

Hills man engineers success worldwide

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER

Alan Prasuhn, chairman of Lawrence Technological University's (LTU) Civil Engineering Department, knows outstanding civil engineering projects when he sees them.

Prasuhn, a Farmington Hills resident, has traveled around the globe to recognize these projects. He has been at LTU since 1990, serving recently as interim dean of LTU's College of Engineering.

The American Society of Civil Engineers recently bestowed the William W. W. American Civil Engineer (ASCE) Award on Prasuhn.

The award cites individuals who have made efforts to promote the history, tradition, developments and activities of the ASCE.

Prasuhn, who has represented the ASCE at historic landmark presentations in the United States and abroad, was cited in particular for "serving as an extraordinary ambassador."

In Ireland, he presented historical plaques for the Boyne Bridge, which serves as the key structure on the Dublin-Belfast rail link and was the site of the first large-scale continuous wrought iron girder beams.

In Texas, Prasuhn honored the San Antonio Riverwalk and Flood Control System.

The civil engineer - called a globe trotter by LTU - has seen many projects, but has formed his favorites.

"For it's sheer magnitude, the Fourth Bridge in Edinburgh," Prasuhn said, as a favorite. "For it's location, the Victorian Falls Bridge in Zimbabwe."

He also lists the British railway bridge - which held the world's record for span when it was built in 1890 - and the Salginetobel Bridge in Switzerland among personal favorites.

"The trips always end with some sort of local touches," he said. "In Edinburgh (Scotland), it was bagpipes. In England, we had Morse dancers. In China, it was firecrackers. In Switzerland,



Do-all dean: Hills resident Alan Prasuhn, chairman of Lawrence Technological University's (LTU) Civil Engineering Department, has been at the school since 1990, serving recently as interim dean of LTU's College of Engineering

we had Alpine horns. In Zimbabwe, they had a marimba band right in the middle of the bridge," he said.

The ASCE award is the third Prasuhn has earned during the last two years. He received the 1995 Outstanding Civil Engineer of Southeastern Michigan award for the local section of the ASCE. Last year, he received the Outstanding Civil Engineering

Alumnus award from Ohio State, where he earned his undergraduate degree.

He earned his master's degree from the University of Iowa and his Ph.D. from the University of Connecticut.

"This is one of the top ASCE awards," Prasuhn said. "I'm very pleased, very surprised. I was so pleased because it was recognition by my peers."

DDA brings winter fun downtown

The Farmington Downtown Development Authority is sponsoring a Winter Fun Series for youngsters at the Civic Theatre.

Puppet, magic and musical shows are planned for six weeks, starting 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 11, at the Civic, Grand River, east of Farmington Road.

Admission is \$2 a person. Infants age 1 and under are free. On Jan. 11, "No Veggies for Me" will be presented by Rick's Puppet Theatre. The show, which is educational and fun for young and old alike, is sponsored by Three Oaks Furniture.

Mary Ellen "The Clown" performs with magic, puppets, games, balloons, and face painting on Jan. 18.

Guy Louis brings his American musical extravaganza, Chautauqua Express, to the Civic Theatre on Jan. 25.

On Feb. 1, "Sheer Magic & Comedy" will be presented by Doug Sheer. The show is sponsored by Clothes Encounters.

Other shows planned are: Eileen Clark on Feb. 5 and The Pippin Puppets on Feb. 15.

Each performance is approximately 45 minutes and is suitable for all age groups. For information, call the DDA hotline at 473-7283

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OBITUARIES

ROBERT WALDIE

Mr. Waldie, 81, of Farmington Hills died Dec. 23.

Born in Pt. Colbourne Ontario, Canada, Mr. Waldie was a machinist for Detroit Diesel. He retired in 1982. He was a volunteer at Greenfield Village and Farmington Senior Center awarded him for his services.

Survivors include his wife, Theodora; son, Robert; daughter, Joan Klepinger; five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

A memorial service was held Friday, Dec. 27 at First United Methodist Church of Farmington with the Rev. Wayne Largo officiating.

