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The exit ramp from southbound I-275 to Eight Mile Road is expected to be opened to traffic by the end of this week as contractors are expected to finish paving a new ramp, if weather permits. An entrance ramp from eastbound Eight Mile to southbound I-275 also was scheduled to be closed through at least Thursday so construction crews can replace that ramp.

New shoulders and another lane of concrete also are tentatively scheduled to be poured this week, as work crews move north from Five Mile Road.

Robin Paszowak, spokeswoman for the Michigan Department of Transportation, said once the Eight Mile interchange construction is completed this week, crews will move to the Six Mile interchange and work on the ramps there, then follow with construction on the Seven Mile interchange.

Motorists are advised to use the Seven Mile exits while crews work on Eight Mile ramps. When the crews work on Six Mile, motorists will be able to use the Seven and Eight Mile exits.

THE WEEK AHEAD

TUESDAY

Meet: The Farmington Hills Zoning Board of Appeals meets at 7:30 p.m. in council chambers in city hall, 31555 11 Mile. The meeting is open to the public. Call city hall, 474-6115 for more information.

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Suspect sighted in Hills

Farmington Hills police are also watching for a man driving a red pickup, who is suspected of trying to lure young girls in Novi and Northville.

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
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Farmington Hills police are on heightened alert for a red pickup truck driven by a man suspected of trying to abduct children last weekend in the area of Beck and Novi roads,

between Eight and 10 Mile. Farmington Hills police received three reports of sightings and similar incidents after a composite of the man aired on television.

"Our cars are alerted to the fact he has been seen in the area. We're taking this seriously," said Sgt. Tim Swanson, Hills police investigative bureau. "Unfortunately, we have nothing else substantial to go on."

Hills Detective Dave Loe met with Novi and Northville investigators handling the case to share information.

Please see SUSPECT, A4

Grant gives thumbs up to fingerprint technology

BY RICHARD PEARL
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The Farmington City Council has cleared the way for its Public Safety Department to get a new electronic fingerprinting system, once state funding becomes available.

The council last Monday night approved spending \$8,000 as its 25-percent share of a \$32,000 Livescan system installation, with the other 75 percent, or \$24,000, coming from the State Byrnes Memorial Grant being sought by Oakland County.

The council also authorized \$4,500 in first-year maintenance costs for the equipment - a figure which Public Safety Director Gary Goss said will go down as the other 19 law enforcement agencies in the county come on-line with the Livescan system.

Goss said Farmington Hills, which

Please see GRANT, A4



Eye Eye: Every great sleuth needs a magnifying glass to help solve a mystery. Haley Guilfoile, 5, is surprised at what she sees when looking at her friend Katherine Obrizak, 6.

STAFF PHOTO BY ELIZABETH CARROLL



Tall order: Five year old Eric Tyler has someone to look up to in Mike Kanter, a second grade teacher at Wood Creek Elementary.

I spy Kids uncover mysteries of science

BY RICHARD PEARL
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The FBI was scouring the grounds around quiet Wood Creek Elementary School in Farmington Hills last week.

But it wasn't agents from the U.S. Justice Department in Washington, D.C., who were peering closely at what was under the leaves, twigs and rocks.

It was the boys and girls of the Federal Bug Investigators, a group of first through third graders wearing long-billed green caps, clutching magnifying glasses and hunting - t-d-d-d - creepy, crawly bugs as part of Farmington Public Schools' first-ever Summer Science Sleuths program.

But bug-hunting wasn't the focus of the ambitious effort put together by Kathy Obrizak, a district science consultant, and attended by 44 youngsters ranging up to pre-sixth-grade in age.

Obrizak's purpose was to tap kids' interest in life sciences - as exemplified by the bug-hunt and exhibits of other living creatures - to trigger their curiosity in, and expand their horizons regarding, two other related scientific areas - earth science and physical science - in which tests have shown the kids don't do as well.

According to Obrizak, average scores for the past three years in the Michigan Education

Please see SLEUTHS, A3

Let your job search lead to web site

BY HEATHER NEEDHAM
STAFF WRITER

People looking for employment in the restaurant business but lacking the time needed to beat the pavement have a new web site to turn to.

By visiting www.rjobs.com on the Internet, anyone looking for restaurant work ranging from busing tables to managing a restaurant can submit their applications electronically - delivering them to a restaurant's fax machine. Restaurants pay \$49 to advertise on the site and \$5 for each fax they receive.

The self-guiding web page tour allows users to search for specific types of jobs in specific places for specific pay. Users can even request specific restaurants and restaurant types. Ten major companies are represented on the site, covering hundreds of individual restaurants.

After filling out this information, users can indicate what shifts they are available to work and information about their education.

Eric Drescher, a Farmington Hills resident and Florida native, came up with the

Please see JOBS, A6

Condo site promises plenty green

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
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A proposed 21-unit condominium development is not going to strip the area of its natural splendor, Farmington Hills City Council members assure.

Why such confidence? The city bought the nine-acre parcel and in turn sold it to a developer promising the least amount of density.

The original owner of the property on Orchard Like, south of Rockshire Street and across from Oakland County

Community College, wanted to build an office complex. The city went to Oakland County Circuit Court to fight the plan and lost.

Instead of following through with an office building, not to mention a long court battle, the owner sold the land to the city for \$750,000.

The city had an open bid process where developers could submit proposals.

Sami Harb of Forest at Orchard Lake bought the parcel for \$763,000.

The city didn't make a killing on the sale, but Harb's bid offered the least

number of housing units.

"In exchange for lower density, we took the lower price," Hills Councilwoman Vicki Barnett said.

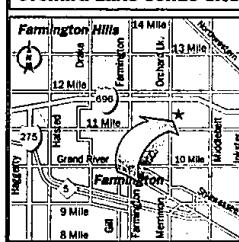
City officials feel the property is a linchpin of the Orchard Lake corridor. Other vacant lots exist on the thoroughfare south of I-696, which other developers may see as an opportunity for build office.

City planners would like the area to remain residential.

"We felt if we lost this portion to

Please see BUY, A6

Orchard Lake condo site



Neighbors put bumps along leadfoot avenues

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
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Two parallel Farmington Hills streets have the same problem - speeders. And residents are willing to put more bump into those motorists' breakneck rides.

Farmington Hills City Council approved installing speed bumps on Ravenscroft and Mayfair streets at its June 21 meeting. Though the current subdivisions, both roads outlet onto 13 Mile between Drake and Farmington roads.

Cost for nine speed bumps is \$26,625. Five will be installed on Ravenscroft from 13 Mile to Glouster

FARMINGTON HILLS

Circle while four are planned for Mayfair between 13 Mile and Northwick.

Work is expected to be done by the end of July. Speed bumps are considered a last resort as part of the city's SAFE-TE3 program, which stands for Safety Awareness for Everyone Through Education, Enforcement and Engineering. Lancaster and Kendallwood/Hearthstone are the only areas that have opted for speed bumps.

As part of the six-year program, residents often work with traffic engineers in trying to find a solu-

tion. Mayfair Street in Kings Pointe sub has a bend and a slight downhill slope towards 13 Mile. Speeds between 7-9 a.m. are the worst, studies show.

Average speeds have been clocked at 30.6 miles an hour on the residential street with an 85th percentile mark of 36 mph.

"It's physical makeup just says, 'Drive fast,'" said Mayfair resident Richard Davidson, "and that's what people do."

Fed up, Mayfair residents contacted the city's Traffic Engineering Department in May 1997.

After an initial speed study, the city sent letters to

Please see SPEED, A2



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