

This stream runs through David Sharpe's subdivision. Although he has not seen it on a map of the Rouge River, Sharpe speculates that it may be part of the headwaters of the Rouge River.



SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

Studying the Rouge

Science teachers learn from river

By Susan Buck
staff writer

Some metropolitan Detroit area science teachers went back to school this summer to learn more about the Rouge River and how to incorporate the study of the river into their curricula.

David Sharpe, a Farmington Hills resident, is one of those teachers. Sharpe and his wife, Jeanette, also own a backyard in the Meadowbrook Hills, Woods and Forests subdivision, which has been designated a natural habitat, certified by the National Wildlife Federation.

"The Rouge River watershed encompasses most of the problems and concepts of our whole world as related to the environment," he said.

The Rouge River study operates under a four-year grant. Some 30 parochial and public school teachers participate each summer. The teachers visit the waste water plant, the incinerator.

"It's an intensive four-week program," Sharpe said. Sharpe, a 20-year resident of Farmington Hills, teaches science at Detroit Open School, an alternative public school located in the Seven Mile-Telegraph area of Detroit.

MANY ASPECTS of the Rouge are under study, Sharpe said, including a remedial action plan by the EPA assisting in the building of sewers to accommodate the runoff of surface water.

"One of the reasons the Rouge is so polluted is because of the combined sewer overflows," Sharpe said. Some 116 combined sewers overflow into the Rouge River with sewage when it rains.

"The hope is that by the end of the century, the Rouge River will be swimmable and boatable," he said.

Many metro-area high school and middle school students annually test the quality of water with nine different tests. A study called Project Green shares the data generated from the Rouge River with 120 other countries, Sharpe added.

Regionally, more concern lies with the Lower Rouge than the Upper Rouge system, which is Oakland County, according to DNR officials.

But the many road detours in Oakland County show activity in solving the sewer problems.

Facilities are almost complete in the Farmington-Evergreen pollution control system, according to Jack Patel, DNR project engineer in the surface water division.

"This can provide more flows from Oakland County without spilling into (the Rouge River)," he said.

This pollution control project is one of Oakland County's largest with a price tag of \$35 million and 22 contracts, Patel said.

SEWER WORK construction is also taking place in the communities of Lathrup Village, Bloomfield Hills, West Bloomfield, Bloomfield Township, Beverly Hills, Troy, Auburn Hills and Southfield.

"This is part of the segment which is looking at sewers and manholes," Patel said. The objective is to alleviate basement flooding in these communities.

Work on the DNR's Sanitary Sewer and Manhole Rehabilitation Program which began in October 1990 is 35 percent done.

"There were overloaded stretches of the sewer," Patel said. "There was a major constriction of the sewer system near Whysall Lane and Whysall Court in Bloomfield Hills. But ever since the new pump station came on line, sewage backup in basements has stopped."

The DNR is also overlooking construction of a main pump station at Long Lake and Woodward Roads servicing Auburn Hills, Bloomfield Hills and Bloomfield Township, which will run along the Woodward Corridor, Patel said.

"This is a 100 percent local funding project," he said. "It's being constructed right now and by the end of this year this will eliminate any other pollution problems we have."

The city of Lathrup Village is making major improvements in its own system by constructing a basin in a \$13 million project. Lathrup Village received a grant of 55 percent of the project, Patel said.

DNR is also conducting a major study of the Clinton-Oakland Interceptor system which services Commerce Township, Troy and Orion Township.

"We're looking at improvements in that collection system," Patel said.



Herm Boatin, an Edsel Ford high school teacher, together with David Sharpe, a Detroit science teacher who lives in Farmington Hills, study larvae found on the bottom of

rocks. The two men participated in a special study of the Rouge River this summer. They speculate this stream may be part of the Rouge River headwaters.

police/fire calls

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

INDECENT EXPOSURE

An unidentified man exposed himself as a 21-year-old Farmington Hills man walked south on Tuck Road, north of Nine Mile, July 31, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

While the 21-year-old walked along Tuck, the unidentified man, who was hiding in nearby bushes, whistled at him. When the man walked toward the bushes, the unidentified man exposed himself.

Immediately, the 21-year-old called police. When he returned to where he had been walking he saw the man run away between nearby houses.

The unidentified man, who was wearing brown pants and a white shirt, was described as about 5 feet, 10 inches tall, 140 pounds.

