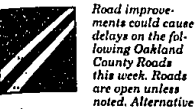


ROAD WATCH



Road improvements could cause delays on the following Oakland County roads this week. Roads are open unless noted. Alternative routes are advised.

478 At: Rochester Road Community: Troy The north bound exit ramp will be closed through June 17. Detours are posted.

4496 From: Franklin west bound to Inkster Community: Southfield Shoulders will be closed through May 31.

DEQUINDRE ROAD From: Big Beaver to Wavles Community: Troy Dequindre is being widened from two to five lanes. The project is

expected to be completed by Oct. 31.

ELIZABETH LAKE From: M-69 to Cass Lake Road Community: Waterford This section of road will be closed through the end of June to repair a damaged sewer line. From: Telegraph to M-69 Community: Waterford Concrete is being repaired. One lane will be closed at all times through July 3.

FRANKLIN ROAD At: I-696 bridge Community: Southfield The bridge over I-696 will be closed through June 1.

GRAND RIVER At: Farmington Road Community: Farmington Grand River (M-5) will be reduced to one lane in each direction through Sept. 15. At: Orchard Lake Road

Community: Farmington Hills There will be alternating lane closures through Aug. 13.

MAPLE ROAD From: Franklin to Telegraph Community: Bloomfield Township There will be periodic lane closures for resurfacing through mid-July.

NORTHWESTERN HIGHWAY At: Telegraph Road Community: Southfield The ramp from northbound Northwest to southbound Telegraph will be closed intermittently during non-rush hour periods. The ramp from northbound Telegraph to I-696 and northbound Northwest Highway will be closed until Oct. 30.

At: Service drive and Evergreen Community: Southfield The left service drive lane will be closed at Evergreen and the right lane of the Evergreen bridge will be closed through June 5.

The following are police and fire incidents that occurred in Farmington and Farmington Hills during the past week.

BEANIE BABIES STOLEN In Farmington Hills: Someone abandoned with 70 Beanie Babies worth \$700 and a \$2,500 wedding ring from an Emerald Forest residence between April 1 and May 13. The ring was taken from a bedroom dresser and 30 of the stuffed animals were stolen from a 7-year-old girl's bedroom. The homeowner believes a former baby-sitter may be involved.

WINDOW SHOT OUT In Farmington Hills: Someone shot out the back window of a 1998 Buick LeSabre parked at Bill Cook Buick on Grand River between May 22-26, causing \$500 damage. Police found a spent bullet, possibly from a .38 caliber gun, on the back seat. Police had a complaint May 24 of shots being fired at Holiday Inn, which backs up to the dealership.

GRAND PIANO PURLOINED In Farmington Hills: A thief helped himself to a baby grand piano from a garage at Hunters Ridge Apartments between May 20-21. A money clip and other items in a cardboard box were stolen. The person reporting the theft moved to the Hills from Pennsylvania two weeks ago and left the items in the garage.

JEWELRY LIFTED In Farmington Hills: Someone walked out with a \$500 gold bracelet and two gold rings worth \$500 each from a Grand Court residence of a 84-year-old woman between May 9-23.

WOMAN FONDLED In Farmington Hills: A woman, 55, told police a resident manager at Fox Pointe Condominiums forced himself on her and grabbed her breast May 8. The woman, who works as a leasing consultant, told her supervisor and the manager was fired, police reports said.

WINDSHIELD SMASHED In Farmington Hills: Police arrested a Farmington Hills man, 19, after someone hurled a 6-pound weight through the windshield of a 1991 Chevy

POLICE AND FIRE NEWS

Cavalier at Gateway Apartments May 26. The person inside the car said he went to get some money that he gave the suspect to buy some marijuana when the two started arguing. The man said he threw the weight because he thought the other guy was getting a weapon.

ASSAULT In Farmington Hills: A contract worker told police he was attacked by a bus boy at Kerby's Koney Island on Haggerly May 26. The man was taken to Botsford Hospital to be treated for cuts to the front and back of his head. The victim, who does work for the restaurant, got into an argument with a bus boy after the latter broke his glasses. At one point, the bus boy threw pieces of bricks and a coffee can at the victim while he was working on the roof. The man said he was attacked after he came back down from the ladder.

In Farmington: At about 5:20 p.m. Tuesday in the rear parking lot at the Big Boy restaurant on Farmington Road, an argument between a friend and girlfriend in the process of breaking up.

The victim, a 40-year-old Detroit woman, told police her boyfriend, a 30-year-old Detroit resident, shoved her twice against a car. The woman said she did not want to prosecute, but the incident was turned over to the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office for warrant consideration.

SKATEBOARDER PIDDLED In Farmington Hills: Police ticketed a 17-year-old skateboarder who was seen urinating behind an abandoned gas station on 10 Mile and Grand River around 7 p.m. May 26. When the officer reminded the Canton teen about the numerous restaurants with restrooms nearby, the skateboarder said he thought it was illegal to use a public bathroom without making a purchase.

HOME BURGLARY In Farmington Hills: Burglars kicked in a door and stole more than 100 cellular phones from a Ravencourt Street home May 26. Police found a muddy boot print on the door.

