

# Farmington Observer

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## Intersection snafu evokes public airing

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

Drivers struggling through the Ten Mile-Grand River intersection near the Farmington-Farmington Hills line, can cautiously take heart that the road will be widened to five lanes.

But Michigan State Highway representatives are quick to note that it will take several years to affect a change in the crowded traffic conditions on one of the state's most accident-prone roads.

During an open house type of presentation at Farmington Hills City Hall, officials from Oakland County, the Michigan State Highway Department and Farmington Hills' were available, Tuesday evening, to answer questions from residents about the project.

Residents will have a chance to officially comment on the three proposed solutions to the traffic problem during a public hearing scheduled for Feb. 14. At first glance, businessmen and city administrators seemed to lean favorably toward the simplest proposal to eliminate traffic congestion between M-102, Grand River and Ten Mile Road.

**PROPOSAL A**, which kept most of the present road structure, would turn Grand River in a right angle to the Ten Mile intersection. This configuration would allow motorists to use a well-marked road when turning into Ten Mile and would make allowances for a turnaround area.

Presently, motorists who want to drive north on Grand River are forced to take a shortcut through a nearby gas station.

In addition, the proposal would move up the entrance to south M-102 (formerly I-96), north of its present location. This would avoid having freeway entrance traffic turning against oncoming cars on Halsted, which parallels that part of the highway, according to state officials.

Freedom Road's southbound traffic would be carried over the M-102 exit ramp through construction of a bridge.

An entrance ramp to Halsted Road near the Grand River-Ten Mile intersection would be constructed so that traffic would find it easier to complete a left hand turn to Grand River.

Like its sister plans, Proposal A

would place the emphasis on Ten Mile rather than on Grand River.

"Most of the traffic goes down Ten Mile rather than down the business oriented stretch of Grand River," explained Stephen Kessler, route location engineer for the state highway department.

**ALTHOUGH** THE state believes stress should be placed on Ten Mile, a potentially time-consuming disagreement with the county could be in the making. Oakland County, according to Kessler, would prefer the emphasis remain on Grand River.

In addition, part of Grand River under scrutiny is under state auspices, while the area near the Ten Mile intersection itself is under county authority.

Eventually, the state plans to return its section of Grand River to the county. That situation will be considered when Michigan is deciding the percentage of construction costs of the project which it will shoulder, according to Kessler.

There has yet to be an estimate made to cover the cost of the project.

While the administrators decide their jurisdictional powers, businessmen in the proposed construction area are leaning toward Proposal A.

"It can be built without hardship on people," said Stanley Cool, traffic and transportation engineer with Reid, Cool and Michaels, of Southfield. Cool represents two businesses which are considering moving into areas near the intersection. One of his clients is Sincola Construction, owned by Joseph and Michael Sincola.

"I THINK plan A is the most feasible for my purpose," said Joseph Sincola, who was representing the firm. His company is part of a plan which would bring Reid Roof Inn, Mountain Jack's and another, yet unscheduled restaurant into the area.

"It's the simplest in terms of time, feasibility and practicality," he said. "The road there is one big heck of a mess. It's getting worse. It should have been taken care of a long time ago," he said.

Sincola sees the increasing amount of construction in the Novi area as adding to the congestion in the Ten

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Scenes like this at Ten Mile and Grand River could be avoided in the future if plans to renovate the intersection are realized. (Photo by Cynthia Abbott)

## Cops, docs brace for drunk law

By LYNN ORR

*'I think the intention was good, but it's like a small Frankenstein monster that will take a lot of surgical work to get it into position.'*

*-Hills Police Director John Nichols*

Farmington Hills, only discovered last week that the osteopathic hospital was designated a temporary receiving area until May 15.

"We're going to have to lend our support and go in blind," Cantor said Friday. An emergency room doctor and a hospital administrator attended a county meeting Friday morning to learn more about the procedures, but Cantor admits that the notice was too short to fully prepare the staff.

