

Committee advises emergency kits

BY PAUL R. PACE
STAFF WRITER

Most people take police and fire services for granted, says Cheryl McGuire.

If a major emergency happens in Farmington Hills, be it a snow storm or a terrorist attack, people need to know how to look out for themselves and their neighbors, said McGuire, a member of Farmington Hills Emergency Preparedness Committee.

"Your police and fire services are finite resources," she said. "The number one resource in my home are the people in my home."

On Wednesday evening, the group held its first in a series of public information meetings on how residents can look after themselves in times of major emergencies until professionals can arrive.

About 90 people attended the meeting at the Costick Activities Center. Many people responded that they were resenting their neighborhood watch group.

The committee was spearheaded by Mayor Nancy Bates in response to the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. She said being prepared for emergencies, be they natural or inflicted, is something every resident

should consider.

Committee member and Farmington Hills Assistant Fire Chief Pete Baldwin said that at any single time there are about 72 firefighters on duty for the city of nearly 85,000 residents.

"We cannot come to everyone's aid at the same time," he said. "You can have an event so large it can overwhelm the city."

EMERGENCY KITS

McGuire said she, her husband and two kids each has his or her own backpack filled with emergency gear so if disaster strikes, they all can run out of the house without having to change clothes. And they can manage to live fairly comfortably for up to three days on the supplies.

"I've had this long before 9/11," she said.

She emptied out her personal emergency backpack to show the audience what it contained. It included rope, a first-aid kit, bandages, spare eyeglasses, rubber gloves, a rain coat, toothpaste and brush, hand sanitizer, spare prescription drugs, long-lasting food products like peanut butter, flashlight, radio, batteries, shoes and three gallons' worth of bottled water.

She said the American Red

Cross has a suggested Family Disaster Supply Kit booklet.

"These are things you'll need if you're waiting to get into a shelter," McGuire said. "It's suggested you have a gallon of water per day on hand."

"I would like to never use my insurance," she said of the emergency kit. "We've had these kits for a number of years and we've never had to use it."

But, she said, it's peace of mind to know they are there. A member of the audience asked whether gas masks are a good idea.

Baldwin said unless a person plans to wear a mask all the time, its effectiveness is very limited.

"By the time you've been exposed it will be several days before you'll likely feel the effects," he said of chemical or biological weapons.

Other audience members wanted to know where to sign up for CPR classes and a list was passed around to show them in a fire department-sponsored class.

Bates said it's also important that residents get to know their neighbors and know if someone needs help in times of emergency.

"Get to know your neighbors," she said.

McGuire added that it's a

good idea to identify the children or seniors who might live alone in a neighborhood.

"Identify the people with special needs," she said.

McGuire also suggested people know how to shut off their own utilities in their homes. If there is structural damage, it may be important to shut electricity, gas or water off, she said.

Farmington Hills resident Robert McGraw was at the meeting Wednesday. He said he is a member of the neighborhood watch program in his Arbor Park subdivision.

"I found it very informative," he said after the meeting. "I wanted to come so we can be involved as a subdivision. I learned a few things."

Baldwin said the point of the meetings is for people to get the word out to their neighbors, co-workers and friends in the community.

"We're hoping you go out into your community and talk to them about the things you learned," he said.

The meeting will be rebroadcast on local cable channel 8.

Bates said after the meeting she was pleased with the turnout.

"It shows the community is concerned," she said.

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DAVID BRENNER/OBSERVER

Cheryl McGuire is the chair of the subcommittee handing individual and family preparedness. The disaster kit holds everything from bottled water, to first aid supplies, to emergency cash. Each family member should have their own kit.

Contractor's work blamed for massive water main break

BY DAN WEST
STAFF WRITER

Detroit Water and Sewer Department officials are blaming faulty underground installation of fiber-optic lines for the massive water main break last Sunday that busted sections of Inkster and 12 Mile roads and caused flood damage to a dozen homes in Southfield's San Marino neighborhood.

It will cost millions to repair damaged roadway and pipes under Inkster Road and officials say it'll be at least a month before the road is fixed.

"There was a lot of damage,

It will cost millions to repair damaged roadway and pipes under Inkster Road and officials say it'll be at least a month before the road is fixed.

but it could have been worse," said Southfield City Administrator Don Gross.

"Fortunately it was just water and no sewer problem was involved."

