

## Temporary headaches fill area road work

BY TIM SMITH

The combo of afternoon rush hour and ongoing construction near Shiawasse-Grand River is a "temporary headache" for Pronto Pizza delivery man Jon Fizzatrick. Fitzpatrick

rizpatrick.

It takes him a good 5-7 minutes longer to get the hot pizza pies into hungry customers' hands. A two-way trip sometimes requires 15 additional minutes to complete, he estimated.

d. "But most of the customers we "But most of the customers we have are the same ones over and over," said Fitzpatrick, looking out of the pizzeria Monday as workers continued efforts to widen Grand River to five lanes from Gilt-to-Shiawasse. "They understand. I always tell them till take me a few minutes more to get there."

Here's why: With usual Shi-

awassee motorists being detoured onto Grand River, there is a non-stop string of vehi-cles crawling in front of the small strip mall where Pronto's and Formington Doli are located.

and Fermington Doli are located.

"It (construction) effects my
delivery guya a little bit," said
Bill Fricke, owner of Farmington
Doli. "It is a little harder to get
in and out of the parking lot.
There's a continual flow of traffic
out here. It's hard to make a lefthand turn out of here."

On the ather head, the con-

On the other hand, the construction isn't impacting business too harshly at Indian Village, a cleaners located in between the pizzeria and delientessen.

"It hasn't effected it (business) at all," said employee Emily Shoemaker. "We can still get through there. No one's complained about it yet, anyway."

The road-widening work, by

Basile Con-struc-tion Co., will add a fifth

lane along the north side of Grand River, thus enabling for a left-hand turn lane at the dan-gerous Shiawassee intersection.

According to Farmington City Manager Frank Lauhoff, the construction is progressing, with workers staying on schedule even during the weekend's rainy

weather.
"Originally, MDOT (Michigan Department of Transportation) said Sept. 30th," for the completion of the widening, reconfiguration and restriping, Lauhoff said, "and we anticipate that to still be it (the deadline)."

Before the entire project is

Dash view: bound Grand awassee are com-

complete, an electrical contractor will install a left-hand-turn sig-nal at Grand River-Shiawassee.

nal at Grand River-Shiawassee.
Much of the city right-of-way
property being shaved for the
Grand River widening is right in
front of the Oakwood Cumetery.
Lauhoff noted that a significant
portion of the Grand River-Shiawassee traffic island will be
reduced to allow for the extra
lane.

As that construction project

As that construction project As that construction project continues, another - the resur-facing of Eight Mile Road, including the Farmington Road intersection - is expected to be wrapped up tomorrow, Lauhoff said.

## Firms urged to check workers, report crimes

BY LARRY O'CONNOR STAFF WRITER

Three separate cases of employee theft in Farmington Hills have police urging employers and bosses to closely check out workers before hiring them. Several thousands of dollars were embezzled in the three cases involving bogus customer returns, which were reported during the past week.

uring the past week. Those might be just a fraction

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of cases, though, as employee thefts are not always reported.

Instead, companies simply fire those involved, who may go on to another place to commit thefts.

Or the employee may quit before the thefts are discovered.

A simple phone call might prevent such thefts.

"We would recommend to maybe do a little more thorough checking on the background of perspective employees where you are checking with references and the content of the companies o

At another store, an employee admitted to police and loss prevention staff that she rang up returns for another employee, who stole \$956 worth of merchandise between Aug. 15-20 at Clothes Time on Orchard Lake. The employee would receive a

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percentage of cash — totaling \$275 — for processing refunds. A store loss prevention manag-or became suspicious after notic-ing an unusually high amount of returns during the past three to

ing an unusually high amount of returns during the past three to four weeks.

The mannager found that most of the names on refund slips were fictitious. The person who is suspected of stealing merchandise and returning it for cash quit her job two days prior to the investigation. A warrant has been issued in the case, said Dave Stusch, Hills police detective.

False returns could be thwarted by requiring receipts for the merchandise, Nebus said.

If a company is having a problem with petty thefra, Hills police suggest hiring profession as ecurity. Super Kmarte, instance, installed 44 cameras, their stores to prevent inside

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thefts.

The key, though, is to report

The key, though, is wreper-incidents to police.

"A lot of stores have policies against prosecuting employees or they don't prosecute them until the third time. We discourage that," Nebus said.





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