

Walk from page A1

"When I was going through my heel spurs, I was really nervous that I wouldn't be able to finish," Fernandes said. "But they told me they have these sweep vans that can pick me up. ... But I want to walk into that stadium at the very end."

**Pledging to help**  
The daily walking regimen is only part of what she has to do in order to help raise money for breast cancer awareness programs, organizations and research efforts. The stack of envelopes on her coffee table is a reminder that Fernandes also must keep soliciting all-important pledge money. She needs to raise at least \$1,900 in pledges to join the ranks of 3,000 walkers from the Midwest.

(Those efforts are certain to be helped by the Farmington Area Jaycees, of which she is a member. The Jaycees are hosting a spaghetti dinner to help her raise the minimum; the dinner is from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Friday, April 6, at North Congregational

Church in Farmington Hills.) According to the 36-year-old Fernandes, who recently moved to Walled Lake with her husband, Greg, signing up for the Avon 3-Day walk is her way of carrying on her mom's legacy.

"When she had her mastectomy in '88, they told her she'd only live five years," Fernandes continued. "But they didn't know her very well. She was a stubborn Hollander."

Bowen's courage extended to assembling information on breast cancer to supply hospitals and support groups, as well as organizing regular walk-a-thons to further the cause.

"She had someone walking in her name every year this has been going on," said Mindy, adding that this year is merely her turn.

**Mission work**  
But, the way Fernandes spotted off American Cancer Society statistics about the disease indicates she is taking her new caretaker status seriously.

For example, one out of every nine American women is at risk to contract breast cancer, the leading cause of death for women ages 40-55. This year, about 180,000 women will be diagnosed and 40,000 will die.

"Every woman and a percentage of men are at risk," she noted.

The flip side is, in part because of awareness-building efforts such as the Avon 3-Day Walk, there are about 2 million breast cancer survivors in the United States.

"I'm just glad the Jaycees are sponsoring me on this," Fernandes said. "It's a real blessing for me. But my mom was amazing. She had 14 chemo and yet she always kept a positive attitude."

Mindy now wants to literally lay down some tracks to keep Bowen's mission alive, to "make sure people are aware and can avoid this whole thing." And she's not referring to heel spurs.

'High impact' M-14/I-96/I-275 project begins

By Sue Buck  
Staff Writer  
sbuck@ec.homecomm.net

Motorists have begun to deal with a "high impact" project on M-14/I-96/I-275 this year.

Initial work has forced closure on the southbound M-14 ramp to northbound I-275, along with a one-lane closure on northbound I-275 at the interchange. Daily construction will be continuous through May, according to Michigan Department of Transportation officials.

"As the work progresses, commuters can expect to find the southbound I-275 ramp to east-

bound I-96 closed, too," said Rob Morosi, an MDOT spokesman.

Phase I of the project involves detouring some ramp movements on the interchange to facilitate the reconstruction, Morosi said.

Pavement work involves total reconstruction of I-96/M-14 between Haggerty Road and Newburgh Road and pavement patching on I-96 from Newburgh Road to Telegraph Road.

"Pavement work is expected to begin once spring season breaks," Morosi said. "Construction on 50 bridges between Newburgh and Telegraph will range

from minor substructure repair to full-scale bridge replacement

"This stretch of M-14/I-96 carries over 142,000 vehicles a day so our planning has to be precise," said Mark Chaput of the Taylor Transportation Service Center. "We understand the inconvenience to motorists this project entails but plenty of commuters have indicated fixing this section of M-14/I-96 is a must. When at all possible motorists will find two lanes available in each direction."

The \$49 million project is funded through the Build Michigan II plan and TEA-21.

Census from page A1

enue-sharing money for Farmington because the formula used to calculate aid is based on population.

Hills officials have known since a mid-decade census, completed because of the city's rapid growth, that they were governing the largest community in Oakland County.

The city has little room left to build, which should flatten the growth curve. Mayor Nancy Bates said officials will be taking a close look at whether policies should be reviewed in light of the new numbers.

A \$150 million planned unit development proposed in the 14 Mile Orchard Lake Northwest-

ern area is the last large piece of property left to develop, Bates said. The city will then turn its attention to redevelopment, in areas such as the Grand River corridor, but she doesn't foresee any major census-related policy changes.

