

Hills ends busy construction year

By BILL COULTART
STAFF WRITER

It's been a busy year for construction projects in Farmington Hills. And 1996 will include even more projects, especially those improving roads. Hopefully, the result will be fewer traffic problems.

"We may be doing more than what we've already planned on," said Tom Biasell, director of public services. "It just depends on what is needed and what money is left."

As it is, the city has had one of its biggest construction years yet. Among those most notable projects are an ice arena, resurfacing after completion of a major flood drain project for the Kendallwood and Westbrook subdivisions and extensive work on Grand River between Middlebelt and Eight Mile.

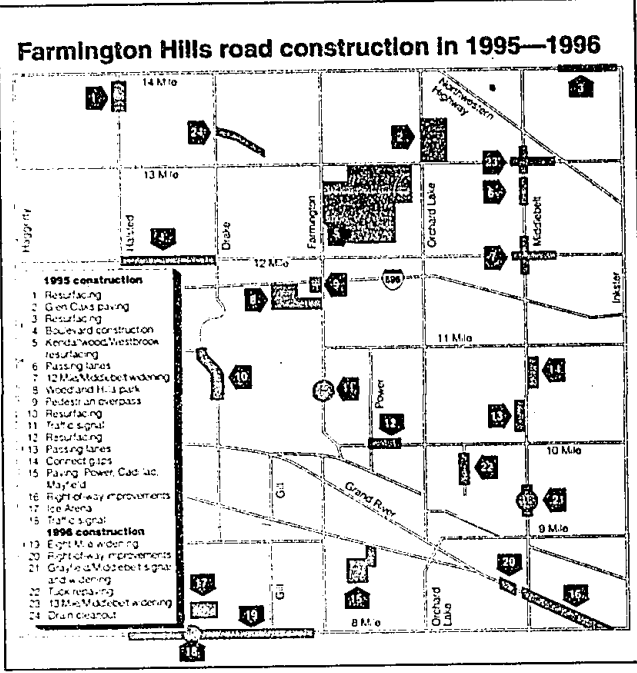
By the end of the year, the final mile of the 12 Mile Boulevard, between Drake and Halsted will be complete. The landscaping for that project will be finished in the spring.

Road improvements for the intersection of Middlebelt and 12 Mile will be complete by the end of this week.

Improvements on Grand River, including the removal of old telephone poles and the installation of new lighting will be complete this year. Landscaping for that area will be completed in the spring and improvements to Grand River to where it splits off to M-5 west of Middlebelt are scheduled for 1996.

A new traffic signal has been installed on Farmington Road at the Heritage park entrance and a pedestrian bridge over I-696 will link the bike path that goes south on Farmington to 10 Mile was finished Sunday, except for some drainage and finishing work.

Resurfacing projects included Halsted Road south of 14 Mile with new asphalt, Drake south of 11 Mile, 10 Mile east of Power Road and paving of Power, Cadillac



and Mayfield south of Grand River, and 14 Mile west of Inker. Paving was completed at Glen Oaks country Club at 13 Mile and Orchard Lake and passing lanes were added and gaps connected on Middlebelt in three areas.

The Woodland Hills Park south of I-696 west of Farmington was opened as well as the Farmington Hills Ice Arena at the

Founders Sports Park on Eight Mile. A traffic signal was added at the Founders park entrance and Eight Mile will be widened to five lanes next year.

There will be a new traffic signal at Grayfield and Middlebelt with accompanying lane widening in 1996. Other projects for 1996 include:

- Widening of the Middlebelt and 10 Mile intersection.
- Cleaning of the Seelye drain west of Drake Road.
- Resurfacing of a portion of Tuck Road south of 10 Mile.

Biasell said the widening of Eight Mile and the improvements at 13 and Middlebelt could be affected by changes in Federal funding.

"We don't know how or whether these projects will be affected," he said.

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Optimists sponsor essay contest

The Farmington/Farmington Hills Breakfast Optimist Club is sponsoring an Essay Contest entitled "Freedom, A Right or a Privilege?"

All high school sophomores, juniors and seniors are eligible to participate, according to Sharon A. Hain, club chairperson for the event.

The local club will select first-, second-, and third-place winners, with the first-place entry forwarded to the district competition.

For information contact Sharon A. Hain at 553-9067 or 553-7699.

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