

Engineering, enforcement work together in traffic

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

When you think of traffic, think of the three E's.

That's enforcement, engineering and education. Sgt. Ray Cranston of the Farmington Hills Police Department's traffic section handles the enforcement and education end of things. Farmington Hills traffic engineer Kevin McCarthy handles the engineering side.

"There are a lot of misconceptions about what will solve (traffic and road) problems," McCarthy said.

Consider that despite increasing traffic volumes in Farmington Hills, the number of accidents have decreased over the years, as well as injuries. Traffic increases on an annual average of 5-7 percent in the northern part of the city. And

about 3 percent in the southern part of the city, McCarthy said.

That's due to seat belt use and road engineering, Cranston and McCarthy said.

In their work the two have noticed a couple things. With improved engineering of roads, accident rates will decrease and remain decreased with a slight leveling off.

"Rear-end accidents are the most common in this city," Cranston said. That's followed by accidents caused by motorists failing to yield when left turns are made and falling to yield at driveways.

WITH TRAFFIC enforcement, a rapid drop in accidents and violations will occur with a leveling off. But as soon as heavy enforcement is removed, "you'll see the num-

bers come up quicker," Cranston said.

The number of traffic violations issued to motorists is continually increasing. In 1988, 17,304 violations were issued. In 1989, 19,124; and in 1990, 19,321.

A great number of those tickets issued to motorists are traffic tickets. The tickets are often issued after the accident and after the accident investigation, Cranston said.

"A lot of the intersections (with traffic rates) will stay on the top of the list. There's just not much we can do," McCarthy said.

New roads just aren't being built and traffic signals and traffic signs are always being adjusted to accommodate traffic patterns. "It's an evolving process," Cranston said.

Orchard Lake Road, for example, is under the microscope. City officials are working with business along the corridor to make some changes. Those changes include adding gap-generating traffic signals to space traffic and closing driveways. A lot of the project is concentrated at Hunters Square mall to force traffic to make turns at one traffic light rather than using other driveways to get to the stores.

The city every year works on a safety improvement program. "Literally, it's going down the list and picking the intersection," McCarthy said.

CHANGES HAVE occurred on 12 Mile, west of Farmington Road with the construction of a one-mile stretch of boulevard. Plans include a boulevard for two more miles to Haggerty. Work hours of employees in office on 12 Mile also have been staggered to better space traffic and spread out the rush hour, McCarthy said.

"All of this is a cooperative effort between police officers (enforcement) and the traffic engineer. Both sides look to see how we can solve these problems," Cranston said.

12-Orchard Lake worst in accidents, not volume

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hill that makes it difficult to see what's coming.

Most of the accidents fortunately haven't involved pedestrians. Most are lane change accidents and rear-enders, Cranston said.

PLANS ARE in the works to try to lower the crest of that hill. McCarthy is waiting to hear if the city can receive a grant to help pay for the several million dollar effort.

The sixth-ranked intersection for accidents is Grand River-Halsted with 35 accidents. But plans are also under way for this area. The Farmington Hills Economic Development Corporation, chamber of commerce, businesses in the area and the city have developed plans that would include building an additional bridge in the area. But they need state ap-

proval and some financing. Other so-called bad intersections — based on the number of accidents — include Haggerty-Nine Mile, 37 accidents; Orchard Lake-10 Mile, 31; the southbound ramp to Mc102 at Bill Cook auto dealerships and Halsted, 31; and Eight Mile-Haggerty, 30.

Cranston and McCarthy are also concerned about traffic and accidents on what are called links. On Orchard Lake Road, between 13 and 14 Mile, 10 accidents occurred in 1990. Again on Orchard Lake Road, between 12 and 13 Mile, 86 accidents occurred, and in the area of Eight Mile and Haggerty, at I-75, there were 85 accidents.

"Technically, Orchard Lake was designed for 25,000 cars," McCarthy said. But just in the 13 Mile-14 Mile link on Orchard Lake, volumes are up to 44,600.

on the agenda

Below are highlights from the agendas of government meetings this week. All meetings are open to the public.

Farmington Hills City Council
Council chambers
31555 11 Mile
Monday, Aug. 12
6 p.m. — special study session
7:30 p.m. — regular meeting

During the special session, the council is expected to go into executive session to discuss pending litigation: the Kafan Consent Judgment. During the regular meeting under unfinished business, the city council will consider enactment of ordinances: amending special conditions for home occupations; amending permitted structures and uses in-

cluding signs for Centers for Elderly Care and Services in a special purpose district; deleting the requirement that a permit number be affixed to certain signs; and amending regulations dealing with wall signs.