DWSD officials said they believe an instrument used to drill underground paths for the

fiber-optic lines scraped the 60-inch mains that are between 35 and 37 years old. The lines were installed, DWSD officials said, by a small telecommunications company that provides telephone and Internet services.

The lines were installed

shortly before the 12 Mile-Inkster intersection was rebuilt two years ago.

"They say it's obvious by looking at the pipes," Gross said. "They said the (tool) got too close to the main. You can't blame the age of the mains because they are designed to have a life of about 60 years."

The pipes are 20 feet below the road, DWSD crews are inspecting other sections of the pipe to find similar scrapes blamed for last weekend's destructive main break. As of Friday, Gross said four sections of pipe under Inkster between 11 Mile and 12 Mile needed to

be replaced.

"If there aren't too many scraped mains found, they are optimistic the mains will be fixed by the end of the week-end," Gross said. "It takes a while to fix these because they are so large. It's not like they keep extras on the shelf."

Also this weekend, the Road Commission for Oakland County will assess the ground underneath 12 Mile road to evaluate the amount spurring water damage so it can determine how they will fix the county-managed road. By the end of the weekend, Gross said the road commission might be

able to estimate when 12 Mile road will re-open.

Inkster is a city-maintained road, Gross said. DWSD will repair the road after they take care of main damage. This damaged section of Inkster was rebuilt just two years ago.

"It'll be at least a month before Inkster is repaired," Gross said.

DWSD also sent claims personnel to owners of damaged homes last week, Gross said. DWSD and home owners' insurance companies will pay for property damage.

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Purchase and Redevelopment of 21000 Northwestern Hwy. Southfield, Michigan

Land Size:
3.47 acres
(115,153 acres)

Zoning:
Regional
Shopping RS

Minimum Bid:
\$3.00/square foot.
One acre minimum

Required
Deposit:
\$7,500.00

Pre Proposal
Meeting:
1 p.m. 9/30/02
Millennium Centre
15600 J.L. Hudson Dr.
Southfield, MI

call to attend
(248) 354-4836

The City of Southfield, Michigan, a municipal corporation, seeks parties interested in the purchase and redevelopment of 21000 Northwestern Highway, a cleared parcel formerly housing the Stouffer Northland Inn. Located within Southfield's Cornerstone District, this property's superior location affords the opportunity for an excellent development project.

Proposals will be judged by quality of project, impact on the existing tax base, capacity to provide long-term benefit to the City, and cohesion with surrounding land uses.
Proposal deadline is October 21, 2002.

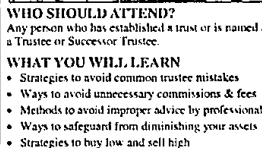
To receive an official "Request for Proposals" document, contact the Purchasing Department at (248) 354-4836, or the Cornerstone Development Authority at (248) 443-5311.

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COMMON MISTAKES MADE BY TRUSTEES



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LIVONIA Monday, September 23, 2002 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. (Afternoon) Livonia Civic Center Library 32777 5 Mile Rd. (E. of Farmington Rd.)	PLYMOUTH Wednesday, September 25, 2002 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. (Afternoon) Plymouth Cultural Center 525 Farmer Rd. (between N. Dixie and 5 Mile off Shelden)
SOUTH LYON Thursday, September 26, 2002 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. (Afternoon) Salem/South Lyon Dist. Library 9800 Pontiac Trail	NORTHVILLE Tuesday, October 1, 2002 10:00 a.m. - Noon (Morning) Northville Senior Center 215 W. Cady
NOVI Wednesday, October 2, 2002 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. (Afternoon) Novi Civic Center 45175 W. 10 Mile (between Novi Rd. & Taft)	CANTON Thursday, October 3, 2002 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. (Afternoon) Canton Public Library 1200 S. Canton Center Rd. (not library endorsed)
CLARKSTON Wednesday, October 9, 2002 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. (Afternoon) Independence Twp. Library 6495 Clarkston Rd. (between M 15 & Soshabaw)	WATERFORD Tuesday, October 15, 2002 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. (Afternoon) Waterford Senior Center 6455 Harper
FARMINGTON Thursday, October 17, 2002 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. (Evening) Farmington Community Library 23500 Liberty St. (1 blk. S. of Grand River)	ALL SEMINARS FREE OF CHARGE

NO RESERVATIONS NECESSARY

FOR INFORMATION CALL (248) 640-8710 (EXT. 115)

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