HEROIN ARREST In Farmington Hills: Police arrested a Farmington Hills man, 25, after he was

shooting up in an empty parking lot at the Farmington Hills Market on Orchard Lake and 10 Mile roads around 8:40 p.m. May 26. Officers found three unopened packets of heroin in the 1996 Pontiac he was inside.

DRUNKEN DRIVING In Farmington: Police observed a man having trouble starting his 1979 Harley-Davidson motorcycle, in front of a Farmington bar, at about 1 a.m. Thursday.

As he rode on Grand River, the man drifted back and forth in his lane. Police pulled him over, and smelling intoxicants on his breath, bloodshot and glassy eyes and slurred speech. The 47-year-old Livonia man had trouble with sobriety tests. A preliminary breath test showed a blood alcohol level was 26 percent, over the 10 legal limit.

BREAKINGS In Farmington Hills: Someone pried open the driver's window and more than twice limited the sanctity of a 1998 Jeep Limited parked at a Prince of Peace Lutheran Church on Newmarket May 27. The thief stole the in-dash radio, car phone and six compact discs, causing \$600 damage to the Jeep's dashboard. Also, a 1997 Chrysler was broken into and its in-dash radio and CD player stolen at O.E. Dunckel School, which is near the church.

C&S REPORT In Farmington: The Farmington Public Safety Department is investigating the report of an attempted criminal sexual conduct/fourth degree (penetration). According to Deputy Director Mike Wiggins the alleged incident took place about 7:30 a.m. Wednesday at Farmington High School, involving two 15-year-old students.

WOMAN GRABBED In Farmington Hills: A 73-old-year Baptist Manor resident laid an elbow on a man who grabbed her wrist and his elbow in the library of senior complex May 28. The woman ran from the room and called for help. The man, 39, admitted he grabbed and kissed the woman and said he is sorry. He also said he is on medication. A social worker and the victim asked that the man, who was delivering food, not be allowed in the building in the future.

Debate from page A1

classes each day, instead of six 50-minute classes). With block scheduling, high-achieving, college-bound students taking an Advanced Placement curriculum might be penalized by missing out on classes such as art and music.

Information, please Most of the candidates said they needed more information about the plan, which Webb said is still "evolving." But all agreed parents need to be prominent in putting the plan together.

"I'd definitely solicit parental input before any of these decisions came down," Jaske said. "Not to ask for input from parents is not responsible." Although Inch said it is "an administrative issue at this time," he said the school board would seriously discuss the topic if parents were not involved in decision making. Webb said the board wouldn't make any major decision on block scheduling without input from parents. "Like everything, I think parents should be involved," Katz

said. "There's advantages and disadvantages to this. The advantages are more flexibility, interdisciplinary classes. But there's a big concern to me that you said music and art might go (by) the wayside."

After the forum, co-sponsored by the Farmington Democratic Club and Farmington PTA Council and held at Farmington Hills City Hall, Superintendent Bob Maxfield assured parents that their concerns would be an important part of the mix.

"One of the ground rules we'll insist on is that no kid gets hurt in the process," Maxfield said. Also interesting was a question from Farmington Hills City Council member Vicki Barnett - before the cable portion concluded - about adopting a Minnesota pilot program to push back the starting time of schools.

Barnett said delaying start time from 8:30 to 8:00 a.m. has increased test scores and academic achievement in Minnesota. She also said the concept would keep kids off the street and out of trouble

after school, provide more sleep time, and allow children being picked up during daylight.

Worth a look The three challengers all said the program should be looked at, primarily because of the positive impact on student achievement. "This is a very good idea," Mahmood replied. "We certainly want rested and alert children in the class. And it would help productivity" and achievement. But board members Inch and Webb had reservations.

"I see all kinds of variables flying around with this one," said Inch, listing transportation schedule changes, impact on traffic flow, and whether children living in homes where both parents work "would ever get to school."

According to Webb, a later starting time equates to a later dismissal time, something that would impact extracurricular activities with other districts. "I think this is a topic that belongs at the county level."

The forum will be broadcast on TV8 and TV12 until the election.

Violence from page A1

The forum drew 40 or so people. The low turnout, especially in the wake of the recent tragedies, speaks to part of the problem, panelists said.

Children are becoming desensitized to violence through TV, movies and music. Meanwhile, parents are busy with work and material pursuits and not monitoring what the kids are doing. "Their attention is not on 'How do I raise this child into a whole human being?' It's how many Beanie Babies do I get?" said Dr. William Rowell of Psychological Institute of Michigan.

Parents who did attend the forum said there are few places to turn when dealing with a troubled child.

Debra Ammar of Livonia asked what happens to kids who get expelled for bringing a weapon to school? "They're on the street," Flick shot back. "Like what, Carolyn? You're at Farmington Hills said she felt abandoned when trying to get help for her troubled son.

"The school could expel my son and the police could put him in jail, but where was the help?" Wik asked.

While there was a loud call for more intervention and state funding for children's programs, one Farmington Hills man spoke from the "spare the rod, spoil the child" pulpit.

As a child, Harold White recalled how he was nabbed by police for shagging on car bumpers.

"He happened to be a neighbor

who was also a policeman," White said. "He said, 'I'm going to take you home to your mother.' I said, 'No, I'd rather go to the police station. I'll be much safer there.'"

"You don't have that any more."

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