

# Businesses queried on interchange

By LYNN ORR

Farmington residents scarcely need confirmation of a traffic problem at the 1496 interchange at Orchard Lake Road and Twelve Mile.

But Farmington Hills is spending \$8,300 plus to determine if there's a need for an additional Farmington interchange to solve the bottleneck of traffic at the exit.

The city has commissioned Reid, Cool & Michalski, Inc., a traffic and transportation engineering firm, to conduct a study to determine projected traffic volume at the Orchard Lake Road-Twelve Mile exit and the need and location of another Farmington exit.

"We're looking at existing and future land use maps," said Ralph Magid, director of public service. "One of the things we're looking for is the justification for an additional interchange. We know we have problems with the Orchard Lake exit."

[Surveys were sent out to Orchard

Ridge Campus students and faculty, several businesses and shopping centers by the engineering firm, according to Magid.

Seven traffic counters are also working on the study, he added.

The original master plan for the freeway called for an interchange directly across from the OCC entrance on Orchard Lake Road, but the interchange was moved north to accom-

modate residents, according to Oakland County Commissioner Bob McConnell (R-Farmington).

IN 1972, McConnell asked the state highway department to take another look at traffic problems in the area, but "they dragged their feet on it," McConnell said.

The original master plan also called for a service drive along 1496 to Drake Road, another part of the plan

that was eliminated, according to McConnell.

Traffic at the interchange has become increasingly congested in the past few years, Magid said. If the study substantiates a need for an additional interchange, the report will be presented to the highway department.

"We'll try to get a commitment from them at that time," Magid said. The \$8,300 funding of the study was approved in this year's budget, he added.

## Cold spell is mixed blessing

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cording to Charles White, of D&W Oil. "We haven't seen anyone converting to gas this winter. That's almost stopped."

"We've even had one or two cases of people switching from gas to oil," he said.

Unlike gas, oil is almost plentiful, even though the major companies re-

cently limited the supply to dealers.

"We've been on a quota since last month. But it's not significant. We can still take care of our needs," White said.

The only problem that homeowners using oil heat seem to have is keeping up with their bills. Normally, one delivery a month would warm a family. This winter, many users have been re-

ceiving deliveries twice a month.

"People who normally would keep up with their bills are behind because they're getting two deliveries a month," White said.

In spite of all the cold weather problems, repairmen are thinking ahead to spring and summer, when the trouble areas will be clogged sewer drains and broken air conditioners.



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