

# EDC seeks comments on road plan

By Joanna Malliszowski  
staff writer

A boulevard is the most talked about method for improving the traffic-congested 12 Mile Road off-ice corridor. But it involves buying

## Gazebo home to scarecrows

The Farmington Historical Museum Gazebo again will become the center for a conclave of scarecrow characters.

The characters, be they caricatures of famous or infamous people or the typical scarecrow figure, will mingle with Halloween figures of ghosts, witches or hobgoblins.

Entries will be accepted during the museum hours of 1-5 p.m. Wednesdays, Oct. 21 and 28. Judging will be Saturday, Oct. 31.

Grownups and children can stretch their imaginations, select their favorite character to duplicate as a scarecrow figure, assemble such characters to stand in the gardens or sit in the gazebo, and then bring their entry to the museum to join the gathering of the clan.

It is hoped that many a stuffed figure will adorn the sideyard at the Museum to the delight of those that pass by or for those that stop to walk among the characters," said Dick Carwell, museum curator.

Visitors to the museum on Sunday, Nov. 1, will be able to observe this return to their childhood.

Materials used can be whatever you might select. They should be able to withstand weather; it is expected that the figures will remain

until the late afternoon of Sunday, Nov. 1, or later.

There will be prizes awarded for three of the figures judged to be the best. Direct questions to Nancy Leonard at 476-4125.

Richard T. Tyler, a retired Farmington school teacher, coach and administrator, died Oct. 13 at Mt. Carmel Mercy Hospital, Detroit. He was 52.

The Farmington Hills resident taught at Farmington High and coached football and baseball at Farmington and Harrison highs.

From 1960 to 1978, he was a district administrator. He recently retired as purchasing agent for the district.

He was active in the Oakland County and Michigan School Business Officials Organization.

Tyler is survived by three sons, David of Farmington Hills, Donald

of Florida and Brian of Farmington; his mother, Edith of California; three brothers and two grandchildren.

Services are at 11 a.m. Friday at Salem United Church of Christ, Farmington. The Revs. John Maki and Carl Schultz will officiate. Burial will be in Glen Eden Cemetery.

The family asks that memorials be made to the American Diabetes Association or Salem church.

Visitation is 2-9 p.m. Thursday at Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington.

He was a member of the Elks Lodge of Farmington 1986.

plan shows existing utility lines, property lines, existing and proposed rights-of-way, the existing road, historic homes and office buildings.

"The beauty of this whole thing is that this is a pilot program for the city and this three-mile stretch," McConnell said. "There's the potential to do all roads this way."

The computer-aided design plan also can be used by those interested in buying or constructing buildings along the office corridor, McConnell added.

The EDC's right-of-way plan gets the ball rolling on the 12 Mile Road proposed widening that will be required if the state highway makes good on its promise to construct additional interchanges off I-696, particularly near Haggerty, McConnell said.

"It's a catch-22. They don't say do it (widen 12 Mile Road). But they say, 'What are you going to do about the traffic (coming off I-696 over new interchanges)?" McConnell said. "We are trying to lay out the larger concept."

GENERALLY, OAKLAND County, which has jurisdiction over 12

Mile Road, would complete a right-of-way plan for proposed improvements. But with the county short of money, EDC members decided earlier this year to keep things moving on the proposed improvements. "I'm just seeing what leadership we can excrete," McConnell said.

A 12 Mile Road boulevard — similar to Big Beaver in Troy — will divide the residential area on the north side of the thoroughfare from the office and office-research facilities on the south side. A boulevard also will accommodate increased traffic because it will provide more driving lanes and cross-overs for turns, he said.

A boulevard, however, generally requires more right-of-way and is usually more expensive than widening the roadway to five lanes. If the boulevard concept is cast aside, the computer-aided right-of-way plan can be used for alternative plans, McConnell said.

The rights-of-way plan is one of three planning projects the EDC is financing. The other two involve improving landscaping and aesthetics along Northwestern Highway and Grand River Ave.

private property from businesses to expand the roadway.

That may or may not sit well with many of the property owners along the three-mile stretch from Farmington to Haggerty roads that is in need of widening.

## School official dies

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But property owners can speak their mind on a proposed right-of-way plan drafted under the direction of the Farmington Hills Economic Development Corporation.

Robert McConnell, EDC chairman, sent letters to 70 property owners

along 12 Mile Road, asking for their opinions on the proposed right-of-way plan. The drawings were completed with the help of aerial photos and computers by Orchard, Hiltz & McCliment Inc., Livonia.

"Following receipt of written comments, final planning can continue, which would include not only the proposed right-of-way plan, but would also include any suggestions and concerns relative to the boulevard and the locations of the cross-overs in the median," McConnell said in the letter.

McCONNELL AND city officials are hoping all comments will be received by Friday, Oct. 16, so the next step in the planning process — incorporating some of the comments into the preliminary plan — can be finished. EDC members will schedule another meeting with property owners to review the results of the updated design work, McConnell said.

"We are looking for that input," he said. "I suspect we will have the bulk of it (the right-of-way plan) finished by the end of the year."

The multi-colored right-of-way

plan shows existing utility lines, property lines, existing and proposed rights-of-way, the existing road, historic homes and office buildings.

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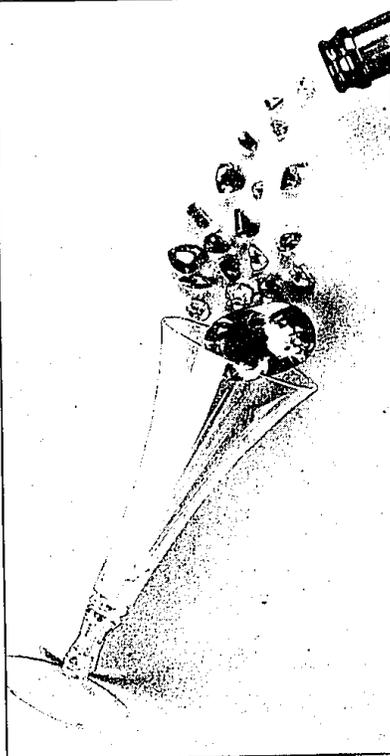
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