

Farmington Observer

Volume 93 Number 57

Thursday, April 29, 1982

Farmington, Michigan

68 Pages

Twenty-five cents

1982 Suburban Communication Corporation. All Rights Reserved

Nuclear fears spawn action

By Craig Picchura
staff writer

A small group of people living within 10 miles of the soon-to-be-completed Detroit Edison Fermi II nuclear power plant are preparing for the worst.

But the majority of citizens will find something better to do than sit in on an emergency preparedness meeting 7-9 p.m. conducted by the Michigan State Police in the Monroe City-County Building.

The whole idea of rehearsing for a disaster that seems so remote is unsettling to most persons. Gail Phelps, of York, Pa., felt the same way before there was an accident at the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant, located 12 miles away from her home.

Today, she's a spokesman for the Three Mile Island Public Resource Center, a coalition of 12 community groups that urges citizens to make sure their community leaders have formulated plans dealing with nuclear bomb and power plant disasters — including mass evacuation plans.

"I'm sorry to say I wasn't involved in the campaign until after the accident," said Phelps, who was in town last week to meet with Monroe community groups and appear on television.

IN ORDER for Detroit Edison to secure Nuclear Regulatory Commission licensing for construction to continue at the plant, plans must be made involving the citizenry of the entire area that could presumably be affected by a nuclear accident — including far-off Farmington Hills.

Everyone living within a 10-mile radius of the power plant is in what the Michigan State Police call the primary danger zone. The Farmington area, situated about 35 miles from the plant, lies in the second circle of the map marked the secondary danger zone.

Knowing that she wasn't in the 10-mile radius of Three Mile Island didn't make Phelps feel any better when

'People can go ahead and stick their heads in the sand and pretend it's not going to happen. But we in Pennsylvania have been there, unprepared, and know how horrible it is.'

— Gail Phelps
Three Mile Island
Public Resource
spokeswoman

word of the nuclear accident was broadcast. She remembers the panic and confusion shared by public officials and citizens.

"Everyone was so confused," Phelps said. "The people in the state agencies didn't know what they were doing. There were no real plans, just skeletal plans, listing who to call in the event of an emergency. When the time came they found they had a bunch of outdated phone numbers. Nobody had thought realistically about evacuating large numbers of people."

After trying in vain to convince her husband to leave the area, Phelps grabbed her cat, Mickey, and drove to her parents' home in Washington, D.C., until the cloud of radioactive gasses passed.

TO PUT THE emergency in a local perspective, Mary Johnston, 47, of Farmington Hills, media representative for the Safe Energy Coalition, said 112,000 persons live within a 10-mile radius of Fermi II while 4 million persons reside in the 50-mile radius of the plant which includes Howell.

She cites a Brookhaven Report funded by the NRC which states that says if

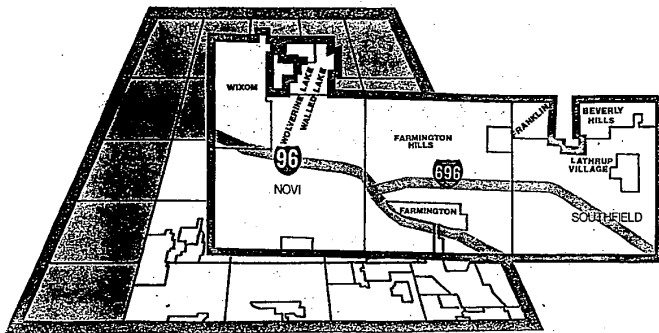
Please turn to Page 6A



Gail Phelps



Mary Johnston



Oakland County has outlined a plan of action in case of nuclear danger. Residents in the above communities would travel on I-596 west to exit 67, state road 66 north. From there, traffic would proceed north (approximately 60 miles) to the city of Remus, at the junction of state

road 66 and state road 20. From this primary point traffic will be directed to select areas of Lake, Osceola and Mecosta counties according to host assignment areas.

Endorse disarmament

Youth ponders threat of nuclear war

By Craig Picchura
staff writer

Not since the 1950s has there been so much talk about the threat of nuclear war.

Last week was even designated as national "Ground Zero Week" by nuclear activists to call attention to the buildup of nuclear arms.

