# Irked residents want noise barriers

adopted by the Farmington Hills City Council. In addition to support-ing the improvements, the resolution requests construction of noise barri-ers by the residential areas along the freeway.

LATER, CITY manager William Costick promised to work with the MDOT. "The city's administrative staff will try to work closely with MDOT to see what we can do to fa-cilitate noise barriers wherever fea-sible."

chitate noise barriers wherever lea-sible."
Costick said he would suggest us-ing dirt excavated for the improve-ments for noise berms.
"The noise coming from 1-696 over the last 12 years has greatly in-creased," said Farmington Hills res-ident Marilyn Gibbs of Kimberly subdivision, south of 1-696.
When Gibbs asked residents in the audience to stand in support of her proposal for earthen berms along the freeway from Orchard Lake to Middlebelt roads, more than half of the crowded Farmington Hills coun-cil chambers stood.
Residents disputed a MDOT envi-

Residents disputed a MDOT enviresidents disputed a MOI envi-ronmental assessment report pre-sented Wednesday for which existing and predicted noise levels for devel-oped property along 1-696 were analyzed.

"WE FEEL the noise level prob-

in your study," said a resident of Franklin Pointe in Southfield.

Other residents agreed. "To say there is not going to be an increase is really ludicrous," said a resident Camelot Court in Farmington Itilis.

But the MDOT study states:
Based on that analysis, which indicates straffic noise will not increase a substantial amount over existing noise levels, no noise abatement is proposed for any lands along his section of 1-996," according to the report.

report.
Residents disputed MDOT's IIndings that no site along 1-696 is expected to receive a substantial rerease of seven or more decibels in traffic noise. The Federal Ilighway Administration noise abatement criteria is 67 decibels for residential areas.

teria is 67 decibes for restoential areas.

MDOT's noise analysis "predicts that if the residential or school units along 1-958 were the registrof-way 1-958 were the registrof-way 2 dBA in 1983, which would increase to 76 or 77 dBA in 1985, which would increase to 76 or 77 dBA in 1981, which would increase to 76 or 77 dBA in 1981, which would increase to 76 or 77 dBA in 1981, which would increase to 76 or 77 dBA in 1981, which would increase to 76 or 77 dBA in 2010 with future traffic using 1-695 four lanese each direction."

Almost all of the homes or apartments along 1-696, the report states, "are actually located away from the right-of-way line.

THE MDOT report continues, "the greatest traffic noise increase from 1935 to 2010 at any home, apartment, school, or church is five decibels."

To be eligible for noise abatement, sites must meet three criteria:

• A substantial reduction of six decibels or more in noise should be obtained by the barriers, bringing the level at or below the federal 67

obtained by the barriers, bringing the level at or below the federal 67 decibels criteria.

• The site benefiting from the noise abatement must have been built prior to the 1983 construction date of this section of 1-698.

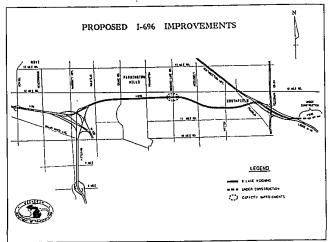
• The abatement must be "cconomically and physically feasible." What residents really took exception to was what appeared to be MDOT's bottom line. To qualify for noise abatement, a site must meal all there criteria, which nome did.

Of the 17 residential sites analyzed, 10 satisfied the noise increase criteria and six satisfied the pre-construction date criteria. But it was the cost factors that throw the stime out of the qualification bathparises income the statement of the report. The six sites that satisfied the noise increase criteria, according to the receive would creat 225 000-3140.000

six sites that satisfied the noise in-crease criteria, according to the re-port, would cost \$25,000-\$140,000 per building.

While residents disputed MDOT's reported noise increase levels, they also criticized the department's definition of cost-effective.

"Cost-effectiveness has to be mea sured from the homeowner's point of view," said a Southfield resident, adding that cost-effective means being able to sell their homes.



Proposed improvements to I-696 include wid-ening from four to eight lanes between I-96/I-275 and Franklin Road, as well as widening and

improving bridges over the interstate freeway. A major part of the project would include im-proving the Orchard Lake Road interchange.

## improvements outlined Freeway

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

Complaints about the lack of noise barriers hasn't overwhelmingly diminished support of the Michigan Department of Transportation's plans to widen 1-696 through Southfield reminingion Hills. Most of the Farmington Hills and Southfield residents and city leaders who spoke at a MDOT-sponsored public hearing Wednesday appeared excited and supportive of the prosed improvements.

