

# Kept-up mailboxes aid delivery

The U.S. Postal Service has designated May 18-23 as "Mailbox Improvement Week."

"Each year a week in May is set aside to remind customers on rural, city motorized and contract delivery routes to examine and improve, where necessary, the appearance of their mailboxes," Farmington Postmaster Kenneth Harris said.

"The purpose is to call attention to the need to provide mail receptacles that are conveniently located, safe to use, neat in appearance and are designed to protect the mail from the weather," said Harris.

"There is no question that neat, attractive mailboxes improve the appearance of country roads and suburban streets. The Postal Service points out, however, that Mailbox Improvement Week means more than eye appeal.

"Say that an old, dented box has sharp, cutting edges or that the receptacle is too small, too hard to

reach or made inaccessible by obstructions," said Harris. "In such cases, the mail would be stamped undeliverable and the customer would have to come to the post office of our customers to maintain service at its highest level."

Postal regulations require that rural and contract routes carriers must have access to mailboxes without having to leave their vehicles. Such boxes must be on the right-hand side of the road in the carrier's direction of travel where traffic conditions would endanger a carrier driving to the left to reach the boxes. The boxes also must be placed to conform with state laws and highway regulations.

Customers are requested to remove obstructions — including vehicles, trashcans and snow — that make delivery difficult.

For both suburban curbside and rural boxes, the Postal Service requests a height of 3 1/2 to 4 feet from

the bottom of the box to ground level. The address should be clearly printed on the receptacle to assure more efficient delivery.

There are approved traditional and contemporary mailbox designs. A customer-designed rural box needs the prior approval of the postmaster before it can be installed.

One last safety caution from the Postal Service: Some mailbox supports are so massive (heavy metal posts, concrete, farm equipment filled with concrete), they are damaging vehicles and causing serious injuries to people who accidentally strike them. The Federal Highway Administration has suggested mailbox mounting and support designs that post offices will share with their customers.

## Road projects unveiled

Ten Mile, between Farmington and Power roads, will be resurfaced and improved as part of Farmington's 1987 tri-party road improvement program.

The Oakland County Road Commission and the Oakland County Board of Commissioners will each pay \$26,000 toward the \$78,000 cost. Farmington Hills and Farmington will each pay \$13,000.

The east side of the Nine Mile-Haggerty intersection will be widened and the right-turn lane in front of D. Dennison's on 12 Mile and Orchard Lake Road will be extended as part of Farmington Hills' tri-party program.

The Oakland County Road Commission, Oakland County Board of Commissioners and Farmington Hills will share the \$159,500 cost equally.

Farmington Hills will resurface Nine Mile from Haggerty to I-275 at the same time at a cost to the city of \$39,000. This resurfacing is not part of the tri-party program.

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