

COUNCIL BRIEF

Fresh Approach Market, 35243 Grand River, got the OK for 12 months of outdoor sales May 1, from the Farmington City Council.

Outdoor flower sales will be May 1-Sept. 9; pumpkin sales Sept. 15-Nov. 1 and Christmas tree sales Nov. 20-Dec. 28.

Also approved was the company's request for an expanded hanging flower basket area, including the fronts of businesses to the south and east.

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The Farmington Observer



M-5 bridge to get steel, not concrete

Farmington repair project still on track

Work is still under way. But state engineers, citing major safety concerns, have all but dropped an idea to replace the aging steel support beams in the M-5 overpass above Farmington Road with new concrete underpinnings.

The reason is pure physics, according to Mark Steucher, res-

ident engineer for the Michigan Department of Transportation: There's not enough load-bearing capacity in the existing piers, footings and soil to handle concrete's greater weight, or "dead load" in engineer-speak.

And "The last thing you want to do" is put in a heavier overpass that can't safely be support-

ed, Steucher said.

He said he was to meet Tuesday with a structural engineer in Lansing before making the final decision.

The bottom line?

Some sort of maintenance likely will be needed about 15 years from now on the existing steel girders, as opposed to 30 years with the concrete.

"The lifecycle benefit to the people of Michigan" in terms of

dollars saved "would have been huge," said Steucher, who pointed out that MDOT had to do emergency repairs to the bridge about two years ago just to maintain the rated weight-capacity on the steel beams.

Dennis Cooper, MDOT assistant resident engineer, said the planned work of replacing the bridge's decks, or roadways, is continuing on schedule and should be completed by Oct. 2.

Fishing from page A1

attacks the fish's brain. The nervous system is impaired, causing the trout to swim with its head curled toward its tail.

As a result, the trout cannot eat and eventually dies. Spores of the disease are subsequently released into the water, which is picked up by other trout. The disease is believed to come from imported European brown trout.

"That's been here before and it looks like it's here again," said Bill Gruhn of the DNR's fisheries department.

In the mid-1960s, the DNR spent considerable money and resources in an attempt to eradicate the disease. At that time, one state stream was completely filled in and chlorine was used to clean out other waterways, Gruhn said.

"It has been a serious problem before and we're very concerned about it," Gruhn said.

The problem started in Farmington when the trout had been contaminated, there were other places to buy fish at competitive prices, Gruhn said.

The annual fishing derby coincides with the start of trout season and draws hundreds of children and parents. An Opening Day at Tiger Stadium is considered a rite of spring, so has the derby for Farmington-area residents.

Up to 500 trout are planted in the Rouge River tributary the previous night. The park is monitored for poachers who try to get a head start on the festivities.

Last year, nearly 200 trout were caught by the 425 registered participants. With 300 trout still lurking, people fished through the following Sunday.



On the banks: Anglers of all ages drop their lines into the waters in Farmington's Shawwassee Park during the annual spring Fishing Derby. At left is a file photo from the city's first derby in 1996. A new trout affliction, whirling disease, won't stop this year's event, since the trout farm the city uses recently received a clean bill of health.

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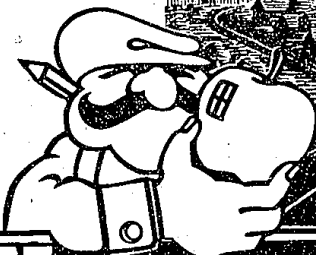
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THERE ARE NO ASYLUMS FOR THE REAL CRAZY WOMEN
One woman show featuring Jessica Caro Moore, five-time winner of Amateur Night on Showtime at the Apollo.
This show is based on the life of Vivian Elliott, wife of poet T.S. Elliott.
(\$7 per person and \$5 per member)

Thursday, April 16, 1998 • 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
MAAH SAYS READ: LITERARY REFLECTIONS OF BLACK AUTHORS SERIES
Featuring Go, Girl! The Black Woman's Book of Travel & Adventure by Elaine Lee
(Free with the purchase of book from MAAH for \$5 per person)

Friday, April 17, 1998 • 8 p.m. - 10 p.m.
MAAH 1ST ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
Join the MAAH for a Dessert & Champagne Toast in celebration of the inaugural year in its new facility.
Toast begins at 8:15 p.m. • This event is open to the public

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THE LIFE AND TIMES OF PAUL ROBESON
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