

Stop sign goes

Slocum protest is defeated

By STEVE BARNABY
Farmington editor

Traffic enforcement on Farmington's Slocum Road will be on the increase. That's the warning from the city's public safety department, after more than 170 residents submitted petitions asking the city to reinstate the "STOP" sign at Slocum and Frederick.

Farmington removed the sign as a requirement to make Slocum a main street, which increases road maintenance funds from the state.

Although the city council refused at this week's meeting to put back the sign, the members promised increased enforcement.

"We intend to have active enforcement on Slocum," Public Safety Director Dan Byrnes told concerned residents attending the meeting.

"I urge Slocum area residents to call us if they see any particular problems during the evening hours."

The residents' petition protesting the removal said that Slocum is now used as an alternate route for traffic wishing to avoid the Farmington-Grand River intersection.

Byrnes denied the allegation, saying that 80 per cent of those using Slocum drove under 30 miles per hour. After removing the sign, public safety officers maintained a watch to determine traffic flow and speed on the street.

The speed limit along Slocum is 25 miles per hour.

Slocum is located south of the Farmington Grand River intersection and runs in a east-west direction. It is bordered by Warner, Frederick, Hayden, Manning and Mayfield.

Most of the traffic is due to the United States Post Office, located on the north side of Slocum.

"From a safety standpoint using the warning established by the United States Post Office, the city cannot justify the 'STOP' sign on Slocum," City Manager Bob Deadman told the council.

To get a variance from the state, the city would have to show a high accident frequency rate at Frederick and Slocum streets in the last five years. There have been no accidents along that intersection, according to Byrnes.

Most of the accidents along Slocum have occurred in front of the post office, where drivers stop to drop off mail in the roadside postal boxes.

While residents requested the post office move the boxes, Deadman informed the audience that it was a federal law that all post office facilities have mail boxes located in front of them.

City officials expressed there was a problem with residents parking on the wrong side of the street and their letters, but that nothing could be done unless a car was parked on the right side of the street.

"We can't for a moment move the mailboxes. But the postal officials know that we have a problem. They've been looking for property for the last five years," said Deadman.

The post office, which is located at Slocum and Farmington roads, is on a small piece of property that has outgrown city roads, according to Deadman.

"But we don't want to lose our post office, we've had one here since 1924," he said.

To alleviate the problem, the city will restrict parking in front of the post office, according to city officials.

If the city did reinstate the "STOP" sign it would lose \$11,995 over the next ten years in the gas and weight tax distribution formula used to fund the city of Farmington.

"We believe that the major road designation for Slocum will not change the present traffic situation in any way. The volume of traffic on that street will remain high," said Deadman.

"Complaints on speeding will continue to be received, as a certain percentage of drivers will violate the speed laws with or without a 'STOP' sign."

Deadman estimates that one out of four persons using Slocum violated the "STOP" sign when it was posted.

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OCC picks panel to judge films

A panel of 12 local communications personalities has been chosen to judge the third annual Orchard Ridge film festival contest.

The contest with nine categories each carrying prizes worth \$150 is open to all filmmakers who do not make the majority of their livelihood from cinematography. There is a \$15 entry fee and the contest deadline is Friday, May 7.

Prizes will be awarded and winning films screened at Orchard Ridge Friday, June 11 at 8 p.m.

The judges are: Molly Abraham, Detroit news correspondent; Steve Barnaby, Farmington Observer & Eccentric editor; Jack Costello, executive producer of Channel 56; Cliff Curley, assistant producer of Channel 7; and Mike Fields, executive producer of Channel 7.

Three metropolitan area filmmakers will be among the judges: Bob Hensley of the Detroit Film Collectors; Vic Harwitz, producer-director of Channel 4; and independent filmmaker; and Ken Krato newsfilm director of Channel 7.

Others on the panel of judges are James J. Lombardo, audiovisual librarian at the Henry Ford International Library who has taught motors picture history at Wayne State; John Tison, assistant professor of film at Wayne State and a filmmaker; and Dan McComb of Wards Automotive Reports.

Rounding out the list is Wallace Smith of the Orchard Ridge campus Smith teaches cinematography and theater and has acted and directed films.

Entrants may submit 8mm film and either 16mm or 35mm film or 16mm or 35mm videotape or 16mm or 35mm cassette. In both film categories, silent and sound films in color or black and white will be accepted. Super 8 and regular 8mm or 16mm will be accepted.

The contest categories include: best film of show, color, black and white; Abel Lazar memorial prize for the best silent film; comedy, drama, documentary, video, and best junior filmmaker.

The best junior filmmaker category is open to any filmmaker 17 years or younger. This is a new category and is designed to encourage and reward interest and talent among young filmmakers born on or after Jan. 1, 1959.

Videotape is another new category in this year's festival. Either of the two fairly common videotape formats—16mm or 35mm—videotape cassette formats—will be accepted.

Complete rules and an entry blank may be obtained by calling the Orchard Ridge Theater department, 476-8400, ext. 306 or by writing to the film contest, Orchard Ridge Campus, 27655 Orchard Lake Rd. Farmington, MI 48304.

All films submitted will be returned although the college cannot be responsible beyond taking reasonable care in handling the films and videotapes.

Road commission tables request

The board of county road commissioners has tabled a request from the City of Farmington Hills that would result in closing individual driveways on the east side

of Orchard Lake for about a quarter of a mile south from Thirteen Mile.

"We have neither approved nor denied the request at this point," said Commissioner William M. Richards. "We are notifying the affected property owners that the action is being considered and giving them time to react before a decision is reached."

Reducing access points on that stretch of a heavily traveled road will certainly expedite the safe flow of traffic, but the involved property owners have a right to be heard before we make a final decision," he continued.

He said the city wants the road board to revoke the permit under which individual drives were constructed several years ago. At that time, he said, there was an understanding that the drives would be removed when a service drive to collect inbound and empty outbound traffic at only two points on the road was completed. The city has assured the road commission that the service drive is now complete.

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Larry Sherman convinced Clarks of England to re-introduce the Wallabee Golf Shoe.

"I convinced Clarks of England to re-introduce the golf shoe after making some improvements on the sole.

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