

# Farmington Observer

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Construction crews closed I-275's exit ramp to Eight Mile Road and Eight Mile's entrance ramp to the freeway on Thursday, which was earlier than the Michigan Department of Transportation had expected.

"The demolition of the northbound side (of I-275) went really quick," said Robin Pannecouk, MDOT spokeswoman. Demolition crews had worked southward on the northbound side from the Grand River overpass in Farmington Hills to Eight Mile Road in Livonia. Once those crews reached Eight Mile, contractors began the reconstruction of the Eight Mile Road ramps. Pannecouk expects the I-275 exit ramp to Eight Mile may be open as soon as Sunday, Aug. 22. The ramp from Eight Mile Road to northbound I-275 will not be open for about three weeks.

Motorists who wish to exit onto northbound I-275 should use Seven Mile or Six Mile roads, Pannecouk said. Once the Eight Mile interchange is completed, contractors will move to Seven Mile and close entrance and exit ramps on the northbound side there.

## THE WEEK AHEAD

WEDNESDAY

**Aloha: The Williams Twins will perform Hawaiian music as part of a free concert series at 8 p.m. at Nardin Park United Methodist Church in Farmington Hills. Call 476-8860.**

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## Action plan eyed for start of school year

Shootings at schools around the country in 1998-99 are still fresh in everyone's minds. Local police are working with school officials to ensure a safe academic year ahead for students.



BY TIM SMITH  
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When the 1999-2000 school year opens Monday, Aug. 30, the Farmington Hills Police Department will be ready and prepared for any potential crisis, promised Hills Police Chief William Dwyer on Friday.

A clear police presence tops the list, said Dwyer, who announced that a School Crisis Action Plan will be established before school resumes. Uniformed police liaison officers will be stationed at both Harrison and North high schools "until further notice," and officers will make regular patrols of the Farmington Hills campuses each hour.

"Parents want some kind of a comfort zone" before sending their children back to school, the chief continued. "This

**'Parents want some kind of a comfort zone.'**

Bill Dwyer  
—Hills police chief

Please see SAFETY, A4

## Be warned: 12 Mile will be disrupted

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
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Motorists traveling east on 12 Mile can expect to see a disruption as they leave Farmington Hills and head into Southfield.

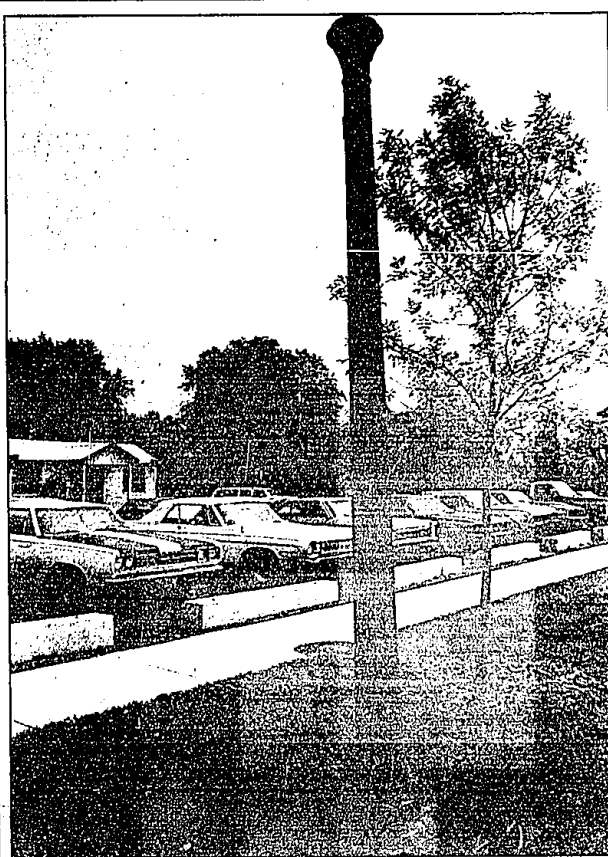
A long-awaited road project to widen the mile road from Inkster to Northwestern Highway is expected to start in November. Most of work will be done in the spring with completion set for July. The Oakland County road commission is coordinating the project.