Memorials may be made to Angela Hospice, 14100 Newburgh, Livonia 48154.

Arrangements were made by the Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington.

LEONA M. STAPERT

Mrs. Stapert, 91, of Farmington died Dec. 23 in Botsford Hospital, Farmington Hills.

Born in Farmington, Mrs. Stapert was a homemaker. She attended Farmington Schools through 12th grade. She was baptized and confirmed at

Salem United Church of Christ where she was a member.

Surviving is one daughter, Norma.

Services were at the Heeney-Sundquist Funeral Home, Farmington, with the Rev. John Maki officiating. Burial was in Grand Lawn Cemetery, Detroit.

RUSSELL J. HUNT

Mr. Hunt, 83, of Farmington Hills died Dec. 23 in Botsford Hospital, Farmington Hills.

Born in Cass City, Mr. Hunt was a teacher. He lived in Farmington Hills 50 years, coming from Chicago. He retired in 1975 from teaching in Redford Township after having taught since 1945. He taught in New Baltimore for four years prior to Redford Township.

Survivors include his wife, Alice; stepchildren, Arthur Damman, Katherine Gow, Alice Patton and Leo Damman; sister, Catherine Wyman; 10 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

Services were at the Heeney-Sundquist Funeral Home, Farmington, with the Rev. John Trate of Southfield Community Church officiating. Burial was in Elkland Township Cemetery, Cass City.

Hills wants to keep close tab on finances

BY WILLIAM COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills received high praise from its auditor, but wants to make sure the city keeps close tabs on its finances.

Douglas Bohrer, a partner with Plante and Moran, told the city council that a lot had been accomplished in the fiscal year ending June 30.

"You've added an ice arena, a youth program and done an amazing amount in a year," Bohrer told council members at the Dec. 16 regular council meeting.

Along with the praise, Bohrer suggested that the city keep good "accounting controls" on the new ice arena, which has brought in enough money to pay for itself to date.

City Manager Dan Hobbs and City Finance Director/Treasurer Charles Rosch said the audit is an important tool in guiding the city as to how it handles finances and what areas need special attention.

"For any organization this large, it is important to keep

track of the money," Hobbs said.

That is especially important because in addition to the \$32.87 million the city collects for its general fund and money it collects for the special revenue and capital project funds (\$10.83 million), and debt service funds (\$9.20 million), the city collects money for the ice arena, retirement system, trust fund and \$110.3 million for the county, state and federal government, including the school taxes.

"We have a lot of responsibility for money that isn't even ours," Hobbs said.

The audit samples about 1 percent of the city's financial transactions. And although it shows that the city is doing a good job of accounting, there are areas where special attention is needed.

One is at remote cash receipt locations, such as through recreation programs, workshops and

events at the city's parks and the ice arena.

The city has also is considering implementing a perpetual inventory system at the ice arena pro shop for certain items with a high retail value.

"This is more like an enterprise in private industry," Rosch said. "We have to make sure the staff, which is mostly part-time, is trained."

Farmington Hills will also be grappling with collecting money for use of right-of-ways when telecommunications providers use them for cable and other equipment.

The debate is whether this is going to be used for free," Hobbs said.

Hobbs said the city is also allowing payments of many more services, including registrations, to be paid with a credit card.

"This is a credit card society," he said.

RFP OAKLAND COUNTY FAMILY COORDINATING COUNCIL STRONG FAMILIES/SAFE CHILDREN

Proposals will be accepted in the office of the Oakland County Purchasing Division, Executive Office, 1200 N. Telegraph Road, Pontiac, MI 48341, for addressing child care needs in Oakland County by either providing or coordinating direct support to low-income families for child care. Up to \$75,000 in funding will be available for prospective contractors. A pre-proposal meeting is scheduled for January 10 at 10 a.m. in the County Executive's Office, Second floor Conference Room. This meeting is recommended. To receive a copy of this proposal, please contact by letter or by fax: Lisa Grice, Oakland County Purchasing Division, Fax: 810-858-1677. Proposals can be picked up in person or will be mailed upon receipt of your written request.

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