

# Farmington Road set for improvement

By Mary Lou Callaway  
special writer

Farmington Road, between 14 Mile and Maple roads, will be reconstructed in West Bloomfield at an estimated cost of \$689,423. The one-mile bumpy, dusty, dirt road scheduled for paving this and next year will provide another north-south roadway, which should relieve some traffic congestion.

The widening of two-lane 14 Mile Road to five lanes is also proposed for that area. It would run between

Orchard Lake and Farmington roads.

"For the southbound Orchard Lake traffic, it will take a lot of traffic onto Farmington Road and provide some relief there," said township planning director Thomas Bird. The project is part of a \$6 million countywide resurfacing program this year by the Oakland County Road Commission.

WEST BLOOMFIELD, Oakland County and the road commission will

each pay a third of the cost under a tri-party agreement. The sale of bonds will finance two-thirds of the cost.

"The county provides one-third of the cost and has control of its use," said road commission chairman Fred Houghton. "We provide a matching one-third and participating local governments provide the final third."

Last November, township voters narrowly turned down a road improvement tax for several road projects including Farmington Road

paving. "If it had passed it would have taken in about seven road locations," Bird said.

According to county figures, West Bloomfield's share is \$282,877. "We're going to have to pitch in our share from the general fund, budgeted at \$100,000. We need to budget another \$300,000 from developers," said Bird. Unable to explain the difference between the county's figures and the township's, Bird said it may be because the county had revised its fig-

ures since the township's earlier estimates. "We're setting up meetings now to find out what the shares will be from the local developers," Bird said.

DEVELOPMENT ALONG Farmington Road is in various stages.

Projects underway include: developer Herman Frankel's Windemere Comprehensive Retirement Communities (including a nursing home), Simsbury shopping center and Simsbury condominiums, and developer

Gary Shapiro's Barwick Park multiples.

Undeveloped properties include the Bauerwie Estates. All are expected to be contributors as well as beneficiaries of the road construction.

A small private cemetery discovered in 1984 on a half-acre off Farmington Road will be protected, Bird said.

Historical researchers learned from county records that it dated back to 1838. It is surrounded by a 6-by-12-foot wrought iron fence.

## Bills would give renters deposit interest

By Jackie Klein  
staff writer

State Sen. Jack Faxon has introduced legislation that would require tenants to receive interest on their security deposits.

Faxon bill would allow apartment residents to sue landlords who interfere with their activities as a tenant's group.

"These bills demand nothing more than what tenants already should be

getting if they're accorded the same treatment under the law," said the Farmington Hills Democrat, whose district includes Southfield and Lathrup Village.

"Unfortunately, how tenants are treated by the landlords depends largely on whether their landlord is fair or not."

FAXON, WHO serves on the Senate Appropriations Committee, said

it wouldn't cost the state any money to implement the bills.

Senate Bill 236 would require that security deposits paid by tenants earn interest at the rate of 5 percent a year. The bill wouldn't apply to a tenant whose landlord owned, leased, sublet or managed four or fewer apartment units.

A landlord would be required to deliver an annual written statement showing the amount of interest that

had accrued on the tenant's security deposit as of the date of the statement.

Senate Bill 235 would allow a resident who belongs to a tenant organization to sue a landlord for unlawful interference with the activity.

Faxon said the bill is aimed at providing legal recourse to tenants who are evicted by their landlords, have their rents increased or are harassed in other ways because they're

active in a tenants' union.

SENATE BILL 237 would provide that leases couldn't contain a clause prohibiting activities of a tenant organization.

"This legislation would allow tenants to pocket the interest earnings that are rightfully theirs," Faxon said. "It would also protect tenants from the whims or fancies of landlords who feel threatened anytime a tenant group presents them with a grievance."

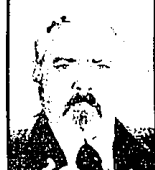
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## Student heroes honored

Five North Farmington High School students who helped rescue a Farmington Hills top pinned beneath a garage door were publicly commended.

At the Farmington Hills City Council meeting Monday, the Farmington Hills Fire Department awarded each student a certificate of appreciation.

The certificate cited each student's "rescue efforts and assistance,

which helped in saving the life of 3-year-old Jeffrey Jonna."

"Your alertness, action and concern are to be commended," Fire Chief Richard Marinucci wrote.

Junius John Krol, Suzanne Keller and Amy Thiel and sophomores Pete Keller and Jack Herberholz were on their way home from school March 26 when they spotted Jeffrey's feet protruding from a partially closed garage door at the home of Judy and

Frank Jonna on Willow Creek.

Springing into action, the teenagers helped free the unconscious boy and notify emergency medical personnel.

Jeffrey was admitted to C.F. Mott Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor. He faces a slow recovery because of the oxygen loss he suffered while pinned.

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