HATHAWAY TROUBLES

Several businesses on Hathaway in Farmington Hills received damage to cars parked in their lots from someone throwing rocks and bricks July 31 to Aug. 1, according to Farmington Hills police reports.

At one business, Clifton & Keating, 24750 Hathaway, damage was estimated at \$2,100. Doors and windows of two vehicles were shattered by rocks. At the VIP Auto Spa, 27784 Hathaway, a 1984 Ford received \$600 damage. A 1984 Plymouth received \$1,100 damage, a Ford pickup, \$700 damage, and a 1990 Ford, \$1,200.

At another unnamed business, rocks also damaged a 1984 Ford Tempo and a 1978 Ford. Damage to both cars was estimated at \$1,650.

INCENDIARY DEVICE

A homeowner on Willow Trail was surprised by a device on her front porch that had burned and left a small smoke ring on the concrete July 30, according to a Farmington

Hills police report.

When police arrived at the scene they found the charred device was filled with match heads, which caused it to burn. Police also found a burned cigarette that was believed to have ignited the device. No one was injured.

LARCENY BY TRICK

A Farmington Hills man told police he was tricked out of \$9,500 by a couple men who offered to sell him two diamond rings, according to a July 31 police report.

The man told police the unidentified men offered to sell the two rings for \$12,000 each. The man had a jeweler check the rings to ensure that the diamonds were authentic.

The man then gave the men \$9,500 for the rings. The next day, he realized the rings looked different. He returned to the jeweler who told him the rings he bought had phony diamonds.

Though the men told him they were staying at the Clarion Inn in Farmington Hills, he could not find them when he went there looking for them.

LARCENY REPORTED

Guests at the Clarion Inn, 31525 12 Mile, made off with items from their room July 23-29 while still owing the motel \$10.19 on their guest bill, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

The items, valued at \$315, included a bedspread, blankets, towels, lamps and water glasses.

GARAGE FIRE

A homeowner on Springbrook extinguished a fire in his garage July 31 with a garden hose, according to a Farmington Hills fire report.

The fire, which resulted in about \$500 damage began as the homeowner cooked with cooking oil on a range unit in the garage.

Firefighters removed smoke from the house and checked for more flame or burning.

TORCH FIRE

A homeowner on Heatherest Crescent was not injured July 30 when the hand-held torch he was using developed a leak at the valve and ignited, according to a Farmington Hills fire report.

The fire went out when the torch was dropped. A firefighter later turned off the valve on the torch.

THEFTS REPORTED

An unknown amount of cigarettes and a bottle of wine were reported stolen from the Grapevine Party Store, 29970 12 Mile, Aug. 1. The front door of the store was broken with a rock and live cartons of cigarettes were left behind outside the store by thieves.

A saxophone, an alto saxophone and base guitar valued at \$9,160 were reported stolen from a 1990 Ford at the Gateways Apartments on 12 Mile, between Orchard Lake and Middlebelt roads, July 31-Aug. 1. About \$10 cash also was reported stolen from a 1989 Honda at the apartment complex. From a 1987 Honda, a car phone valued at \$160 was reported stolen.

A VCR, video game, turn table, stereo receiver, CD player, a computer disc drive, computer monitor, computer printer, tools, a portable stereo radio, color TV, camera and flash valued at \$4,635 were reported stolen from a house on Wyckshire, July 28 to Aug. 1.

DAMAGE REPORTED

Damage was estimated at \$50 when someone sprayed white paint on a 1989 Chrysler on Briarleyke Drive, July 30-31.

Someone trying to steal a radio from a 1991 Jeep on Statler Lane resulted in about \$400 damage when a window was broken, as well as the dash, Aug. 1. A side vent window also was broken when someone tried to break into the utility vehicle earlier in the day.

Hospital-Providence Medical Center, The TRW office building and other employment sites along the route.

This new route is a part of eight new expansion routes being introduced by SMART. For further information on routes 300 and other expansion routes, call SMART Customer Information at 962-5515.

SMART starts new service

The Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation (SMART) began a new expanded service July 1 on Route 300-Grand River. This new route will serve the communities of Redford Township, Farmington, Farmington Hills and Novi.

Route 300 will provide service to Twelve Oaks Mall, Providence

Leewards

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