

THURSDAY, JUNE 9, 1994

FARMINGTON  
NOTES

On traffic flow

The Michigan Department of Transportation and the road commission for Oakland County have joined with local governments in an attempt to improve traffic flow in the Northwestern Highway/14 Mile area.

People can speak out on this issue at three upcoming meetings in the area. The project will be discussed:

■ On Thursday, June 9, at 7 p.m. at the Orchard Lake City Hall, 3955 Orchard Lake Road, in a program hosted by Concerned Citizens of West Bloomfield.

■ On Wednesday, June 15, at 7 p.m. at the Farmington Hills City Hall, 11 Mile and Orchard Lake roads.

■ On Thursday, June 16, at 7 p.m. in Conference Room C at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile.

M.DOT officials will be on hand at these meetings to discuss traffic problems in the 14 Mile and Northwestern area. For more information, call D.DOT's Edmund Waddell at 1-517-373-8090 or Brian Blasing of the road commission at 645-2000.

'Take Five' at Mercy

Jazz and tap dance students from The Community Center of Farmington and Farmington Hills will present their annual dance recital "Take Five" at 7 p.m. Thursday, June 16, in the auditorium of Mercy High School, 11 Mile and Middlebelt roads.

Dance instructor Shirley St. Mary has been teaching at The Community Center for 25 years. Marion Kniesly has been training students at the center for the past four years.

Tickets for "Take Five" are \$5 and are available at The Community Center, 24705 Farmington Road, and at the door at Mercy on performance night.

For more information, call the center at 477-8404 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday and from 9 a.m. to noon Saturdays.

# Rouge Rescue: Workers' time and the river



Once again the spirit of volunteerism came shining through as hundreds of people from the Farmington area and other communities turned out to rescue the Rouge River and its tributaries.

BY RALPH R. ECHTINAW  
STAFF WRITER

About this time every year, Farmington-area residents help their local river out of a jam or two - logjams, that is.

At the Farmington Hills site of Rouge Rescue '94, near Middlebelt and Eight Mile roads, city officials, city employees and more than 100 volunteers broke up a tremendous logjam.

"This is a perfect example of how a community pulls together for the common good," said Farmington Hills resident Aldo Vagnozzi, who has attended eight of the nine Rouge Rescues and has the T-shirts to prove it. "It's just a very responsive community. I hope we're making a dent."

Vagnozzi reports that a bowling ball was found, but alas, "it wasn't my size."

Farmington Hills resident Helen Hamecky attended her first Rouge Rescue Saturday. "We heard the trucks," she said. "We saw them coming through the woods, so we walked over." When she says "we," Hamecky means herself and her dachshund "Schnazz," who doesn't like to be picked up.

Rouge Rescues were held in communities along the entire length of the river and its tributaries.

Redford Township resident Joyce Caudill has a compulsion to throw around in the Rouge this time of

year, battling the tree limbs, bicycles, batteries and bowling balls for primacy of the waterway.

"She's always in the river," said Caudill's sister, Karen Hicks. "Every year she gets in the river, pulling stuff out."

Caudill has exhibited this behavior annually since 1989, when she and Hicks got involved with the Rouge Rescue cleanup. "I started out being good this year and said, 'I'm not going to get grubby,'" she said, "but I have to. I've gone under a few times, but not by choice."

Caudill, Hicks and a crew of 200 or so labored at three sites in Redford Township Saturday, pulling debris from the Rouge. "We got a lot more (volunteers) here than I thought we were going to have," said Hicks, the Redford site coordinator for the past six years.

In Westland the volunteers toiled alongside, and in, the Tonquish Creek, a tributary of the Rouge, clearing three logjams, 30 tires, car parts and a barrel. Perhaps the most youthful of all Rouge Rescue crews, this group was primarily comprised of teenagers from Livonia's Churchill High School earning an extra 15 points toward their grades in science, sociology and physics.

These students included Tonya

See RESCUE, 16A



ANN HEALEY/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Handy tool: Daren Collins uses a chain saw to make little logs from big ones with the help of Dan Harrison at Rouge Rescue '94 last Saturday.

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