



Mason Virgil Malani and Greer Masonry works on a brick wall around the municipal parking lot north of State Street and west of Farmington Road. The short brick wall is

part of the fourth phase of the Downtown Development Authority's streetscape project.

photo by SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer



Looking northeast from State Street, one can see the work being done in the Farmington municipal parking lot, as part of the downtown rejuvenation project.

Dig it

Utilities to install underground wire

WORK IS continuing this fall on the \$1.5 million downtown Farmington streetscape improvement project through the city's Downtown Development Authority.

Last week, work began on the municipal parking lot southwest of the city center, just east of city

hall. Parking lot work is expected to continue here for about four weeks, with utilities working through the fall to hook up adjacent businesses to new, underground wiring, said DDA executive director Wendy Strip-Sittsamer.

All electrical and telephone cables are slated to be buried as part of the project.

Engler's ax falls on Holocaust Memorial Center

By Philip A. Sherman
staff writer

Gov. John Engler's budget-cutting machine has reached into West Bloomfield and unexpectedly slashed state funding for the Holocaust Memorial Center.

While he understood some cut might be forthcoming, Rabbi Charles Rosenzweig, director of the center, said Engler "cut out the entire allocation."

"It's really totally unexpected. When I got the call from David Honigman, he, too, was in shock," the rabbi said. State Sen. David Honigman called Rosenzweig from Lansing when he learned the allocation had been cut.

Several telephone lines were "being checked for problems" in Lansing late Tuesday, which precluded comment from Honigman.

No decisions immediately had been made on how to react to the funding cut, Rosenzweig said.

THE HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL Center, on the grounds of West Bloomfield's Jewish Community Center, was completed Oct. 21, 1984 at a cost of \$3 million. It is dedicated to teaching adults and children about the horror of the Holocaust. The displays include historical records, documentary films and video testimonials combined with high-tech audio-visual techniques.

Other displays include a replica of

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the Auschwitz concentration camp and videotapes of area survivors telling their experiences of the Holocaust.

The \$110,000 state allocation was used to defray the cost of Michigan residents visiting the center.

"We really don't know what we will do," Rosenzweig said earlier Tuesday afternoon. "It will seriously affect quite a few programs and we will be the only state in the nation where there is a Holocaust Center not supported by the state."

He said the allocation represents a significant part of the center's operating budget.

"We are one of the most visited institutions in the state," the rabbi said, referring to the thousands of students who regularly tour the center.

"What's unusual is that the governor knows the educational value of this institution. He was here several years ago. It's very surprising."

Thrills, chills found at 'haunted forest'

Looking for some place scary to take the kids Halloween Night, Oct. 31? Consider the "haunted forest" in Farmington Hills.

The Halloween exhibit — the brainchild of three area high school students — is at 30024 Woodbrook in the Holly Hill subdivision, west of Middlebelt Road between 12 and 13 Mile roads.

Activities will be held from 6:15-10:15 p.m., said Gordon Eick, one of the organizers of the project.

"It's for kids of all ages," he said. "We'll try to tone it down for the younger kids and make it more scary for the older ones."

Others are James Haynes and Steve Craine. Eick and Haynes attend Farmington Harrison; Craine goes to Southfield-Lathrup.

\$45,540 of copper stolen, later recovered in Warren

By Casey Hans
staff writer

About 16,500 pounds of copper wire valued at \$45,540 was stolen from the grounds of a Farmington company over the weekend, but most of it was recovered Monday night in a Warren warehouse.

Both Farmington and Warren police are investigating the incidents.

The high tension wire was being stored on large spools, outside the rear of R-V Electric, 32722 Eight Mile near Chesley, where it was scheduled to be picked up and replaced by the manufacturer because of some slight defects, said Gary

Goss, Farmington's deputy public safety director.

The wire was stolen sometime between 7 p.m. on Sunday and 7:30 a.m. on Monday when employees arrived for work and noticed the cable gone.

A security light that shone on the rear area of the building had been taken out, Goss said. The business is bounded by the former Chesley Industries building and is blocked from the nearby neighborhood, so police said they have found no witnesses.

ACTING ON a tip Monday, Goss and Detective Robert Schultz ob-

tained a search warrant and found the wire at Wolverine Rubber Co. near 11 Mile and Groesbeck in Warren at about 9 p.m. Five cable spools were found intact; wire on the sixth spool had apparently been cut up and removed from the warehouse.

Each 4½-foot spool holds about 900 feet of cable.

"We had to call a crane to lift it onto a flatbed truck," Goss said. The trucking company is storing it for police, he said.

It is believed the copper wire was stolen to be sold for scrap. Although no street value had been placed on the material, Goss estimated the value "could go for about \$9,600."

Teens investigated in theft of school video equipment

Charges are being sought against four Farmington Hills teenagers after the theft and subsequent recovery of more than \$2,000 in video equipment and a set of master custodial keys from Farmington High School on Oct. 11.

According to information released this week from the Farmington Department of Public Safety, two Farmington High School students aged 18 and 16, a 17-year-old North Farmington High School student and a 16-year-old student from Walled Lake Western High School are being investigated in connection with the thefts, which reportedly occurred at about 5:30 p.m. on that Friday at the school, at 32000 Shilwassee.

Positions are being sought against the two juveniles through the Oakland County Probate Court, and charges are being sought through the Oakland County Prosecutor's office for the adults.

THE ITEMS stolen included custodial keys to the school building, a CD player, video disc and a TV remote control. They were later recovered from the teens, with some of the equipment found at the house of one of

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the suspects.

Det. Daniel Potter was tipped off as he took a report of the stolen property at the school.

At that time, two other students reported seeing the teens enter the school, and later leave with some sort of video equipment.

Police and school officials used tips from the students to locate the subjects.

police/fire calls

Listed below are some of the Farmington-area police incidents, fire calls and court cases reported during the past week:

● INDECENT EXPOSURE

A 30-year-old Farmington Hills woman said she was in the laundry room of her Cedarbrook Apartments complex when she looked out of the window and saw a man expose himself, according to the Farmington Hills police.

● THEFTS REPORTED

A hood ornament and wire wheels valued at \$500 were reported stolen from a 1991 Cadillac at the Strawberry Lane Apartments on 12 Mile, Oct. 25-26.

A roofing nailer, tools, an AM/FM radio, shop vacuum and drill bit set valued at \$4,378 were reported stolen from a house on Rollicrest, Oct. 26-27.

Speakers, an AM/FM cassette player, amplifiers, equalizer and

tapes valued at \$2,230 were reported stolen from a 1985 Chevrolet on Parker, Oct. 26-27.

● DAMAGE REPORTED

The rear window of a car parked at the Professional Pavilion, 23133 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington was broken out Oct. 26-27, causing \$300 in damage.

Damage was estimated at \$95 when someone smashed the mirror on a 1991 Ford with a pumpkin, Oct. 27.

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