

Volunteers needed to help clean Rouge River

The Rouge River is in need of a little of your time and a lot of muscle beginning at 8 a.m. Saturday.

The fifth annual Rouge Rescue cleanup in Farmington Hills will focus on where the river crosses Middlebelt, between Grand River and Eight Mile.

Volunteers are asked to gather behind Here's Restaurant and Vonchem Dashed Kennels on Grand River, just east of Middlebelt.

As in past years, the focus will be

to remove logs and debris. "There's a couple pretty good logs back there. It's hard to tell where the original river runs. There's some small islands in there when the river has jammed up," said Jean Barrett, assistant to the Farmington Hills public services director.

Cleanup will begin at 8 a.m. Volunteers must register when they arrive at the site Saturday. Volunteers will be given Rouge Rescue '90 T-

shirts. Cleanup will run until about 11:30 a.m. when lunch will be served. Activities should be complete by 1 p.m.

"We're going to work them hard. We've had a lot more calls ahead of time this year than in past years. We have a lot of larger groups calling," Barrett said.

CITY EMPLOYEES, Big Brothers/Big Sisters and Knights of Co-

lumbus members will be among the workers.

"Most of the volunteers' work will consist of manual labor. They will form sort of chain gangs up the banks, passing the logs and debris from the city workers who will be using the heavy equipment and chainsaws," Barrett said.

Many schools throughout the watershed have instituted a program combining classes, workshops, field trips and water quality monitoring

to create an awareness of the environment and determine how it is affected by humans.

Some schools are coordinating these activities with universities to gain expertise, while others compare water quality tests and results with schools in other communities and countries.

"This information exchange provides valuable insight to problems and solutions, which each area or country has experienced. Each can learn from the other's triumphs and defeats," Barrett said.

Volunteers also are sought for

work on the Rouge by Oakland Community College-Orchard Ridge Campus, 27055 Orchard Lake Road, south of I-696.

As with the Farmington Hills cleanup, registration will begin at 8 a.m. with most activity to be completed by 3 p.m.

OCC volunteers are asked to gather behind H Building, the health and physical education building on the west side of campus. Volunteers will find it easier to reach H Building by parking in lots off Farmington Road. For information, call Mike Kodrosko, 471-7515.

Water cutoff angers communities

Continued from Page 1

came clear that water service would have to be interrupted to finish the scheduled repair. The leaking joint was first discovered late last year.

"By Thursday, we realized the only way to repair this thing is to shut the main down and repair it," Heath said.

IT ALSO was decided that the holiday weekend was the best time to shut down water service.

"Think of all the businesses we would have had to shut down if we had done this during the work week," Heath said.

Complicating repairs was a shutoff valve failure near Farmington Road. More than 1 million gallons of water had to be pumped out before

welding could be finished at the base of the leaking main.

RESIDENTS AND businesses in parts of five western Oakland County communities — Farmington Hills, West Bloomfield, Novi, Walled Lake and Commerce Township — had a trickle of water at best for much of Saturday.

For many residents, however, a trickle or no water at all was bad enough. Many said they deserved more advance warning that their holiday weekend would mean plied-up dishes and toilets that wouldn't flush.

Farmington Hills police received 3,000 calls Saturday from residents complaining about low water pressure or no water. The Detroit Water

and Sewerage Department also received phone calls, Heath said.

"Farmington Hills should've notified residents by mail two days in advance," said Woodstream Farms subdivision resident Carol Pilsner. "Neither Detroit nor Farmington Hills had the right to create that type of civic emergency without proper planning. What if it had lasted another 12 hours?"

BUT FARMINGTON HILLS has little control. Oakland County serves as the city's agent with Detroit, which provides the city with water and sewage service.

The Detroit Water and Sewerage Department notified Call of the impending water service interruption by press release at 4:03 p.m. Thursday.

It met with (city) staff Friday morning. From there, we delivered about 100 notices to businesses in the Orchard Lake and 12 Mile area with

maps and describing what would happen," he said.

Call contacted radio stations WWJ and WJR, as well as television stations WJBK-Channel 2, WDIV-Channel 4 and WXYZ-Channel 7, he said.

Call also went on Channel 18, the governmental cable television access channel, three times Saturday to update residents when repair on the water main was to be complete.

It's unknown just how many customers were without water or who had low water pressure during the repair work. Welding was finished by 4 p.m. Saturday. The water main was then refilled slowly.

Beginning about 6:30 p.m. Saturday, water went back on near Inkster Road. Water was restored throughout the city by 9:30 p.m. Saturday, Call said.

Full water pressure didn't return for some areas of the affected five-community area until Sunday.



SHARON LOMIEUX/staff photographer

Laborer Rod Houchen of Ric-Man Construction of Sterling Heights catches a shovel being tossed from ground level as work began Tuesday to fill in the hole, containing the repaired water main, at 14 Mile and Northwestern Highway.

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MYTHS ABOUT CHRISTIANITY
THE MYTH OF THE MONTH

Jesus Christ was only a great moral teacher

What are we to make of this man? The joys and hardships of two thousand years of western history have been pinned on him. Christianity has constantly surrounded his claims. Religious life in the West has been dominated by allusions to his teachings. No self-aware, intelligent person dare avoid this intriguing individual and his impact on history.

No one doubts any more that Jesus actually existed. Most people also believe that he was a great moral teacher. Religious and political leaders throughout the world, including many of the great opponents of Christianity, had the moral superiority of his life. Mahatma Gandhi aspired to the ethics of the Sermon on the Mount. The philosopher John Stuart Mill thought Jesus a genius and probably the greatest moral reformer who ever existed. Even Napoleon Bonaparte considered him a superior leader of men.

The New Testament documents record the radical, revolutionary attitude which lent power and credibility to Jesus' teachings. He has truly led humanity in the expression of compassion and humility, as well as in anger against evil and hypocrisy. Jesus combined a realistic understanding of human nature with an idealism for what human beings could become. His words have tested and challenged the minds and hearts of millions for centuries.

Of course, this is not the whole story. When we begin to consider Jesus' claims about his identity, the controversy begins. This is where people (including the world's religious leaders) have erred. This is where the label "moral teacher" is put to the test. It begins to seem inadequate, if not naive.

A thirty-year-old peasant carpenter turned itinerant teacher, Jesus had claim both by word and action to be more than a mere man. He operated on the assumption that he was God himself. How do we know that? From his explicit statements and the very way he lived. His self-disclosure as messiah in the very fabric of the New Testament. He claimed equality with God. He said he had lived before Abraham. He assumed the right to forgive sins. He accepted worship. There seems to be no escaping it.

Jesus of Nazareth could not be simply a harmless moral teacher. He cut too deep and steps out too far from the crowd of moral teachers and philosophers. We can call him a liar. We might even discuss his mental imbalance. But the tag of "only a great moral teacher" doesn't stick. It was never an option in his own day. Some of his contemporaries thought him mad, others loved him. He was regarded with disdain and sometimes even hatred, or alternately with amazement and adoration. But he never received mild approval.

Herein is it an option for today. We have to shut him out or hear him out. What are we to make of this man? What of his moral message? His fulfillment of centuries of aspirations? His prediction of death and resurrection? What are we to make of his claims to be the one and only God-man of history? What are we to do with this great moral teacher who makes such impossible claims?

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