

Edison service criticized

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culation, complained of 20 outages in a year.

"The power went out at noon — before the storm hit on July 7," he said. "Last Thursday (Aug. 29), I lost power for nine hours. I lose power, but the people down the street don't."

There's nothing more frustrating, say residents, than looking out the window of your darkened home only to see neighbors across the street living normally with full electricity.

"My kids have gotten used to going to bed in the dark with flashlights like pioneers," said John Gavira, another Fleetwood resident.

RESIDENTS JOKE that electricity goes out as often as their MetroVision cable service.

Russell Van Dyke, an Emerald Forest resident, moved to the city 18 months ago from another state.

"In the last four months, I've had more outages than in the last 30 years (in the other house)," Van Dyke said. "They usually occur between six and midnight, when we want to use the house."

Alex Carayannopoulos, of Fleetwood, said he once called Edison to inquire about their cost-saving program of interruptible service. "Little did I know that interruptible service was automatic," he said.

"Sometimes the greatest humor comes from those most oppressed," said a sympathetic Mayor Aldo Vagstad.

But Charise Fulton's story was not humorous. The Country Circle resident emotionally explained to the audience that her son has a heart defect and needs to be put on a machine.

"My child's heart stops," she

said. "Edison said there's no priority service. I'm frustrated that I have to pick up and go to someone else's house every week."

IT'S UNFORTUNATE that Edison is "the only game in town," said Lou Simpson of Essex. Some residents suggested that Consumers Power be invited to bid on electrical service.

Richard Frankel of Rockshire suggested that the city put in penalty provisions in the new franchise. "Let Edison notify us if they will shut power down for more than 30 minutes," Frankel said.

Joe Mannino an employee of Romano Inc. on 14 Mile Road said his store has lost power 20 times in the last year.

"We've lost \$30-40,000 in food spoilage," Mannino said. "People have gotten used to calling our other locations."

Eric Koefoot, of Woodbrook, grew up in Chicago and survived Hurricane Gloria while a student at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Even his brother who lives in the "boondocks of Alaska" hasn't lost power 35 times like he has in Farmington Hills, Koefoot said.

Barry Canner of Essex summed

the problem up with his opinion: "The area wasn't planned properly."

Other residents said they were fed up about their personal contact with Edison.

Jora Haglund, of Dorchester, experienced "inaccurate billing." When she spotted a meter reader she beckoned him to come and get a closer look at the meter rather than standing so far away.

"No, I can do this (read the meter) with my eyes closed," Hughes quoted the Edison worker.

Said Maurice Vermeulen, an Edison manager for Oakland County, "We've always had it (power interruptions), but before digital clocks people didn't know it."

Toward the end of Edison's presentation, councilman Larry Lichtman opened up, calling explanations insufficient and suggesting Edison ignores Farmington Hills while Birmingham and the Bloomfield areas never seem to have difficulty.

"I think the problem is social," Lichtman said. "Farmington Hills is down on the social hierarchy of Detroit Edison. I've got 2 1/2 pieces of paper (the Edison press release). You must think I'm an idiot."

Phil Sims holds a coin in his right hand and says, "Everything revolves around money" — with Detroit Edison. He was one of many Hills residents who complained about the utility.

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obituaries

THOMAS GEORGE MARTTILA

Mr. Marttila, 41, formerly of Farmington Hills died Aug. 30. Mr. Marttila was a 1968 graduate of North Farmington High School.

Survivors include his parents, Courtney and Peggy Marttila; brothers, Michael, Lee and Tim; sisters,

Sally and Nancy; grandmother, Sarah Chalmers.

Services were private. Memorials may be made to the National Marfan Foundation for Research, 383 Main Street, Port Washington, N.Y. 11050-3121.

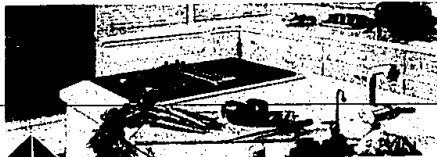
Arrangements were made by the McCabe Funeral Home, Farmington Hills.

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