

# Farmington woman turns 102 Saturday

The woman who tossed out the first pitch at a softball game commemorating Farmington's 125th anniversary turns 102 herself Saturday. And she's still throwing people with her vitality and longevity.

Irene Livermore is the oldest resident at Farmington Place. Her daughter, Carol Remington, lives next door.

"A man moved upstairs so I could be next to my mother," Remington said. "That was really nice."

Remington said she's there to give her mom a hand, but the centenarian doesn't need help often. Livermore still sings and recites poetry. Her favorite is Robert Frost's "Stopping by the Woods on a Snowy Evening."

She also inspires others to sing. "Every party she goes to, they sing 'Good Night Irene,'" her daughter said.

Livermore, who was born in

1892 in Cass City, Mich., plays cards and bingo and has a good sense of humor, her daughter said. She also reads a lot, including daily newspaper comics.

At 65, Livermore started doing watercolor and oil paintings. Her work graces the walls in both her daughter's and her own apartment.

Livermore attributes her longevity to nutritious eating and taking a nap every day. However, she has had a tough life; she's stated to friends "If stress killed people, I'd be dead long ago."

She taught school one year before marrying Clarence Livermore. The couple was married 68 years, moving to Detroit in 1923. He died in 1980.

They had two children, three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. One granddaughter, Patricia Miller, is a resident at the Greenery in Farmington.



Candles galore: Farmington Place resident Irene Livermore, who turns 102 Saturday, plays bingo and recites poetry. She's pictured here at a friend's home with the family dog "Alice."

## Car dealers get behind drive for improvements

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

They say it's location, location, location.

For those who do business in the area of Grand River, Halsted and M-5, it's traffic, traffic, traffic.

They, perhaps more than anyone, welcome plans to alleviate congestion with an upgrade of the intersection that includes building a new ramp.

Two car dealers, in particular, can attest to the high volume of traffic, which has led some to call the interchange the "dysfunction junction."

Bill Cook's Buick and Porsche

"Usually, the more cars that go by the better. It's a problem getting off the (M-5) freeway, though, which causes congestion and tieups."

Bill Cook

Audi Inc. dealerships are on Grand River, in the southwest area where the three arteries come together.

"Usually, the more cars that go by the better," Cook said. "It's a problem getting off the (M-5) freeway, though, which causes congestion and tieups."

Bob Sellers, Pontiac-GMC Truck is in a similar position.

The dealership is on Grand River at 10 Mile, east of Hagerly.

Heavy traffic makes it difficult for customers to take test drives or to come in for service, Bob Sellers said. The worst time is between 5-6 p.m. when most people are letting out from work.

"This will make it a lot easier to get from the freeway and into our dealership," Sellers said. "It

will really open the dealership for additional business and our regular customers."

That message wasn't lost on Farmington Hills City Manager Bill Costick.

Costick told Friday's gathering how when he first arrived he was looking for a new car. He received a call from Bob Sellers and Bill Cook, who asked to meet the new city manager.

Costick thought they were going to try and sell him a car.

"Lo and behold, they took me out and showed me the traffic," Costick said. "They said, 'You have to do something about this.'"

Costick said that until the demonstration project money became available, the city could not come up with the needed money.

Knollenberg said that thanks in part to the efforts of Congressman Bob Carr, the project qualified under special criteria for funding.

dangerous crossover from Freedom Road to the Halsted/Grand River intersection in the first phase.

A second phase would add other improvements, including the addition of another bridge crossing M-5. Bekmanis said some road widening and limiting

the number of driveways that turn onto those main roads will also ease traffic and improve safety.

Since 1989, an EDC M-102/Grand River Improvement Committee has been meeting with businesses in the area, city, state and federal officials to improve

the intersection.

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## Gridlock from page 1A

MDOT engineer Natalie Bekmanis gave an outline of the project, which will be completed in two phases, with construction planned for late 1997.

Bekmanis said the improvements will include ramp and other improvements to ease backups on M-5 (formerly M-102), Grand River at 10 Mile; a

## Mystery from page 1A

in the classroom and sexual harassment from male peers and boyfriends.

One article, from a daily newspaper, stated that 81 percent of students face sexual harassment in Detroit-area schools.

A boy's sexual promiscuity is accepted and condoned, with a "boys will be boys" attitude while girls who become involved with

these hormone-driven boys faced accusations about their reputations.

"This is not off the wall, and I'm sympathetic to some of the issues raised," Rosman said. "But, it's not signed, and it is anonymous."

Rosman said that he received similar material several weeks ago.

Sandy Wellington, of the Farmington schools community relations division, said that no one has called the school district. The district is always ready to discuss matters of concern, she said.

Patricia Alspach, a community activist who favors more emphasis on academics in the school, said that her group provides information to those who request it.

The group doesn't do mass mailings. Alspach said she's not aware of who is sending out the materials.

"It costs money to Xerox," Alspach said. "This is the coward's way out."

The problems mentioned in these articles wouldn't exist if more time and emphasis were spent on academics, she said.

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