"We can't, by any stretch of the imagination, disseminate information to our weekend people," he explains. "We're going to make many blunders unknowingly in the interim until we can get into this."

**SINCE** BOTSFORD is the nearest hospital for many communities of southwestern Oakland County, it's expected that Wixom, Novi and South Lyon, as well as Farmington and Farmington Hills police will send their drunk problems to the hospital. No one is prepared to guess what numbers that could involve, particularly since last year's statistics aren't relevant.

Farmington Hills has recorded an

average of 60-65 drunk and disorderly arrests numbered about 40 last year. Some of those arrests would probably still take place under the disorderly classification, Byrnes says; but the statistics fail to reveal how many drunks were taken home by police officers or had cabs called for them.

The new law, however, gives the police officer little choice in the matter.

"The law doesn't say may—it says must transfer the person to a facility," Byrnes says. And determining who is incapacitated is another problem both Byrnes and Nichols admit.

**IF** THE person is unconscious, there's little question that he or she will be taken into protective custody and transferred to a facility. But if the person is conscious, the police officer has to make a judgment as to whether the person's mental or physical functions are so impaired as to pose an immediate and substantial danger to his or her own health or the health of others.

And the law creates other problems for the police administrators, as well. "The police officer is being pulled out of the community," Byrnes says. The officer's time will be used in waiting until an ambulance arrives, and the officer will probably accompany the person to a treatment facility. It's assumed that an officer who has some-

one under protective custody must transfer that custody to another official at the hospital.

"Dealing with a person under the influence of alcohol is unpredictable," Nichols says; "and just how much the new law will alter police patterns is unpredictable as well."

The number of times John Joe Alkie is picked up is anybody's guess," Nichols says.

And while the law may have been intended for habitual drunks, Byrnes questions whether an officer will have the discretionary right to call a cab for someone who has tied one on because of a personal tragedy.

"Maybe someone that has suffered a tragic loss is passed out in his car. Where we might have called his family before, by definition of the statute, we've no recourse but to send him to a facility," he explains.

And who pays for the ambulance that transfers the drunk, as well as the hospital bill?

The City of Farmington pays non-collectibles to the ambulance company called by city officials, but at \$60-100 a run, if residents refuse to pay or the ambulance company can't collect, the bills might get steep.

Some funding has been designated for the hospitals, if persons taken to the treatment facility fail to pay bills. But the hospital must exhaust all sources, such as insurance companies and county health plans, before applying to the Office of Substance Abuse Services.

"Drunkness is not a contract benefit under Blue Cross, so it's unknown whether they will pay," Cantor says. The hospital cannot apply to the Substance Abuse Services until 60 days after a person has been treated.

## Ill since birth, boy still fights

Arleigh Richard Hamm Jr., known to family, friends and doctors as Ricky, appears to be a normal, bright and somewhat precocious youngster. But in the last eight years, Ricky's endured more pain and seen the inside of more hospitals than most children his age.

Instead of concentrating on those activities which characterize a normal eight-year-old, kidney dialysis three times a week for the last eight months has been "normal" for Ricky.

He doesn't complain, however. The only thing he's worried about right now is when his front teeth will grow in. He's come to accept his many physical ailments. In fact, he's rather knowledgeable about medical terms and spouts them off the way an ordinary child talks about the latest toys and television shows.

Ricky's parents, Reida Wilsey of Garden City and Arleigh "Rick" Hamm Sr. of Farmington Hills, are just glad their son's alive.

And although it's been a trying time for them, they're not complaining or asking for help. In fact, Mrs. Wilsey wants to thank Garden City FISH for transporting Ricky to dialysis.

Medical bills aren't Mrs. Wilsey's worry but transportation is. Medicare and social security have paid for Ricky's medical expenses.

"I couldn't afford it. I received one bill for \$10,000—that was just one," his mother said.

