



Members of the Southfield-Lathrup High madrigal choir sang "The Silver Swan" and "We'll Remember You" as part of the candlelight vigil held Monday night by the Oakland County Mothers Against Drunk Driving chapter. The choral director is Robert Martin; they are accompanied by Rochelle Barr.

RANDY BORST/staff photographer

MADD vigil aids the healing

By Casey Hans
staff writer

"It was a healing process for the families and friends of those who have died in drinking-related accidents. You can really feel the grief. That loss, that sorrow, that void," said Farmington Hills resident Marty Krohner, co-founder of both the Mothers Against Drunk Driving Oakland County chapter and the MADD statewide umbrella organization. "The victim's support group of Oakland County MADD held its seventh annual candlelight vigil Monday to remember the victims of drunk-driving accidents in the county."

The service, called "Candlelight Vigil of Remembrance and Hope," was held at Nardin Park United Methodist Church in Farmington Hills. It was one of 20 similar services held around the state.

"We are really trying to bring out the grief and the anguish that's associated with this type of offense," said Krohner, an attorney with the Wayne County prosecutor's office. "Most people feel it's not a violent

20 services held in state

crime. Unless they know their death and grief involved, it's kind of swept under the rug."

THE VIGIL was held in conjunction with National Drug and Drunk Driving Awareness Week, which brings these issues to the public's attention. As in years past, the Southfield-Lathrup High madrigal choir performed, prayers were offered by pastor William Rutter of Nardin Park and remarks were made by MADD vice president Floyd Sluschock.

The names of 58 Oakland County residents were read in memoriam — residents from ages 14 to 99 who were killed due to a drunk driver this year.

"It is important that we, the victim families, realize that we do not suffer alone," MADD president Greg Bilen said at Monday's vigil. "Unfortunately, over 20,000 families a year know our pain and share the outrage we feel over this unnecessary loss of life."

"It has been said that 'people who are never completely forgotten never

completely die.' We won't forget. As victims, we can't. But loved ones belong in our arms as well as our minds."

THE MADD movement was started in Michigan in February 1987. It has held vigils annually since the fall of that year.

"I think . . . we have been one of the leaders" in victims rights, Krohner said. "Until MADD came along, there were no victims rights here or in the country."

Krohner said the recently passed state constitutional amendment for victims rights is an important step toward the goals MADD supports.

"We've seen a decline in fatalities, gotten some legislation passed," he added. "But we're not satisfied with what's come out of the judicial system."

MADD also has an active legislative committee pushing for better laws.

"We're looking forward to everybody having a safe holiday and hope everybody begins the new year in one piece," Krohner added.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Robert Brokenshire of Troy reads the names of 56 Oakland County victims killed in drunk driving accidents. Brokenshire lost an 18-year-old daughter in such an accident.

Access road riles residents

By Joanne Mallszewski
staff writer

Nearby residents are unhappy with a planned-access road that will lead west from the Arboretum Office Park on 12 Mile to Drake Road, a natural beauty road in a historic area.

"We have all voiced our concerns in keeping this a natural beauty site," said Drake Road resident Jeanne McAllister.

McAllister told the Farmington Hills City Council Monday night of a petition boasting signatures of Drake Road and surrounding area residents in opposition to the gravel access road between 11 and 12 Mile.

The road has not yet been paved. But just when residents agreed to endure what proved to be a lengthy council meeting to further discuss their concerns, city manager William Costick met informally with residents and agreed to schedule a meeting to discuss the access road.

The city's traffic engineer will be asked "to evaluate the impact of traffic there, so we know what we're talking about," Costick said. "We've got to look into it."

The access road, McAllister said, will "increase traffic, definitely increase speed and seriously compromise all the achievements the city council and residents have worked to achieve."

THE MAJORITY of concerned residents are the same ones who worked with city officials and staff to develop plans for realigning and paving Drake Road, between 11 and 12 Mile.

A newly paved Drake is targeted to open next Thursday but the actual opening date will depend on the weather. "We need the cooperation of the weather," Costick said.

The access road, according to city planners, was required, partly for safety. Peter Burton, partner with Robert Katzman and Ronald Hughes in developing the Arboretum, said plans have included the access road west for six years.

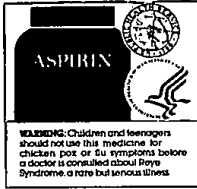
A permit has been obtained already, and there is a temporary gravel road there now that's being used only for construction traffic, according to Drake Road residents.

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WARNING: Children and teenagers should not use this medicine for chicken pox or flu symptoms before a doctor is consulted about Reye Syndrome, a rare but serious illness.

road watch

This column was prepared by Farmington Hills city manager William Costick's staff.

This space will list current conditions in a "too surprise" campaign to inform motorists of the road improvements under way. Additional repairs and improvements will continue for the next two years; the city

administration asks for your patience. The end result will be less congestion, better traffic capacity and improved road safety in the community:

- I-496 widening — Orchard Lake Road is restricted to three lanes during the bridge widening. The temporary road is completed for eastbound traffic to use in the

spring. The contractor will continue to work on the Orchard Lake Road bridge through the winter.

- Eleven Mile and Middlebelt — Final cleanup work is suspended until spring.
- Drake Road — Paving between 11 Mile and I-496. The road is closed to through traffic during construction. The contractor is installing retaining walls and drive approaches. The road should be open in late December.
- Nine Mile and Farmington Road — The intersection construction is complete.

This is the last Road Watch update for this year. You will receive future road information when construction resumes in spring.

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