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Anyone who uses I-275 for their morning commutes should take note of the latest exit closure at the Seven Mile Road interchange.

Starting this weekend, motorists who normally use the Seven Mile Road exit from southbound I-275 will need to use either the Eight Mile or Six Mile exits as alternative routes for the next 20 or 22 days.

Contractors were expected to begin construction Saturday (yesterday) on the Seven Mile exit ramp from southbound I-275 and the entrance ramp from Seven Mile onto southbound I-275, according to Robin Pannocok, spokesperson for the Michigan Department of Transportation.

Once the Seven Mile ramps are completed, northbound and southbound traffic is expected to be crossed back over to the newly-paved southbound I-275 side in late July. At that time, the ramp from westbound I-496 to southbound I-275 is expected to be opened.

No crossover date has been established, Pannocok said. "They still have a lot of paving to do," Pannocok said.

MONDAY

Council meets: Proposals to develop the Eleven Pines property into a golf course and residential setting are on the Farmington Hills City Council agenda. Meetings starts at 7:30 p.m.

TUESDAY

School board: Farmington Board of Education is expected to fill several administration spots during tonight's meeting at 7:30 p.m.

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Playscape on hold until Aug.

Children and adults alike will have to wait a little longer for the Kids World PlayScape because of rainy weather and delays in getting materials.

By TIM SMITH
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Unforeseen delays are pushing back the debut of Farmington's much-anticipated Kids World PlayScape from the original late-June target date to the first week of August.



But, said Arnie Campbell, city councilman and member of the playscape committee, final stages of the Shiawassee Park project still are expected to be completed between now and next weekend — providing kids with many sum-

Please see **PLAYSCAPE, A6**

City council blisters bill

By LARRY O'CONNOR
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A House bill would wipe out ordinances — like one in Farmington Hills regulating oil drilling — considered more restrictive than what the state allows.

The bill is a bust, say Farmington Hills City Council members who draft and enact local ordinances. They want the legislation scrapped.

Meanwhile, state House representatives say they're trying to fine tune the measure, which is designed to thwart locally-enacted laws like liv-

Please see **BILL, A8**

On the hiring line



Large job: Farmington Hills resident Norman Howard is busy hiring workers for the new Greektown Casino in Detroit.

Dice role

Hills man deals with casino jobs

By DIANE GALE ANDREAS
SPECIAL WRITER

Farmington Hills resident Norman Howard leaves nothing to chance in his job as Greektown Casino vice-president of human resources, which includes hiring everyone from money counters to bartenders.

When the 52-year-old Ford Motor Company retiree started work April 26, he began developing a clear vision about his role and how he plans to hire coin room and wardrobe managers, dealers, slot attendants, valet engineers in charge of air conditioning, pit bosses responsible for table games, and seamstresses overlooking uniforms worn by most of 1,800 people hired for the temporary casino adjoined to Trapper's Alley in Greektown.

The permanent casino is expected to open in

2003 and these employees work there.

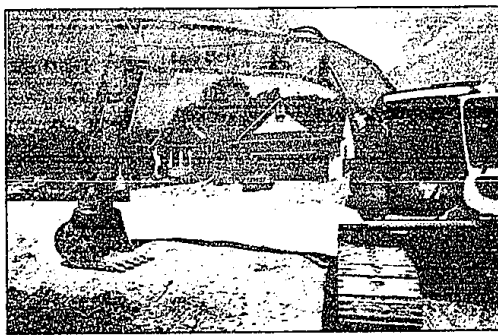
Most of the applicants are from the metro Detroit area and some from outstate cities. However, one of the commitments of the casino is to have 51 percent of employees from Detroit.

Average salaries are about \$28,000. Employees must be 21 to work in the casino and the best qualification, Howard said, is a lot of enthusiasm.

"(We want) people who will give that extra effort to provide great customer service so that people who walk away from Greektown Casino will be delighted with the experience and will come back again," Howard said.

Free training will be provided to all employees. Anyone interested in a Greektown Casino job should call the toll free job hotline at 888-777-

Please see **CASINO, A5**



Crane lane: New home construction in Farmington accounted for an increase in building permits.

Building permits on the rise in city

By TIM SMITH
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Economic times are good and Farmington homeowners want to take the American Dream to the next level. But when they decide moving to Northville or Novi is too pricey and opt to renovate or add on to their current homes.

That kind of scenario, as explained by Jeff Dompierre of A.J. Dompierre and Sons Construction in Farmington, is one of the factors why the number of building permits in the city went up about 30 percent from fiscal year 1997-98 to fiscal year 1998-99.

The number of permits jumped from

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223-to-292, with the value of resulting projects totaling about \$6.7 million, said Farmington Director of Public Services Kevin Gushman. A year-end analysis of building permits will be discussed during the city council's next meeting, 8 p.m. Monday, Aug. 2, at city hall.

"There's a lot of people doing home improvement work," Gushman said, listing everything from putting up vinyl siding to building a backyard deck. "The economy is good right now

Please see **PERMITS, A4**

Tireless volunteer earns his due

By HEATHER NEDHAM
STAFF WRITER

When Robert Chappell rode in the Farmington Founders Festival Parade waving at onlookers, it was a big change for the man who prefers working behind the scenes.

"It's a different change of lifestyle for me knowing people care about the work that I've done," he said, adding that he hopes it prompts more people to volunteer.

Chappell, a longtime volunteer with a variety of community groups, was recently named Farmington Hills Volunteer of the Year.

He works behind the scenes by cooking meals at the Masonic Temple, selling refreshments at the Farmington Founders Festival, organizing fund-raising for the Goodfellows and is also involved with fundraising for the Shriners and with delivering meals for Focus:HOPE and Meals on Wheels.

As part of the Shriners, he helped put together a mobile trailer with a motorized barbecue and cooks for lodge golf outings, special parties and fund-raisers. Following the Founders Festival parade, he puts on an "afterglow" for Shriners who march in

Please see **VOLUNTEER, A7**

Kennel's neighbors howl over barking dogs, odor

By LARRY O'CONNOR
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Dogs bark and they do something else, which has neighbors of a Farmington Hills kennel growling.

What's worse, say those who live near Waldealust Kennels on Orchard Lake Road, is what they not only hear but smell.

"It is so bad we have to close the windows when we're cooking so we don't throw up," said Kelly Sue Davis, who lives 400 feet from the kennel on Randall Street.

Davis has a petition with 35 signatures on her street upset with the kennel's aroma and noise. Stench from droppings also draws flies, she said.

Waldealust owners say barking dogs are a byproduct of their business and they do everything to alleviate the foul odor — including the use of lime — from droppings. Besides, the 73-year-old owner Erna McCoy adds, the kennel was first. Waldealust opened in 1951.

"They're not going to get rid of us," Erna said. On July 7, Farmington Hills police issued the

■ 'I knew there was a kennel there and I expected a little barking. But not 24-7, (24 hours, seven days) not all hours of the night.'

Kelly Sue Davis
—neighbor

woman's son, Tom McCoy, a ticket for disturbing the peace July 7. He's set to appear at 2 p.m. Monday, Aug. 2, in 47th District Court.

William McCoy, a U.S. serviceman, met Erna in Germany during World War II. They married and moved to the Detroit area where William was a Detroit police officer.

Inspired by a love for German Shepherds, the couple opened Waldealust Kennel. The McCoy's bred numerous shepherds and have won awards, including a Grand Victor.

Please see **KENNEL, A5**



Puppy chow: Thomas McCoy feeds a litter of pups.

