

# Cops step up patrols of Orchard Lake Road

By Bob Sklar  
staff writer

In the wake of parking lot fights involving young people the last two Friday nights, Farmington Hills police have increased patrols of the Orchard Lake Road business corridor.

"Two weeks ago, we began assigning a car to Orchard Lake Road every afternoon and evening, with emphasis on the weekends," said Lt. Norman Kilmer, Farmington Hills Police Department Patrol Division Commander. The special patrol will continue through summer to minimize potential trouble.

Regular patrols also will increase along the commercial strip of 10 Mile, near Grand River, Kilmer said.

**THE PARKING** lot of the Taco Bell at 29925 Orchard Lake Road, north of 13 Mile, has been a major trouble spot the last two Friday nights.

"Things have gotten out of hand because of some of the kids," said Ken Jablonski, a shift manager at the restaurant. He wishes parents "would start realizing what the hell is going on over here, what we have to put up with," he said.

Many of the young people who gather at the Taco Bell are high school age. When college students familiar with Jablonski's Taco Bell return home, even they can't believe some of the behavior that teenagers display at the restaurant, he said.

"If 100 kids are here, only 20-25 — a quarter of them — are troublemakers," he said.

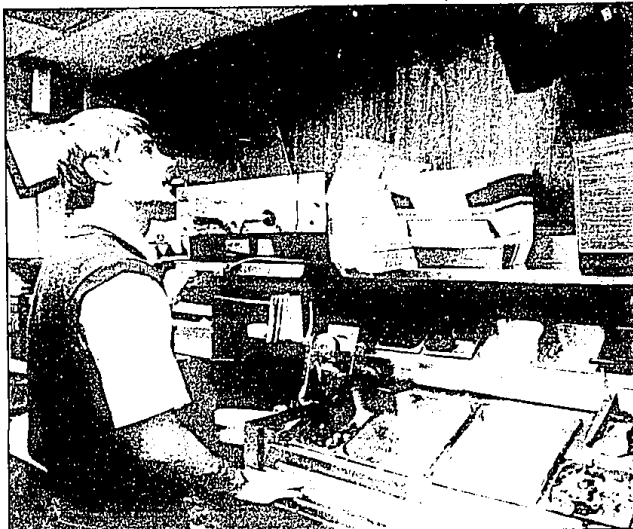
**THE POLICE** "have been doing their job, going through the lot," Jablonski said. "We're really trying to crack down on trouble."

The restaurant is open until midnight Sunday-Thursday and to 2 a.m. Friday and Saturday. But the dining room has been closed at 10 p.m., or earlier if the situation so dictates, "to try to keep the kids calmed down."

"We've barred a few people because of their manners," Jablonski said.

Management is thinking about hiring a security guard, last used at the restaurant about a year ago.

In 1987, Farmington Hills police and local merchants teamed up to quell a similar outbreak of teen rowdiness along northern Orchard Lake Road.



Ken Jablonski, a shift manager at the Taco Bell on Orchard Lake Road in Farmington Hills, prepares an order Monday afternoon.

## 2 teens robbed in brawl

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manager called the police.

Police arrested the suspects in the New York Carpet World lot. The suspects had \$77 — about the amount taken in the strong-arm robbery.

Police aren't sure if \$250 in damage to the windshield and a side window of a car parked outside Daniel J. Salom, just south of Ground Round, resulted from the fight.

AT 11:55 p.m. Friday, March 16, one teen was arrested and another

was hurt during a parking lot fight involving 100 youths at the Taco Bell on Orchard Lake Road. Some of those involved had baseball bats, police said.

A 15-year-old Farmington Hills youth was arrested for carrying a concealed weapon when a steel bar and a pocket knife were found in his possession. He later was released to his father.

A 17-year-old Farmington Hills youth was punched in the face after 15 teens attacked his car. An assailant

kicked out the rear and side windows and reached inside the car.

**AN UNRELATED** fight involving young people was reported at 1:15 a.m. Sunday in the parking lot of the Taco Bell at 38330 10 Mile, near Grand River.

A 17-year-old Northville girl who tried to break up a fight between Farmington High and Harrison High students was punched and kicked by two teenage girls. Her car also was damaged, according to the police report.

## Portion of Eight Mile Road to be expanded this year

News briefs from the Farmington and Farmington Hills city halls will appear regularly in this column.

### ● FARMINGTON HILLS

Eight Mile will be widened from 1-275 east to Halsted starting late this year. Farmington Hills City Manager Bill Costick confirmed last week at the State of the Cities breakfast.

The road will be widened from two to five lanes. Widening will be part of a larger project extending two miles from Halsted in Farmington Hills to Meadowbrook Road in Novi.

Total cost of the project, from a Halsted to a half mile beyond Meadowbrook Road, is \$4.6 million. The section of Eight Mile bordering Farmington Hills and Livonia will

cost \$1.5 million to widen.

A federal grant will pay 75 percent of the \$1.5 million cost. Of that, Oakland County, Wayne County, Farmington Hills and Livonia will pay equal shares of \$96,000.

A federal grant will pay 75 percent of the \$3 million it will cost to widen the stretch of Eight Mile west of Haggerty. The two counties, plus Novi and Northville, will share the rest of the cost.

The \$1.5 million project will leave two miles of Eight Mile, between Farmington Road and Halsted, that need widening on the Farmington Hills-Livonia limit.

That two-mile stretch will be widened in the 1990s if federal funding becomes available, said Thomas Biswell, Farmington Hills Department of Public Service director.

● Proclamations OK'd — The

## CITY HALL news beat

city council proclaimed April as Muscular Dystrophy Month and as Child Abuse Prevention Month.