"I think Grand River is going to be blossoming before long," Bates said. "The council is already on track in that direction."

Bates, who was on the council during the city's decade of rapid growth, believes most residents will be surprised to learn they live in such a large community. Farmington Hills' rolling terrain and restrictive forestry ordi-

nances have kept a more pastoral atmosphere - and she says that's no accident.

"I feel like we've had good leadership. We've grown with so much care and caution as you can. I don't think Farmington Hills happened. I think it was created."

She also noted the census will have implications on a broader level as well.

"Political redistricting is going to make some kind of impact. We may very easily change congressmen."

School district officials also are optimistic about the future because of the population growth. But, without more-specific demographics, it is difficult to determine just how beneficial the upswing will be.

"That's over a 10-year period, and much of that growth has been felt in our (student) enrollment," said Farmington school board President Frank Reid, who still admitted surprise at learning about the 7,750-person increase in the two cities combined.

Although "a maturing community like ours tends to lose school-age population," Reid said there are some turnarounds occurring, such as younger families moving in.

"I'm hopeful we can keep that cycle moving and at least sustain the number of school-age children that we're serving now," he said.

Larry Lobert, the district's executive director for personnel, said that while the census figures are a hopeful sign, the information is too general to know for sure what that means for the future of the school system.

"It doesn't tell me enough," Lobert said.

Staff writer Joni Hubred also contributed to this story.

APPEARING THIS SUMMER



DAY CAMP

SESSIONS BEGIN JUNE 18TH  
(248) 661-3630

summer impressions  
4150 Middlebelt Road  
(between Lodi and  
Lung Lake Roads)  
West Bloomfield 48322



first impressions  
32500 West Thirteen Mile  
(between Orchard Lake &  
Farmington Roads)  
Farmington Hills 48334  
5760 Drake Road  
(between Walnut Lake &  
Maple Roads)  
West Bloomfield 48322



Time for a Career Change?

Come to the Botsford  
Health Care Continuum

JOB FAIR

find out about opportunities for:  
RNs, Medical Assistants, Unit Secretaries  
Phlebotomists, Pharmacists and many more.

Monday, April 2

3:30 - 6:30pm

Community Room, Zieger Center  
Botsford General Hospital  
28050 Grand River Ave., Farmington Hills

Light Refreshments • FREE Gift/Raffle  
Meet Our Staff • Tour Selected Areas  
Apply and interview on the spot for some positions.

Call for information/directions  
(248) 471-8836



Botsford General Hospital • 28050 Grand River Ave., Farmington Hills, MI 48336

**BROKERS NEEDED**  
Experienced Series 7 Reps  
Profit Sharing Plan 70% Pay-out  
Call 800-719-9160

**EQUITAS America L.L.C.**  
of Farmington Hills, Michigan

Join us  
April 10th and April 17th  
7:30-9:00 am Light Breakfast  
4:30-6:00 pm Drinks  
at the  
**Box Bar**  
Plymouth, Michigan.

Call 800-719-9160  
with questions and reservations  
or just come by.

**JOE'S PRODUCE**  
Michigan's Finest

**Spring is in Bloom!**

|                                                                       |                                                                                         |                                                                                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Delmonte Bananas</b><br>Rich Plantains<br><b>29¢</b>               | <b>Shop our Bulk Food Section for your Easter Candy, Nuts and Sugar Free Candy</b>      | <b>California All Green Asparagus</b><br><b>99¢</b>                               |
| <b>Delmonte Golden Ripe Pineapples</b><br>Whole Cans<br><b>\$3.99</b> | <b>G.M. Paris Bakery Angel Wings</b><br>12.99 per dozen                                 | <b>California Broccoli Crowns</b><br>High in B-Carotene<br><b>79¢</b>             |
| <b>Delmonte All American Apples</b><br>Crisp and Sweet<br><b>1.99</b> | <b>Stop in at any of the fine Specialty Stores in the Joe's Produce Shopping Center</b> | <b>Florida Sweet Ruby Red Grapefruit Juice</b><br>Fresh Squeezed<br><b>\$2.99</b> |

Prices Good Through April 5, 2001

**SHOP JOE'S PRODUCE**  
for the freshest variety of fruits & vegetables!

**33152 W. Seven Mile**  
**Livonia, Michigan 48152**  
**(248) 477-4333**