The possibility that a hostile nation, or our own, will use atomic weapons in their lifetime worries young persons in Farmington and Farmington Hills. They discussed the apocalyptic subject between throws of a softball, strums of the guitar and flips of the Frisbee on a sunny Tuesday afternoon in Farmington City Park.

"It's something that worries me," says Bill Stewart, 17, a student at Farmington Harrison High School. "If something happens, I'm either going to die in the blast or go to war. A lot of people I know take it as a funny joke saying it's not going to happen. But, to me, it's a serious matter."

If Stewart had his way, the U.S. government would resume arms limitation talks with the U.S.S.R.

The problem with using nuclear weapons, says Kristie Pitera, 16, of Farmington, a student at Harrison High School, is that it's so hard to contain the radiation from a blast.

"Look at the side effects," she said. "Your skin and hair can fall out. That's pretty gross. A bomb could blow up somewhere way over there and your skin would start falling out here. You just don't know."

NEARLY EVERYONE interviewed thought disarmament was a goal the United States should seek but many were skeptical about the U.S.S.R. ever accepting the idea.

"All the petitions in the world won't stop (Soviet leader Leonid) Brezhnev," said Robert Voigt, 23, of Farmington. "The Russians are the scum of the earth. They keep their people stupid. They just know what their government wants them to (know). I don't think pounding the pavement with picket signs is going to stop nuclear weapons. It's going to take negotiations and it's failed so far."

The threat of nuclear war doesn't worry him, says Voigt.

"If there's a nuclear war what are we going to do about it?" he asks. "You'll find us at the park. We'll sit here and party and enjoy the world while it lasts."

Lisa Griffiths, 16, of Farmington, a student at Farmington High, said she's sure there are young people her age in a park somewhere in Russia who are just as afraid of nuclear war as she is.

"I don't know how people in Russia feel," she says. "I've never been there, I don't know too much about them. But they're human, they don't want to die."

While she's sure the majority of Russian people are friendly, Miss Griffiths says she wouldn't want to live under the Soviet system where the government can control what a person says, does for a living and where he lives.

INSTEAD OF working to build more efficient ways to blow up the universe, Tony Jurk, 19, of Farmington Hills

says scientists should work on devices to negate nuclear weapons' effects. The Lawrence Institute of Technology student says instead of building missiles to counteract other missiles, inventors should "get behind something like force fields you find in science fiction."

Unlike many who oppose nuclear weapons, Jurk said nuclear power itself is not an evil.

"I believe we need nuclear energy and synthetic fuels," he said. "There are always going to be nuclear things. The question is what do we do with it?"

While the thought of nuclear war is troubling, Jurk says "I'm not biting my nails about it."

Missy Maloney, a 17-year-old student at Farmington High, says "I never thought about it" when asked if she worries about the use of nuclear weapons.

"It's something scary when you think about it," she adds.

Bob Espinoza, 20, of Garden City, manager of the Sreden House restaurant, says debate about nuclear bombs will be academic if an atomic war ever breaks out.

"The White House has got these underground offices beneath it to protect the President and his staff if nuclear war ever breaks out," Espinoza says.

"What about us?"

"I'm sure there will be use of nuclear weapons if we go to war," he adds. "They'll use it, otherwise why do we have them? But I don't think we'd be here to worry about it, except the ones in the White House shelters."



Bob Espinoza



Lisa Griffiths

Sick economy hits emotions of both affluent and poor

By M.B. Dillon Ward
staff writer

A staggering increase in child abuse, domestic violence and alcohol and drug abuse among Farmington area families is creating a backlog for the Farmington Area Advisory Council.

FAAC, housed in a renovated school building at 23450 Middlebelt, provides counseling to adolescents and parents, and prevention and education programs and referral services to area residents.

The severity of problems is growing, as is the duration of treatment, according

to Jimmy Patton, FAAC clinical services director.

ALL SOCIO-ECONOMIC groups are suffering the effects of Michigan's ailing economy, Patton added.

It runs the gamut from the extremely affluent at one end to the very poor at the other. We don't see more clients from one end than the other.