Inkster and 12 Mile roads fall within Farmington Hills city limits. Southfield's city limit is slightly east of Inkster.

As a result, the city is required to pitch in \$36,000 — half of the local contribution — toward the \$3.31 million project. Farmington Hills City Council approved the amount at its



Please see 12 MILE, A6



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRENNER

**Sprucing up: Recent Grand River improvements include new decorative street lights, trees and sidewalks.**

## On the avenue

### Improvements spruce up more than aesthetics

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
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More than \$1.2 million in right-of-way improvements along Grand River is helping yield financial returns in terms of more jobs and increased property values, city officials say.

A recipe for one thoroughfare may be used to spruce up another, too.

City officials will study Eight Mile Road, and will look at possibly implementing similar improvements for a three-mile stretch east of Farmington to Inkster roads.

"That's going to be our next shot," said Rick Lampi, Farmington Hills city development

planner.

New sidewalks, landscaping and lighting have brightened the outlook for the venerable state road from Eight Mile to Orchard Lake, said John Anhut, Grand River Corridor Study Group chairman.

"The rub off down there has been fantastic," said Anhut, who formerly owned the historic Botsford Inn on Grand River.

At a Farmington Hills City Council meeting Aug. 9, Anhut reported results from a follow-up study, which showed an 8.4 percent increase — or \$1.86 million — in assessed values on 90 properties during 1994-98.

The city will see at least \$40,000 more in tax

Please see AVENUE, A6

## Area Jewish groups take precautions

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
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Farmington Hills Jewish organizations are taking security measures, especially in the aftermath of anti-Semitic motivated shootings like the one near Los Angeles last week.

"We've always been concerned about security for a number of years," said Rabbi Daniel Nevins of Adat Shalom Synagogue, one of the largest Jewish congregations in the area.

"There's no way to make any environment perfectly secure, but we're certainly taking every precaution to do that."

No extra security measures have been taken yet at the Farmington Hills-based Birmingham Temple synagogue. The congregation's 21-member board meets Wednesday.

"I'm sure we will be talking about it," said Rabbi Sherwin Wine said.

During the past year, Farmington area Jewish organizations and residents have been targets in isolated cases of anti-Semitism.

In June 1998, vandals sprayed anti-

Please see PLANS, A4



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRENNER

**Recognized: Jan Dolan, former state representative and city councilwoman, was recognized for her influence in women's issues.**

## Dolan honored for encouraging women

BY JOANNE MALISZEWSKI  
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Believe it or not, politics was not something she had ever considered, especially as a career. But once she got into it, Jan Dolan realized that as a woman, she was made for it.

"For a lot of women, it doesn't enter their mind," said the former state representative and longtime Farmington Hills city councilwoman. "We're not socialized that way."

Maybe not. But Dolan is quite certain that woman — more so than men — have just the skills needed in politics.

"I think we are better at it. Women are more skilled at consensus building. I had four sons. I had to get along with all of them."

"Women bring a different point of view. They add a different dimension to discussions. They have a different approach. That's why it's so important to recognize they are needed."

And that's one of the reasons Dolan was among five women recently honored with a Millie Award by the Michigan Women's Political Caucus, a bipartisan organization that recruits, trains and supports women for appointed and elected office.

"I was surprised when I got the call," said Dolan, who though retired from employment, is not retired from community involvement.

In particular, Dolan was honored for her "influence on women's issues in government affairs."

A former state representative from 1939-1996 and with 14 years on the Farmington Hills City Council, Dolan is certainly no stranger to politics.

She also remains active in the League of Women Voters, the Older Women's League, the Oakland County Community Health Board and the Farmington-Farmington Hills Cham-

Please see DOLAN, A5



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