Hills speeds into program to slow traffic

BY BILL COUTANT STAFF WRITER

STAFF WATERA

Some motoriets' comfort zone is making Farmington Hills officials uncomfortable.

With an average of three requests a week to get speeding under control in residential areas, Hills officials are instituting a program to make motoriets aware of the error of their ways.

"The core of the problem is education," said Tom Biasell, Farmington Hills director of public services. "You have to make them aware that they're speedings.

Farmington Hills circetor on poulic services. "You have to make
them aware that they're speeding."

Biasell said motorists feel comfortable driving at a given speed
through a subdivision. Trouble is,
that speed is often too fast.

To address the problem, the
city has budgeted \$70,000 for a pilot program that will identify
problem areas, educate residents
and motorists on apeeding problems, and if necessary, make
physical changes to streets in order to slow down traffic.

The city council approved the
pilot program at the duly 19 regular meeting. Blasell said the city
will begin education and enforcement in three subdivisions as
soon as the end of August for the
pilot the end of August
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■ The city has budgeted \$70,000 for a pilot program that will identify problem areas, educate residents and motorists on speeding problems, and if necessary, make physical changes to streets in order to slow down traffic. The three subdivisions for the pilot are Old Franklin Town, Rolling Oaks West, and the Country Ridge development.

speeds of oncoming vehicles, so that the driver is made aware of how fast he or she is going.

"It does have a definite impact on speed," said Mike Wiggins, Farmington deputy director of public safety. "We have used it in conjunction with a patrol car. It slows down traffice." Binsell said awareness is the key to slowing down traffic cause the vast majority of speeders within a subdivision are the residents.

"It's also important to re-evaluate the data to see if it really makes a difference," said Hills traffic engineer Kevin McCarthy. In cities that have used the systematic program, some engineer-

In cities that have used the sys-tematic program, some engineer-ing, including speed humps, turn arounds and limited access to streets have been needed to change driving patterns, Biasell

change driving patterns, Biaseli said.

After the program has been place this fall, the city will study the results and decide if any engineering is needed to change traffic patterns. The city will also evaluate the program to see if it should be used in other subdivisions and neighborhoods, he said.

A dumped truck

Accident slows I-696 traffic: Farmington Hills Department of Public Works workers place concrete back into a truck that overturned on eastbound I-696 Monday. There were no injuries, but traffic on the busy freeway was slowed for about two hours, Hills firefighters said. The truck was owned by Somerset Asphalt in Royal Oak. The cause of the accident wasn't determined.

Series to showcase Democratic gubernatorial hopefuls

The Farmington Democratic Club has launched a series of cable television programs that will feature candidates for the party's 1994 gubernatorial nomi-

nation.

In the kickoff program, which will be aired at 8 p.m. Friday,

Aug. 6, over cable Channel 12, and Farmington Hills. State Rep. Lynn Johndal, one of three announced candidates, is interviewed by show host Mike Breshgold.

Breshgold is chair of the Farmington Hills. On, Farmington Hills includes the cities of Farmington these candidates stand

"Our program, called Demo-cratic Closeup, will give the resi-dents of three cities — Farming-ton, Farmington Hills and Novi — the opportunity to hear what these candidates stund for before

next year's primary election," Breshgold sald. In the Farmington Democratic Club's first program in July, State Sen. Jack Faxon, a Farmington Hills resident who represents all three clitics, was interviewed on legislative issues.

Farmington Observer

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