"Some folks just aren't able to make ends meet. Others — people who used to worry about whether they were going to buy a Mercedes or a 10-speed bike — are now worrying about the basics."

The climb in family-oriented prob-

lems due to unemployment has been most noticeable.

"In families where both parents used to be working, both are now home, not working in many cases. There's a tremendous amount of family contact, so the family's status quo is being thrown out," Patton said.

"THE RESULT is increasing violence in the home, and growing alcohol abuse. And in talking with school administrators and police, we know child abuse is drastically up."

Referrals to FAAC from hospitals, psychiatrists and detoxification centers also are on the rise, Patton said.

Despite FAAC's heavy caseload and increased operating costs, the number of staffers has remained constant at 15 counselors, social workers and psychologists.

Its annual operating budget of \$200,000 is contributed by the county and state Offices of Substance Abuse, and the cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills.

Farmington Hills contributed \$56,274 toward FAAC's current budget, and FAAC will receive \$57,526 next year if its budget request is approved by the City Council in May.

FAAC, WHICH carries an ongoing caseload of 160-200 people, has a waiting list currently ranging from 10 days to three weeks.

A big part of its role consists of teaching new skills.

"The economy is breeding helplessness, crime and frustration. It's like a time bomb," Patton said.

Instead of dealing with one issue, people are being forced to handle 15. The result is an overload on the emotions, he added.

FAAC's answer is to tell people "what they can do differently."

"We let them know what their options are, economically, socially and

skillwise. We direct people in the right direction," Patton said.

Recognizing and expressing feelings are the keys to keeping families together, he added.

"IN CRISIS situations, emotions can get out of hand and I end up acting as a referee. People have to learn to work together, set priorities and spend more cautiously. They're having to rely on each other more than before."

If that perpetuates itself, the current economic crisis could bring long-term benefits for families, he said.

FAAC staff members can be reached at 477-6767.

Memorial Day Parade to honor the U.S. Air Force this year

The Farmington-Farmington Hills Memorial Day parade will again be sponsored by the organized veterans of those two cities.

Chairman of the 1982 parade committee is Past Commander Raymond Heldenbrand of Northwest Post 190, the American Legion of Farmington Hills. His co-vic chairmen are John Beacher of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2269 of Farmington and Walter Christensen of the American Legion Post 346 of Farmington.

The parade will start at 10 a.m. on

May 31 at the Plaza on Grand River Avenue west of Orchard Lake Road. The parade route will proceed on Grand River to the War Memorial at Farmington Road, where ceremonies will honor those who have made the supreme sacrifice for their country. The principal speaker at the War Memorial will be Air Force Reserve Major General Leroy Bartman.

The Memorial Day parade will honor the U.S. Air Force. Special awards will be presented to the outstanding airman of 1982, regular service, and to the outstanding airman of 1982, reservist.

On May 30 a pre-parade dinner dance will be held at 6 p.m. at the Northwest Post 190 American Legion Home on Nine Mile at Middlebelt. A limited number of tickets are available to the public at \$12.50 per person for the dinner and dance. For reservations, call Northwest Post 190 at 478-9117. Master of ceremonies for the dinner dance is retired Air Force Col. Denny Hammond. Bartman will be the speaker for the evening.

Numerous marching units will participate in the parade. Military units from all branches of the service plan to

march. An aerial "Fly Over" of military aircraft will participate from Selfridge Air National Guard Base.

Musical units parading will include the North Farmington High School Band; the Farmington High School Band; the Harrison High School Band; the Plymouth Fire and Drum Corps.

Any fraternal, musical or youth group wishing to participate in this year's Memorial Day Parade may contact Northwest Post 190, 478-9117, or chairman Ray Heldenbrand, 464-3424 for details.

what's inside

Amusements	2-40
Community Calendar	38
Classified	Section E&F
Club Circuit	78
Exhibitions	12C
Obituaries	2A
Sports	1
Suburban Life	1C
Travel	6B

1 OF EVERY 4

E. Varnery placed an Observer & Eccentric classified ad to rent out ocean-front villas. "80 people responded! And out of those 80, I rented to 21 of the callers! All this from one ad!" Remember...

One call does it all!

591-0900
Use your MasterCard or Visa