Station 3 denizen: Mike Mansfield takes care of business at Station 3.



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Volunteer fighters cool under fire

Being a paid-on-call volunteer firelighter in Farmington Hills has brought a lot of satisfaction to Mike Manafield and Marie Schroeder, but often in ways they

didn't expect.

Like the new recruits who will get hear about the Hills department at an informational meeting at 7 pm. Tuesday, Sept. 19, at fire headquarters, Manafield and Schroeder came to a similar meeting in August of 1990, not quile knowing what to expect.

"I saw it (recruiting announcement) on cable TV," asid Manafield, 37. "I had several friends in Livonia who were full-time firefighters."

Mansfield, a truck salesman for Motor City Ford in Livonia and a Hills resident, was supported in his decision by his wife, Maureen. They have a daughter, Rebecca, 6. After a short time, it became spparent that the fire service was not quite what Mansfield had expected.

pected.

"I had had no previous training." he said, "I didn't know the Heimlich Maneuver from a

Heimiter bagel."
For Schroeder, 43, it wasn't a question of the wrong expectation. Firefighting was basically a mys-

what you had to do."

After listening to what Hills firefighters presented, Schroeder went home and told her husband, Warren, and daughter Stacey, then 5, and asked if they would go

then 5, and saked if they would go along.

"They said go for it," she said. Schroeder runs her own court reporting business in Detroit, but finds that with her 9-to-5 work schedule, she can make moet fire and medical runs.

"The training was a real challenge," she said. "The physical training kept you in shape.

Mansfield said the training fulfilled one expectation.
"I had always thought, what if something happened to someone and I didn't know CPR." he said. "I would feel helpless. Now I have that knowledge."

Mansfield said the expected physical strength and courage to be needed qualities for a firefighter, but hadn't anticipated the need for compassion and understanding required.

"You have the stititude, I didn't start this, but I'm here to fix the problem," he said. "Mostly I've been able to go home without taking (work) problems with me."

Both firefighters say having strong family support is essential for firefighters.

"I've gotten out of bed at night many, many, many times," Schroeder said. "Fortunately, my husband is available (to watch their daughter) 24 hours.

The two firefighters recommend their avocation to anyone who wants to help people.

"I' mery happy with this lifestyle," Mansfield said. "I can be putsing around in the yard and between the said said. "I can be putsing around in the yard and between the said. "Mansfield said. "I can be putsing around in the yard and between the said. "But have you put into it," Schroeder said. "Every time you respond, it means you came when "They said go for it," she said.



A happy volunteer: Marie Schroeder says she gets a lot out of being a paid oncall volunteer firefighter in Farmington Hills.

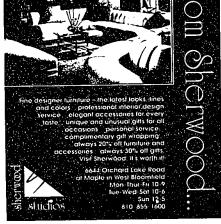
Farmington Hills.

somebody really needed you."

The Farmington Hills Fire Department invites anyone interestion of in becoming a paid-on-call will firefighter to come to the informational meeting at 7 pm. Tuesday, Sept. 13, at department head quarters. 28711 Drake Road, between 12 Mile and 13 Mile roads.

Applicants about be at least 18 years old, in good physical heatin and driving records.

Bob Rebtoy, assistant to the fire chief for volunteer services, said prospective firefighters should understand that the job involves a large time commitment. He said about 25 percent of those who come to the informational meeting stay through the training and become paid-on-call volunteers. For further information, call 553-0740.



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