

Northeast Hills residents worry about roads, traffic

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER
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If northeast Farmington Hills residents are not worried about flooded basements, they're concerned about roads awash with traffic.

Those who live in the area north of 10 Mile and east of Orchard Lake Road shared their views and listened to updates from city officials during a quarterly meeting at Fire Station No. 2 Wednesday.

The meeting is part of an ongoing series in which elected officials and department heads give updates and address issues. Traffic is one worry in the northeast where Northwestern Highway cuts a swath.

Residents on one street cannot turn onto Northwestern Highway at peak times. Another building has gone up.

"It's gotten worse," said Faye Friedman of Stonewood Street. Andy Nickelhoff, Council of Homeowners Association president, wanted to know about development plans for the Orchard Lake-14 Mile-Northern triangle.

A developer wants to build a Super Kmart and condominiums in the area. Financing is still a hang-up, though.

"I can see the traffic congestion getting worse and affecting other arteries like Middlebelt," Nickelhoff said of more development.

A consultant has been hired to look at Northwestern and 14 Mile, said Tom Bissell, Public Services director. To expand Northwestern Highway to 16 Mile will cost at least \$50 million. So far, \$26 million has been pledged toward the project, Bissell said.

Another traffic solution would be another interchange on I-696, particularly near Inkster Road, Bissell said. Farmington Hills and Southfield officials have repeatedly asked the Federal Highway Administration to consider the issue.

"I wish I could tell you it's coming," Bissell said.

The recently released Hills Mobility Study addresses bottlenecks and other traffic issues, Bissell said. Instead of major reconstruction, the plan calls for tweaking intersections with

improvements such as additional turn lanes and curb cuts.

The Road Commission for Oakland County adopted some of the traffic study's suggestions in its plans, Bissell said.

Flooding issues appear related to development. Bissell said the city's consultant is still trying to determine the cause of 140 cases of water seeping into buildings in August, which caused several thousands of dollars in damages.

He cited Orchard Place Condominiums, where vehicles are parked underneath the buildings in a flood plain. Several flooding incidents were reported there.

"I hope you're not thinking about using tax money to fix a problem where the developer knew about the problem and went ahead and built it anyway," said Ed Spring, who lives on Springfield.

"It goes back to planning and infrastructure and making sure those two are tied together."

OBITUARIES

RUTH K. SMITH

Ruth Kennitz Smith, 79, of Farmington died Nov. 12 at West Bloomfield Nursing Center.

She is survived by sons, Warren (Judy), Richard (Linda) and Herbert (Linda); brother, Louis Kennitz; sister, Alma Asche; and seven grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Nov. 15 at the Spirit of Christ Lutheran Church in Novi with the Rev. Thomas Scherger officiating. Arrangements were made by Heene-Sundquist Funeral Home in Farmington.

Memorial contributions may be sent to the Parkinson's Foundation.

JAMES J. TAPIN

James J. Tapin, 60, formerly of Farmington, died Nov. 15, in the Bahamas.

Mr. Tapin was a controller/treasurer for Atlantic Associates Property Maintenance in Farmington Hills. He held a black belt in martial arts and was a U.S. Army veteran.

He is survived by wife, Joanne; sons, James and Matthew; brother, Thomas (Donna); sister, Mary (Nick) Bailes; and 30 nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held Nov. 20 at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Farmington with the Rev. Scott Thibodeau and the Rev. Lauren O'Dea officiating. Arrangements were made by Thayer-Rock Funeral Home in Farmington.

Hills.

Memorial contributions may be sent to Camp Sancta Maria, P.O. Box 538, Gaylord 49734.

Richard George Abowd Jr., 74, of Farmington Hills died Nov. 19 at Botsford General Hospital in Farmington Hills.

Abowd, a long-time resident of the Farmington area retired in 1992 from the Ford Motor Company after 17 years where he last worked as a design engineer.

Prior to Ford, he worked as an engineer for Ethyl Corporation. He was a World War II U.S.

Army/Air Corps veteran. He is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame and the University of Michigan where he earned a master's degree in engineering. Mr. Abowd was a member of Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church, the Knights of Columbus, The Large Family Club and the Society of Automotive Engineers. He also served on the Parish Council and the School Board.

He is survived by wife, Sara; sons, John (Janet), Anthony (Michelle), James, David (Michael), Stephen, Gregory (Meghan) and Peter (Caro-

line); daughters, Elizabeth (Thomas) Rockwell, Marypat Abowd, Rosemary (Thomas) Schwendler, Michelle (Dennis) Yoder and Paula (David) Sinicola; sisters, Peggy Shaker, Patricia Baker and Mary Alice Abowd; and brothers, Thomas and George; and 26 grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Monday, Nov. 23, at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church in Farmington with the Rev. Scott Thibodeau officiating. Visitation will be held from 2-9 p.m. today, Nov. 22, at Heene-Sundquist Funeral Home in Farmington. A prayer service will be at 7:30 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorial contributions may be sent to Botsford Kidney Center, 28425 W. 8 Mile, Livonia 48152; or the Ranshaw Foundation, 4955 N. Lake Hill Drive, Delaware, OH 43015.

Virginia L. Fish
Virginia Lee Fish, 71, of Farmington Hills, died Nov. 12.

She is survived by husband, George; daughters, Kathleen (Harry) Gilbert, Deborah, and Patricia (John) Dolak; sister, Jean; and grandchildren, George, Erin and Jordan.

Funeral services were held Nov. 16 at St. Colette Catholic Church in Livonia. Arrangements were made by Neely-Turovski Funeral Home in Livonia.

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Cable from page A1

tion Commission sets that figure.

Time Warner and SWOCC are negotiating a new franchise agreement. The rate increase will not impact on those talks, said Caren Collins, SWOCC executive director.

"Basically rates are not an issue of the contract because it is something that is negotiated by the FCC," Collins said. "So I guess I'd have to call those two different things."

"We don't have any authority in negotiations to force them to lower their rates."

Caren Collins
—SWOCC director

"We don't have any authority in negotiations to force them to lower their rates."

SWOCC does log complaints

over rate hikes and formally files with the FCC to investigate. In 1994, the FCC made the cable operator refund \$133,050 to subscribers in Farmington Hills, Farmington and Novi after ruling it overcharged for installation and service rates.

Nielsen realizes he's in the minority when it comes to complaining about cable rates.

"People don't do too much about it. They just keep paying it," he said.

MERCY HIGH SCHOOL

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Sunday 8:30 AM (Chapel)

Sunday 9:30 & 11:00 AM (Sanctuary)

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Sunday School & Bible Class 9:45 AM

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Preschool & Daycare (734) 513-8413

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Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 9:45 AM

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46001 Warren Rd., Canton

(just west of Canton Center)

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Sunday 9:30 AM

Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:45 AM

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Principle of Peace

28000 New Market St., Farmington Hills

(248) 553-3380

Worship Hours:

Sunday 9:30 AM

Sunday School & Bible Study 11:00 AM

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church

11900 Long Pine Rd., Bloomfield Hills

(248) 848-8888

Worship Hours:

Saturday 5:00 PM

Sunday 8:15, 9:45 & 11:15 AM

Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM

Sunday School 9:45 AM

Discipleship I Sunday 9:45 AM

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Wednesday 7:00 PM

Sunday 9:45 AM

Tuesday 6:15 PM

Wednesday 7:00 PM

Discipleship II

Discipleship III

Principle of Peace

28000 New Market St., Farmington Hills

(248) 553-3380

Worship Hours:

Sunday 9:30 AM

Sunday School & Bible Study 11:00 AM