It urged citizens "to join with the Muscular Dystrophy Association in its search for a cure of this relentless crippling, hoping all the while that we may not be too late to spare many who are already afflicted."

"To help increase more awareness to child abuse," the council urged the display of a "blue ribbon" as a symbol of hope — a hope that we as a people can find a place in our hearts to

eliminate the horrible tragedy, the horrible beginning of a horrible cycle of child abuse that has become so prevalent."

● Traffic light planned — A traffic signal will be installed this year on Farmington Road at Bayberry/Hearthstone. The taps on Farmington Road will be extended to provide for opposing left-turn lanes.

The city's share of the \$75,400 tri-party paving project is \$25,133. The county and the road commission will pay similar equal shares. There is no

city participation for the signal installation, to be paid by the road commission under the hazard elimination system program.

● Sidewalk route — The city council has set a tentative location for the sidewalk planned for Farmington Road, between 12 and 13 Mile.

On the east side, a walk is planned from E. Tulipwood to Hearthstone, Hearthstone to Kendallwood, and Kendallwood to just north of the Kendallwood Swim Club. On the

west side, a walk is planned from Bayberry to 13 Mile.

Estimated cost is \$87,300. Final review and determination will be Monday, April 9, after public input.

● Mayoral appointments — Mayor Jean Fox has named Gregory Kucab to the zoning board of appeals. She named three council liaisons to boards or commissions: Aldo Vagnozzi to the library board, Jon Grant to the Commission on Aging and herself to the historical commission.

## Veteran educator Hassel announces plans to retire

By Tim Smith  
staff writer

Southfield Public Schools Superintendent Carl Hassel Tuesday night announced that he is retiring June 30 from the district he has led for 14 years.

The 64-year-old Hassel is stepping down even though his contract runs through the 1991-92 school year. Playing a part in the decision is that Hassel's wife, Avis, is retiring in June from Troy schools, where she teaches first grade.

"It's time to do it," said Hassel, who is in good health. "We both elected to do it at the same time. We can spend more time together."

"I feel very optimistic and very positive about it and am looking forward to new and exciting aspects of my life, of our life together."

The school board will pick an acting superintendent, possibly within a week, according to board president Eric Coleman, who said Hassel is a "strong and effective leader who is leaving a positive mark on our schools."

A NATIONWIDE search for Hassel's successor will likely take 12-18 months "until we find the right person to run the district," Coleman said.

Although there has been friction between Hassel and newer board members in recent years on a number of issues, Coleman said the panel did not put pressure on the superintendent to step down. "It (retirement) was his choosing."

District spokesman Ken Silver concurred, saying that the Farmington Hills resident is leaving "on good terms" with the board.

Meanwhile, Hassel said he did not hurriedly reach his decision to leave the post, which pays him more than \$120,000 in annual salary and annuities.



Carl Hassel retiring from Southfield district

An indication he might be soon retiring came last year, when he opted not to extend his contract beyond June 1992, Silver said.

"And when I heard a month ago that Avis was going to retire, well, this didn't come as a surprise to me at all," Silver added. Hassel said the retiring couple plans to remain in the metro area.

ONE REASON Hassel announced his intentions only three months in advance was to avoid "lame duck" status with the school board, he said.

"That was very important to me," said Hassel about remaining active in his job to the end. "If you announce it a year early you might as well leave (then)."

"This is a time when the transition can take place without a loss of effectiveness in the district."

Coleman agreed that Hassel "will be an active superintendent until June 30. He will not be a lame duck."

The decision for the veteran educator of 39 years to retire was not sprung on the board at the last minute, Coleman said. "It's not new to the board. The board's had meetings with him."

Neither Hassel or Silver would speculate on who the acting superintendent might be.

BUT THE BOARD has some definite guidelines for picking Hassel's permanent successor, Coleman said.

Those include someone who is a "community-minded person with outstanding leadership abilities, innovative, and able to take us through the '90s and beyond," Coleman said.

A number of instructional innovations were implemented during Hassel's Southfield tenure, which began in 1976 after leaving the superintendent's post of one of the nation's largest school systems, Prince Georges County Public Schools in Maryland.

Southfield accomplishments included: School Improvement and professional development programs; expansion of support services for students; development of new programs for "at-risk" students; and expansion of enrichment programs in the fine and performing arts.

Substance abuse prevention and education programs were begun during his tenure as were student support groups and programs for positive human relations.

ALSO DEVELOPED were academically challenging programs — TAG (Talented and Gifted), high school Scholars Plus and middle school Intensive Studies.

Conflict resolution workshops and computers were introduced to the high school program while new instructional technology began at the elementary level.

Other challenges of his Southfield career included: reorganization of schools, attendance areas and staff when enrollments dropped during the late 1970s.

Hassel began his career in 1951 as a teacher in the Battle Creek school system.

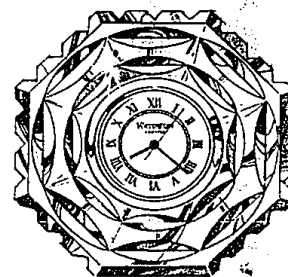
## C'ville student a state pageant finalist

Jennifer Kalpio, a senior at Clarenceville High, is a finalist for Michigan's 10th annual Homecoming Queen selection to be held Sunday and Sunday at the Troy Marriott.

She is on the gymnastics and softball teams at Clarenceville and was named to the all-area gymnastics

team this year. She also is a member of Student Congress and the National Honor Society. She has taken dance lessons for 15 years and has been involved in many dance competitions.

She plans on attending Michigan State University in the fall.



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