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LENDING a hand. Five percent of the total sales Wednesday, April 27, at Great Scott, 13 Mile and Orchard Lake roads in Farmington Hills, will be donated to support North Farmington High's academic, clubs, drama, music and sports programs.

Store hours are 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. Student will provide free grocery carry-out and entertainment.

The North Farmington High Booster Club and Great Scott are co-sponsoring the fund raiser.

Students at Mercy High School are gearing up for their "Great Scott! Day" May 4.

ALL clean. Although the city of Farmington will support this year's Rouge Resurgence project slated for June 4, there will be no cleanup site in the city this year. "There is not enough work along the Rouge River... to make this city's participation... worthwhile," city manager Robert Deadman told city council this week.

Last year, volunteers cleaned up the Rouge in the city's Shawwassee Park area.

FOOTNOTES: One year ago this week — County commissioner Jack McDonald and other politicians gave Gov. James Blanchard a bird's-eye view of the congested roads in Oakland County with an aerial helicopter tour. The crowded road conditions prompted local officials to set up a transportation committee, chaired by McDonald, who will study ways to alleviate the bumper-to-bumper mess.

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New lead may help identify rapist

Police say man traveled to Cleveland for Easter

By Joanno Maliszewski
staff writer

Police have new physical evidence suggesting that the man who raped a Farmington Hills woman March 31 traveled to Cleveland for the Easter weekend. The same evidence further implicates the same man in the Thanksgiving rapes of two women in Farmington Hills.

The rapist is suspected in many if not all of 10 sexual assaults in the last year in Birmingham, Bloomfield Township, West Bloomfield and Farmington Hills.

"We are asking for information from anyone who knows of someone

in Oakland County that traveled to Cleveland for Easter to immediately contact the Farmington Hills police at 473-5695," Farmington Hills Police Chief William Dwyer said.

"Without question we now have physical evidence that shows the man did in fact travel to Cleveland over the Easter weekend," Dwyer continued.

The new physical evidence and information gathered by Farmington Hills detectives Monday was reported to a task force of Oakland County police departments early Tuesday morning. Police would not reveal the nature of the new evidence.

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Chief William Dwyer
Caution is now the rule

Caution is now the rule, warns Hills police chief

By Joanno Maliszewski
staff writer

Caution must be the rule for women in Oakland County, according to Farmington Hills Police Chief William Dwyer.

The man responsible for all or some of the rapes or attempted rapes in the Oakland County suburbs since April 1987 knows his victim's habits and daily routines, Dwyer said.

"I firmly believe the person responsible stalks his victim by perhaps observing her leave a shop-

ping center, a place where she works or a place where she exercises," Dwyer said.

"He follows her to her residence. After determining that in fact the victim lives at a particular location, he'll put a surveillance on the residence and observe her movements. He takes advantage of that information as far as breaking into the home and lying in wait," he continued.

TIMES HAVE changed. And
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Anti-drug program to begin April 17

Education is key in fighting substance abuse, 4A

By Joanno Maliszewski
staff writer

"Users are losers and losers are users. So don't use drugs."

Put those words to a good melody and the hope is that children will hum the tune and repeat the message along with other favorite Top 40 songs.

The tune and the public service announcement starring a singing McGruff, the crime prevention dog, will debut April 17 — the first day of a specially designated "Say No To Drugs" Week in Farmington Hills.

April 17-23 is the official kick-off of what's expected to be a yearlong campaign to combat drug and alcohol abuse in Farmington Hills.

The program will be funded by money seized in drug raids.

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Farmington Hills police cadet Shelly Solak applies a "Say No To Drugs" bumper sticker to a city-owned car. Bumper stickers

and posters bearing the same message will be seen throughout the city during "Say No To Drugs" week, April 17-23.

The dust is flying at Farmington 'streetscape' project



Scott Robinson of Corby Contracting digs a hole along Grand River where a new pedestrian lighting pole will be placed as part of the downtown Farmington streetscape project.

By Casey Hans
staff writer

Work is well under way on the first phase of the \$1.4 million downtown Farmington streetscape project.

"The dust is flying," said Wendy Strip Sittsamer, executive director of Farmington's Downtown Development Authority which is coordinating the project. "It hasn't been without complaints, but everybody's being cooperative. It seems to be going well."

"It's great to see it happening," added DDA president Harry Wingerter.

Contractors have been given a July 1 deadline so work can be finished before this year's Farmington Founders Festival in July.

WORK BEGAN two weeks ago to repave and make other improvements to the parking lot north of Grand River. More recently contractors have begun digging holes for bases for the pedestrian lighting.

As early as today, contractors were to begin the extensive job of installing new sidewalks along Farmington Road and Grand River.

Strip Sittsamer said contractors have been exceptionally cooperative and have been careful to clean their work areas daily.

City manager and DDA member Robert Deadman called the project a "really clean operation," and said contractors have been considerate of keeping the business district usable.

THE FIRST PHASE of the downtown project includes replacement sidewalks, addition of pedestrian lighting and new trees along Grand River from Oakland to east of Warner and Farmington Road from Oakland to State. The north parking lot improvements are also part of the project's first phase.

The original DDA project was to be completed in five phases, with the first phase being the most costly. It is funded through tax increment financing, which will take a base of assessed valuation in the DDA district and capture taxes from increased values on the properties.

A DDA committee is studying the original phases and will recommend revision of these because:

- The public development has spawned other, private development in the downtown area. The DDA wants to have the private and public development coincide.

- The assessed values of properties in the DDA district is growing faster than expected throughout the district, according to Deadman. This will allow more work to be done, sooner, because of the additional tax increment financing money.

Electrical contractors have had to turn off overhead lighting throughout the downtown area during the first project phase. Strip Sittsamer said lights will be turned on, by section, as work is completed.

Wingerter is asking downtown merchants to temporarily keep their window lights on at night until the overhead lights are reactivated.

Changes may affect marketing

By Casey Hans
staff writer

As streetscape renovations progress downtown, members of the Farmington Downtown Development Authority seek to promote the city's image by building on the physical improvements.

"We've got to start building our case now," said DDA member and local developer Larry Lenchner, who advocates working toward the December holidays. "We're spending (money) on all these sidewalks. I think you've got to take advantage of the situation."

"You've got to let the world know, we know. You can't let it (the opportunity) slide by. Next year the 'concrete changes' will be old news."

The city is spending \$1.4 million during the next several years for improvements, including new sidewalks, trees and pedestrian lighting to make the downtown a more viable area. The first phase of the project began two weeks ago and is expected to be completed by July 1.

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