Also unfinished business, the council will consider approval of a consent judgment for Kafan vs. Farmington Hills; consider vacation of a portion of Wildwood Road; consider approval of final preliminary plat for Green Valley subdivision; consider introduction of amendments to the city code for recycling, composting and solid waste; consider creating a senior citizen ad hoc committee; and consider introduction of ordinance amending the city code to add regulation dealing with temporary signs.

Under new business, the council will:

- consider a request from First Team Inc. to transfer ownership of a Class C and SDM licensed business at 35572 Grand River, from the Dell of Muirwood to Coaches Deli.
 - consider introducing an ordinance amending the city code to add provisions regulating calls.
 - consider a request from the Farmington Board of Education to prohibit roller skates, roller blades and skateboards on school property.
 - discuss recycling banners.
 - consider a proposed business association of merchants along the Orchard Lake road corridor.
 - consider appointments to the Economic Development Corporation.
- The city manager will also offer

around Farmington

Deadline for Around Farmington is noon Monday for Thursday publication and noon Thursday for the Monday publication. Requests for announcements will not be taken over the telephone.

● **BIBLE SCHOOL**
Monday-Friday, Aug. 12-16: Vacation Bible School 9-11:30 a.m. each day to St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, 32325 Gill. Registration information given by Jackie Craig, 474-0584.

● **VACATION SCHOOL**
Monday-Friday, Aug. 12-16: Vacation Bible School 9:30 a.m. to noon each day in Shepherd King Lutheran Church, 5300 Maple, West Bloomfield. Registration information given by calling the church office, 626-2121.

● **STORYTIME**
Tuesday, Aug. 13: "Storytime With The Mayor," Shirley Richardson reads to 4 and 5 year olds at 10:30 a.m. in Farmington Branch Library, State and Liberty streets. No charge. Storytime continues Aug. 20 and 27.

● **HEALTH CARE**
Tuesday, Aug. 13: Cantor Chiropractic Clinic, 23031 Beech Road, Southfield, offers free health care to any person who cannot afford the care from 7 a.m. to noon every Tuesday. Appointments must be made in advance by calling the clinic, 353-8040.

● **MAGIC OF THOMAS PLUNKARD**
Wednesday, Aug. 14: "The Magic of Thomas Plunkard" ranging from sleight of hand to grand illusions, at 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. under the green and white striped tent on Grand River and Grove Street, between Farmington Road and Power. No charge. Event sponsored by Farmington Downtown Development Authority.

● **HOME FURNISHINGS**
Wednesday, Aug. 14: Seminar on home furnishings trends at 2:30 p.m.

In Ray Interiors, 33300 Slocum, downtown Farmington. No charge.

● **IMMUNIZATION CLINIC**
Wednesday, Aug. 14: Immunization Clinic operated by Oakland County Health Division from 9 a.m. to noon in Clarenceville United Methodist Church, 20300 Middlebelt Road. Those under 18 years must be accompanied by parent or legal guardian. No charge. Inquiries taken by the health division, 474-7000.

● **RED HOT PEPPERS**
Wednesday, Aug. 14: Ray Kamaly & His Red Hot Peppers continue August Jazz Series at 7 p.m. on the grounds of the Community Center, Farmington Road north of 10 Mile. Admission is \$10 at the gate. The gate is open at 6 p.m. for guests for picnic on the grounds.

● **BACK-TO-SCHOOL**
Thursday, Aug. 15: Back-to-School fashion show, both practical and fun for tots to teens at 7 p.m. in Jacobson's, Six Mile and Newburg Road, Livonia.

● **ABSOLUT BRAVISSIMO**
Friday, Aug. 16: Absolut Bravissimo, a summer party to benefit Birmingham-Bloomfield Symphony Orchestra, begins at 7 p.m. in Hotel Barometre, 15 Oaks Mall, Novi, with art, fashions, spirits, wines, desserts, hors d'oeuvres and music. Cost is \$47 per person. Reservations are taken by calling 845-BBSO.

● **BACK TO SCHOOL**
Friday and Saturday, Aug. 16-17:

Back to School Fashion Show at 7 p.m. Friday and at 1 and 3 p.m. Saturday in Wonderland Mall, corner of Middlebelt and Plymouth Road, Livonia.

● **HEALTH AND SAFETY**
Saturday, Aug. 17: "Kids Health and Safety Celebration," a variety of health and safety demonstrations and activities for children conducted by Botsford General Hospital staff with clowns and face painting from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in West River Shopping Center, on Grand River between Middlebelt and Orchard Lake Road. No charge.

