 1,000 cubic feet. The minimum charge per quarter is \$14.85.

Sewage disposal rates will follow a similar pattern. Customers will pay another 29 cents for sewage disposal. Operations and maintenance also will increase 22 per 1,000 cubic feet.

Those increases will result in an additional quarterly charge of \$2.55 for the average household, Blasell said.

Jordan

David M. Jordan

A

IN HIS TIME

A

IN HIS TIME

Hal Newhouser and the Burden of Wartime Ball

MEET HAL NEWHOUSER

Saturday, June 8, 1 to 2 p.m. Book Shop, Birmingham

Take advantage of this unique opportunity to meet the man they called "Prince Hal" - former Tiger great Hal Newhouser. With a professional career that spanned nearly twenty years, he is considered one of the premier lefthanders of his time. Mr. Newhouser will be on hand to autograph copies of his biography "A Tiger In His Time," written by David M. Jordan, 1995

Jacobson's

We welcome Jacobson's Charge, MasterCard® and VISA®

Shop until 9 p.m. on Thursday and Friday. Until 6 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday.