

Downtown traffic plan meant to reduce tie-ups

Continued from Page 1

TOTAL COST of the combined work is estimated at \$7,459.60. This cost will be shared by the city which will pay \$1,765, and the Oakland County Road Commission and the state highway department. The county proposes that this work be done under a maintenance work item rather than the necessity of processing formal contracts through each of the agencies, said Farmington city manager Robert Deadman.

During peak hour periods nearly 80 percent of the left turn traffic from Farmington Road to Grand River is from northbound Farmington Road, Deadman said. "Therefore, the prohibition of left hand turn movement from southbound Farmington Road should not be too inconvenient and a minimal amount of cars will need to find an alternate route."

In a traffic review last year, the Michigan Department of Transportation recommended that left turns from southbound Farmington Road to eastbound Grand River be prohibited.

During the survey, MDOT found that northbound Farmington Road was backing up through several light cycles during peak traffic periods.

MDOT also found that during these same periods, southbound Farmington Road traffic is not moving efficiently through the intersection to provide more gaps to northbound Farmington Road left-turn movement.

TO PROVIDE additional gaps for northbound Farmington Road, MDOT recommended the re-striping of southbound Farmington Road to provide two full southbound lanes. Currently, the southbound road is divided into one and one-half lanes.

Traffic studies indicate that during an eight-hour peak period, 1,131 vehicles on northbound Farmington Road turned left on Grand River while only 153 vehicles on southbound Farmington Road turned left.

Similarly, 1,104 vehicles on westbound Grand River turned left on Farmington Road and 179 vehicles on eastbound Grand River turned left.

Revision eyed

Continued from Page 1

Residents with temporary financial problems can also appeal for a fee waiver.

Residents who live alone and are blind or permanently physically disabled could be exempted from participating in the program.

Those living alone who are temporarily physically disabled, as determined by a physician, could also be exempted during their disability period.

Blasell said the cities have accumulated a list of residents with problems through the recycling hot line.

The recycling program costs Farmington Hills homeowners \$13.50 per quarter and Farmington single family residents \$68 annually paid in two installments. Farmington condominium owners will pay \$52 annually.

The mandatory recycling program was put into place to help the cities defray their garbage costs, and to encourage better use of resources. Disposal fees at the landfills have increased 1,400 percent in 10 years.

City Council scorns request that it outlaw skateboarding

Continued from Page 1

It includes a \$100 civil fine for violation.

If enacted, Farmington's law would cover school buildings only in the city of Farmington, including the Lewis Schulman Administrative Center, the Ten Mile Annex, Cloverdale Center, Farmington Training Center, Flanders Elementary, Longacre Elementary and Farmington High School.

Complaints at school buildings in the city of Farmington Hills would have to be directed to the school district, which would then have to file a specific complaint before police could respond. Under current

laws, those complaints would be handled under trespassing provisions.

Other Michigan communities, including Rochester, Port Huron, Ann Arbor, Saugatuck, Otsego, Plainwell, South Haven, Sturgis, Kalamazoo, Plymouth, Marshall, Northville and Saline have similar ordinances on the books.

BUT MANY of those cities have downtown areas, which Councilman Jon Grant said made sense. "I can see merit to this in a downtown business district," he said. "I think if the schools want to prohibit this, they should do it through their own policies."

Farmington Hills Mayor Aldo

Vagnozzi said he sees similarities between this and the steel mill issue, one in which the school board considered closing the mill next to its central offices to address because of liability and safety concerns. With a community effort, that issue was resolved.

"They (the schools) might want to work something out where there are certain areas" designated for skateboarding and skating, Vagnozzi said. Had fellow council members chosen to pass a prohibitive skateboarding law, Marks suggested they consider making room at Heritage Park. "That park is big enough to handle everything we want to do in this city," he added.

Detroit woman is sentenced

AP — A Detroit woman who was in a group that beat a Farmington Hills woman as a bystander videotaped the attack received a 1-to-15-year prison sentence.

Marie Springfield, 21, of Detroit, told Detroit Recorder's Court Judge Dominick Carnovale she was sorry for the suffering of the victims, Elaine Small, 45, of Dearborn Heights, and Joanne Was, 43, of Farmington Hills.

The victims, who are white, said the suspects, who are black, used racial slurs during the June 28 attack, which occurred during the International Freedom Festival fireworks display.

Carnovale cited widespread publicity when the tape was broadcast over national television as part of the reason for his sentence. Another defendant in the case will be sentenced Aug. 21; three other adults and a juvenile are awaiting trial.

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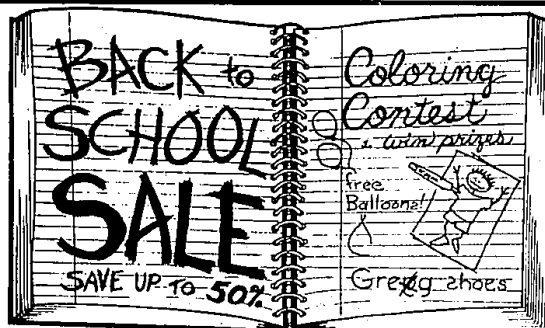
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