MDOT public hearings officer Philip Chisholm began the two-hour

system and supported in the pused improvements.

"MiDOT public hearings officer Philip Chisholm began the two-hour public hearing with a description of the proposed \$34 million freeway project. The federal government is expected to finance 100 percent and the state the remaining percent and transcripts of the public hearing are expected to be available to the public within 30 days at the Farm-

Congestion is the main reason why this freeway needs to be improved.'

- Philin Chisholm MDOT spokesman

ington Community Library.
"Congestion is the main reason why this freeway needs to be Improved." Chisholm said.
In addition to poor conditions along the roadway, delayed speeds and unstable movement characterizes the freeway, which carries an average 33,000 whicles each direction, Chisholm said.

THE PROJECT would include:

• Widening the interstate free-way to eight lanes, four in each di-

place in state-owned rights of way. Each of the lanes will be 12 feet with

Loop ramps will be built in the northeast and southwest areas of the Orchard Lake Road interchange. The ramps will provide for dual left and right turns.

and right turns.

Bridges along the freeway will require improvement to accommodate the eight-lane cross section. Bridges to will be improved include those over the freeway at Drake and Orand Lake Road in Farmington Hills and Inkster in Southfield. Other work includes bridges on southbound Northwestern Highway over the Rouge River, 1-696 over northbound Northwestern Highway, and northbound Telegraph Road to eastbound 1696 over southbound Northwestern highway.

The widening of Inkster from 10 Mile to Northwestern Highway is included in Southfield's capital improvement program for 1987-1993. The southbound Northwestern Highway bridge over 1-696 must be removed and relocated because of the middle pier of the existing pridge. The new bridge would be built west of the existing structure to align with the existing structure to align with the existing service road on the north side of 1-696.

Southbound Northwestern High-way also will be widened to three lanes from 12 Mile to Beck Road. U-turn crossovers also will be added.

CHISHOLM TOLD residents and CHISHOLM TOLD residents and officials crammed into Farmington Hills City Council chambers that some base flood plains and fisheries will be encroached on by the Improvements. "The losses are not considered significant," Chisholm said.

Despite support of the proposed

improvements, suggestions were of-fered.
Southfield's public services direc-tor Roger Smith urged MDOT offi-cials to move swiltly on the im-provements in light of the continuing construction of 1-986, connecting cast and west.

Smith also called proposed im-provements at the Orchard Lake Road interchange "stopgap mea-sures."

Road Interchange "stopgap mea-sures."

Others complained that the planned loop ramps at Orchard Lake Road are Inappropriate for the amount and direction of traffic. Most motorists, residents said, turn right, toward 12 Mile, of It-696. Residents and city officeals also commented on the need for addi-tional interchanges between Tele-graph and Huggerty. Even with the widening plans, traffic will continue to empty onto Orchard Lake Road without other interchanges, resi-dents complained.

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## business briefs

If you recently opened a shop, captured an award, carned a pro-motion, are planning a new ven-ture or project, or have informa-tion about other business-related tion about other business-related happenings — and there's a Farmington-area connection—we'd like to hear from you so we can share your news item with other Observer readers. Send tiems to: Business Briefs, Farmington Observer, 32003 Grand River, Farmington 48024.



Provided The Paramington 48024.

The Builders Association of Southeastern Michigan named David Sakwa of Wales Realty in Farmington Hills resident is Gakwa of Wales Realty, which specified in the sakes of waten the sakes of

major developers in doubtook and the county area. Sakwa's company is family-orient-ed. His son, Gary, is an associate with the agency. Sakwa was honored at the associa-tion's awards dinner at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club.

NEW PRESIDENT
 The Mortgage Bankers Association of Michigan board of governors named Robert Densmore, executive vice president of Farmington Hillsbased Fireman's Fund Mortgage Corp., its 1988 president.

NOW VP
 Farmington Hills resident Rich weigand was promoted to vice president and general manager by Continental Cablevision of Michigan.
 He has worked in the cable industry since 1975. He joined Continental of Michigan in 1982.
 Continental executive offices are in East Lansing.

