

# Eight Mile from page A1

look as good as possible."  
 "We're seeing differences already," said Jon Grant, a Hills councilman and chairperson of the Association. "There have been a lot of grants approved that are starting to be funded. We're doing a lot of beautification, signage, coordination of zoning efforts. . . . We've also started to see a number of re-development sites along the corridor as a result of our efforts."  
 The city of Farmington is even doing something special for the project. "We're going to be planting somewhere between 10 and 15 trees on the corridor between Chealey and Farmington," said

City Manager Frank Lauthoff. "We've contacted all of our businesses there, asking for participation. We've already had some of them wishing to financially contribute to getting more trees. It's been a nice program to start."  
 "We've got a very small portion of Eight Mile, but we want to do everything we can to support the group," he said.  
 But everyone involved stressed that the cleanup should not be a one-time effort. "Keeping (the corridor) clean all the time is what we need to make people shop there," said Douglas. "And sales are the bottom line for

these businesses."  
 Businesses who plan to participate should call the Association at 569-8633. A prize patrol will be walking up and down Eight Mile that Friday, handing out McDonald's coupons and other goodies to people helping out.  
 "Since 1994, almost 760,000 feet of new space has been built along Eight Mile. That's added almost 1,000 new jobs," said Douglas. "I can't say our organization made that happen, but I think there is a lot of hope about Eight Mile's potential to thrive."  
 "I like to think we've helped influence that."

# Koga from page A1

smaller Japanese business virtually shrugged about Koga's potential impact.  
 "I feel sad," said Rocky Shimazu, owner of the Nippon Kai restaurant on Northwestern Highway. "But I heard that only one Japanese newspaper picked up the story. I don't really think it's going to affect people (in Japan)."  
 Shimazu feels that the initial horror of the murder has long passed. "It's been almost a year," he said. "People were shocked, but they will forget about it."  
 Mike Yamada, a Hills resident of Japanese background, thinks that local Japanese businesses are purposely keeping quiet about the trial.  
 "Nissan's playing it down," he said. "They're trying not to publicize it. I don't think there's any gag order, but they try to avoid any speculation."  
 Japanese residents make up about 3 percent of Farmington

Hills' population. According to City Manager Daniel Hobbs, there are a relatively numerous 25 Japanese-owned businesses here, out of the 112 in Oakland County, but didn't see how the Koga trial should affect them.  
 "I don't see that case having any impact at all," said Hobbs. "I'm not that well-versed in the case, but I do know that what occurred is a human tragedy. It has nothing to do with ethnicity other than (Koga) was from a different culture and the support systems were or weren't there. I see no relationship at all."  
 Much has been made of the cultural isolation factor in the murder. The Koga family moved to Farmington Hills about three years ago, yet Itsumi never learned to speak English.  
 She reportedly suffered mental problems and postpartum depression following the birth of her son.  
 "There's very strong sympathy

toward Koga," said Yamada. "I haven't heard anyone criticize her."  
 "I think Asians will have more sympathy for her because she had to adapt to a new way of life, and it's stressful," agreed a Korean man who owns a business in the Farmington area. "But there is no relevance to the business community. I think it's just a matter of legality, just an isolated incident, like any other individual who commits a crime."  
 He pointed out that no one made an issue of Susan Smith's background or heritage when she was convicted of drowning her two children last year. "This just happened to be a family with a Japanese background," he said.

**6-9 P.M. SUNDAY FABULOUS AUCTION**

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of ineffective counsel.  
 "I certainly don't want to try the case now and again two years from now. The family of the victims, they don't want to go through a case twice. They want closure."

Madzia is also the prosecutor in Davis' trial, which is expected to follow the conclusion of Cayce's.

Davis' attorney, Jose Fanego, asked for separate trials for fear "that a joint trial could prejudice one or both of the defendants. I'm happy that Judge Howard granted separate trials, because it shows me that he is concerned about insuring fair trials for both men. Some judges would stick the trials together to save time, but I'm very impressed that Judge Howard had (this) legal insight."

But Judge Howard gave a different reason. "They are being tried separately because they may have different alibis," he said.

Cayce reportedly said the fire because Melissa Ann Bovair had been spending too much time with his ex-girlfriend. He is currently charged with later abducting, assaulting, and raping that ex-girlfriend, but has not gone to trial for that offense yet.

Cayce and Davis face six mandatory life sentences: two for premeditated murder against each woman, two for felony murder involving the arson, and two for felony murder involving the burglary of a VCR, TV and jewelry later recovered from their homes by police, plus one count of arson, a 20-year offense.

# Junior Gardeners plan meetings

The Farmington Garden Club and the Farmington Branch Library will co-sponsor a group of Junior Gardeners in grades 3-6. They will meet the first and third Tuesday of each month through May.  
 The program will begin Oct. 15 from 4:30-5:30 p.m. at the Farmington Branch Library, 23500 Liberty Street.  
 Led by Kay Briggs, former teacher and current member of the Farmington Garden Club, the program will offer opportunities for young people to gain hands-on experience in planting and growing things, as well as in flower arranging.  
 For more information or to register, call the library's Children's Department at 474-7770.

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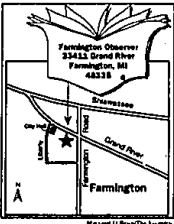
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