Ricky's parents are divorced and his mother doesn't have a car. Ricky's dialysis sessions at Livonia's Commerce West Biomedical Clinic were a problem until nurses told Mrs. Wilsey about FISH.

FISH is a help organization which aids persons in emergency situations. Services include transportation, preparing meals, odd jobs, child care and referring calls to agencies that can help them on a long-term basis.

"I called and they've been just great. Each week they'd give me a

schedule," says Mrs. Wilsey.

Although she appreciates the help, FISH volunteers have become attached to Ricky and were worried about his upcoming operations. That's when they called the Observer.

"He's a charming little boy. We thought others might want to hear about him," said one volunteer.

This isn't the first time Ricky's story has appeared in the Observer. Six years ago several friends, neighbors, service organizations and business persons launched a fund drive to send Ricky to Disneyland. He was only two at the time and doesn't remember much about the trip.

"I wish I could go again," he says.

Ricky appears happy and healthy. But health is a battle he's been fighting since birth.

Ricky has polycystic kidney disease, a congenital defect which causes structural changes in the organ and eventually destroys it. He also has liver fibrosis, scarring of the liver, and a severe bone disease.

Last summer, Ricky's kidney disease reached its peak. His kidneys failed and since then he's had to undergo dialysis.

Because of his condition, school's been a problem for Ricky. The family just recently moved to Garden City from Westland where Ricky attended Jefferson Elementary School for some 2½ years. Ricky's mother is trying to arrange a homebound teacher in Garden City for her son.

Ricky's liver ailment has caused other complications. He has hypertension, congestion of the spleen, and esophageal varices, a condition which causes veins in the esophagus to enlarge and bleed.

His condition isn't hopeless and doctors say he may have a chance at a somewhat more normal life if he undergoes a kidney transplant. His father will be the donor. But before the operation on Jan. 25, Ricky must

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## Hills council set for meet tonight

Farmington Hills City Council will have a public hearing on the cost of the Nine Mile-Halsted road paving project at 7:30 p.m. Monday in council chambers at the city administration building, Eleven Mile and Orchard Lake Road.

At 8 p.m. Monday, the council will have a public hearing for the introduction of amendments to the city zoning ordinance, as part of its regularly scheduled session.

The following amendments will be introduced:

•Request to rezone lots 601 through 606 in Grand River Crest Subdivision II, between Grand River and Grand River, west of St. Francis, from single-family residential to multiple dwellings.

•Request to rezone five acres on 35100 W. Twelve Mile, near Drake, from single-family residential to business use.

•Request to rezone lot seven of the

Westmont Subdivision, 29430 Middlebelt, between Twelve and Thirteen Mile. The lot is on the southeast corner of Middlebelt and Thirteen Mile and is zoned for single-family residential. The request would change it to office service use.

•Request to rezone supervisors plat 163-4 of Wood Creek Farms, at 30841 Northwestern Highway, near Thirteen Mile and Valley, from single-family residential to office service.

•Request to rezone the land bounded by Ruth, Lundy, Freedom and Nine Mile from RC-2 to RC-3.

•Request to rezone lot 107 of Farmington Acres Subdivision II at 34034 W. Eight Mile, between Farmington and Cass, from single-family residential to office use.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

•Consideration of setting a date for a cost hearing regarding the sewer improvement project for Moran.

## inside TRIVIA ANSWERS REVEALED

For those of you who've been waiting for the answers to the infamous New Year's trivia quiz (city hall aficionados, take note), today's your lucky day. Columnist Louise Okrutsky ends the suspense on Page 10A. Only Ms. Okrutsky knows what's in the stars for those with a perfect score.

A la mode.....7A  
Classified.....Section B  
Community Calendar.....2B  
Editorial Opinion.....10A  
Sports.....6-7A  
Suburban Life.....Section B



Doctors at University Hospital in Ann Arbor say both Ricky and his mom, Reida Wilsey, have been coping "surprisingly well." (Staff photo by Art Emmanuel)