## ON THE MOVE

# On THE MOVE Ms. Threads, formerly Threads at Heritage Plaza in Southfleld, has moved to Hunters Square, 14 Mile and Orchard Lake, Farmington Hills. The store specializes in updated Misses sportswear, sweater diresting with hand-done applique, studding

and lace, and the new softer office look for the women on the go.

and lace, and the new softer office look for the women on the go.
Lines by Bonnie Boerer. Bonnie & Blit, St. Germaine, Glorglo St. Angelo and Pierre Gardin are featured. All styles are 22-60 percent off suggested retail prices.

Owner Sandy Samson began retailing 13 years ago with a store in her home. She has expanded and upgraded to a corner location in Hunters Square.

"The atmosphere is great and makes us feel good just to be here. The traffic has been even better than anticipated and we are looking forward to it getting even better in the future," says Samson.

Schostak Brothers & Co. managing and leasing agents for Hunters Square/Taily Hall, has opened nine mew stores in the center in the past cight months. It also has renovated Taily Hall, a 30-merchant food court.

Kimberly Kain, mall general man-

Taily Hail, a sorticecum.

Kimberly Kain, mall general manager, says. "We are fulfilling the commitment we made to revitalize this center and make it a top shopping destination in the rapidly expanding. Farmington Hills retail market."

Other new stores include Baby and Me, Beach Bound, Bear Essentials, Bleu Moon. CaddyShack. The Fudgery, Ahlhb. ... Cashmere, and Winkelman's.

SPECIAL EFFECTS
Grace & Wild Studios is now online with two new Grass Valley Raleidoscope digital rideo effects systems at its video postproduction fality in Decrease and the studioscope conlity in Decrease and the studioscope performs
three-axis rotation and perspective
moves, and is also capable of execuing far more complex effects in less
time.
"The Kaleldoscope introduces ex-

ing lar inductions treets are the continuous ex-citing new options for creating video effects," says Keith Neff, vice president and general manager of Grace & Wild/Detroit. "A number of effects that normally require either several passes or several different devices to create can now be achieved with Kaleidoscope in just one pass."

active with Authorscope in Justine pass."

In addition to its speed in executing complicated video offects, the Kaleidoscope can accept a variety of different video sources and still maintain superior picture quality. "The system will accept any combination of composite or component

analog video, or digital video ele-ments," Neff sald. "It's the ultimate

analog video, or orgital viteo elements," Neff said. "It's the ultimate in picture quality."

Additional said. "It's the ultimate in picture quality."

Additional said monory for effects commands, picture "bending and the ability to create tracking drop shadows in a single pass.

A final benefit to the Kaleidoscope is the Tierability. "Since Kaleidoscope is forward-based, we will always be abit to update and expand its capabilities," Neff said. "The result is both a greater variety of effects and cost savings to our clients."

Grace & Wild is the only video facility in Detroit now defening the Kaleidoscope systems. The company is misuled center at 2369 Industrial Park, Farmington Hills.

The Big Chill of December and January will cause room rates to plungs the plant of the plungs of the plungs will as on Friday and Saturday, Jan. 1, 2, 3 and 9. To launch the season's Big Chill. Ho North Hillon is offering a special on daily guest room rates based on two times the previous days high temperature. In other words, if the high temperature on one day is 10 degrees, the room rate the next day is \$20. The average temperature during this Big Chill is estimated to range from 19 degrees to 34 degrees, according to the National Weather Bureau. Nevertheless, experts say this is going to be a cold winter. Weather Bureau. Nevertheless, experts say this going to be a cold winter. Weather Bureau. Nevertheless, to present the saying happy holidays to the community and our business travelers." Said dary Siebert, general manager.

For reservations or information about the Big Chill, call 349-4000.

### NEW IN TOWN

Bare Necessities has opened at 32738 Grand River in the Village Commons, Farmington.

The store sells lingerie, petite to queen sizes. It will add slips, bras and other items the first of the year.

Owner Judith Wright said weekly sales and specials are planned, The telephone number is 473-5445.

## • CHOOSES PR FIRM

Security Bancorp, Inc., the seventh largest bank holding company in Michigan, has chosen Farmington Hills-based Hermanolf & Associates as its public relations firm.



## "Come on, make my holiday."

Twelve Oaks quality. It means quality gifts. Quality service. And the overall feeling that you've given your best.

It's what Twelve Oaks is all about—especially this season. So come on in and wrap up your holidays. Like you, we've got a quality all our own.



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