● **SUMMERFEST**
Sunday, Aug. 18: "Summerfest," with entertainment, food, speakers, singers and music by the Royal Oak Salvation Army Brass Band, begins at 4 p.m. in Farmington Salvation Army, corner of Shawwassee and Inter. Refreshments and parking complimentary. No charge to the grounds.

● **COINS, STAMPS AND CARDS**
Sunday, Aug. 18: Coin, Stamp and Baseball Card show from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Mercy Center, 28600 11 Mile Road through Gate 4 east of Middlebelt Road. Free appraisals. No admission charge.

● **CPR**
Tuesday and Thursday, Aug. 20 and 22: Classes for certification in infant, child and adult CPR from 5-9 p.m. in Mercy Center, 28600 11 Mile. Registration information given by calling the center, 457-8010.

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WHEN CHANGE IN THERAPY IS NOT IN ORDER

When your body aches despite therapy, you may feel it is time to change medications. Unfortunately, the pain may be a reaction to stress not reversible by medical therapy.

For example, you hurt in your heels. The basic problem could be that distortions in the position of the toes make it impossible for you to sink the foot with a normal stride. Your heel pain is the result of a structural impairment of your foot, no medical regimen can straighten the foot, let alone resolve your heel pain.

When your doctor questions you about your joint pain, he gains an idea of a structural problem rather than inflammatory reaction is the cause. Structural pain is boring, continuous, not relieved by rest, and not diminished by heat or medication.

Examination helps decide the question. Looking at the toes often reveals why the heel hurts. An x-ray of the foot, revealing previously unsuspected joint loss, may explain why you developed an ache down your leg that prescriptions or ointments failed to relieve.

At times, the alternatives for care are either surgery or acceptance. The experienced doctor knows when you have arrived at such a point, and that trying other medications is a gamble likely to cause more hazard than help.

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campus pipeline

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● **HIGH HONORS**
Marc Haefer of Farmington was selected Valedictorian by the graduating class of 1991 at the University of Dallas. Winner of the Aquinas Medal for the most outstanding philosophy student in 1991, Haefer is also a member of Phi Beta Kappa. He scored 48 points on the Law School Aptitude Test, the highest score possible. He won a Sheehan Fellowship to attend the University of Notre Dame Law School, where he plans to study criminal or constitutional law. He is a graduate of U of

D Jesuit High School.

DEAN'S LIST

Victoria Noel Schack of Farmington Hills, a senior at Michigan State University's James Madison College Farmington, was named to the dean's list for the 1991 spring term.

Kathryn Alice Perrin of Farmington Hills was named to the dean's list at DePauw University.

LeeAnne Richardson of Farmington was named to the dean's list at Albion College. She is a senior majoring in English.

Candace Raimi, Craig Barth, Sarah Kamoo, Aaron Yavarski, Gerald Hakala and Lisa Whitener of Farmington Hills were named to the dean's list at Albion College.

Suzanne Ritterling of Novi was

named to the dean's list for the fifth consecutive semester at Capital University, Columbus, Ohio where she completed her junior year. She will spend her senior year on a teaching internship at Gahanna Lincoln High School in Gahanna, Ohio. She is a 1988 graduate of Farmington Hills School.

Robert DeBham of Farmington and Melissa Johnson of Farmington Hills were named to the dean's list at Northwood Institute.

Lisa Marie Widman of Farmington Hills was named to the dean's list at the University of Toledo.

Michael Stanko of Farmington Hills was named to the dean's list at Detroit College of Business.

NEW GRADUATES

Robert Anderson, Barbara Balor, Roger Hane, Scott Hay, Keith Kruter, David Leidal, Christopher Loper and William McNeil of Farmington graduated from Lawrence Technological University.

Franklin Andreas, Larry Antonelli, Bruce Booth, Vicki Clark, Allan Cohen, Loren Dunn, Michael Graf, Donald Guss, Paul Lewesley, Michelle May, Maria Mueller, Vincent Orbel, Brian Penney, Mitchell Perlin, Patrick Rogers, Lynn Rostek, Christine St. John, Mark Sayk, Jason Schatzle, John Sorek, Wendy Sorek, Norman Stangia, Christopher Wall and Candace Williams of Farmington Hills graduated from Lawrence Technological University.

Michael Miller and Heidi Reyst of Farmington Hills and Cynthia Rieden and Amy Smith of Farmington graduated from Kalamazoo College.

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