

## Concrete from page A1

Planning Commission public hearing on the issue.

The public hearing will take place in the Farmington Hills City Council chambers at 31555 11 Mile Road.

"We decided it isn't good for our neighborhood," Fitzpatrick said. "There will be air pollution, noise and dust. Four or five of us had a meeting and we decided to organize. We don't want this to happen."

Meanwhile, Hills Director of Planning and Community Development Dale Countegan Tuesday emphasized that the batch plant proposed by Tony Angelo

Cement Construction would only be temporarily used - solely for this summer's reconstruction of Orchard Lake Road.

"This would be used to bring cement to the site and that can't be achieved if they don't have a batch plant," Countegan explained.

The proponent, Robert Liddell of Tony Angelo Cement Construction, is requesting a Special Purpose District for the property, about one mile east of the construction site on the northern edge of Mercy High School property, south of I-696 and east of Middlebelt Road.

**'We decided it isn't good for our neighborhood.'**

*Elaine Fitzpatrick  
—Kimberly Hills sub resident*

Countegan said the planning commission still has concerns about the kind of noise and dust a batch plant might cause, and wants assurances that the Orchard Lake Road project is the only one for which it would make cement. Reconstruction is scheduled from June through

August.

"There are certain efficiencies to doing it this way," Countegan said. "And the planning commission certainly can impose conditions on it."

Fitzpatrick and her neighbors would like to persuade the planning commission to consider another location for the batch plant.

"This is just too close to our subdivision and to (nearby) Meadow Ridge Condominiums," said Fitzpatrick, adding that residents of the Timber Creek apartment complex north of I-696 have similar issues.

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way property for the telecommunications industry and road improvements.

About the latter, Mayor Nancy Bates inquired whether there might be some funding assistance to help pay for the widening of 12 Mile Road in front of Harrison High School.

But Stabenow referred to how federal lawmakers are "being asked not just to lock in spending for this year, but to lock in spending for the next 10 years."

### Keep it clean

Meanwhile, as was the case at Stabenow's earlier meeting in Farmington, one of the main top-

ics of the Hills council study session was whether there will be sufficient funding in the pending federal budget to help local communities repair an aging water and sewer infrastructure.

The senator said the federal Environmental Protection Agency has estimated it will cost \$5.6 billion over the next two decades to repair or replace sewers in Michigan alone.

"It's very high on my list, that whole issue of water and sewer system upgrades, she said.

Stabenow further explained that, although the U.S. Congress authorized the EPA to spend \$1.35 billion for a federal Clean Water Act state revolving fund to fight water pollution from outdated sewer systems, only about \$850 million actually was put into the new budget.

That decrease was a cause of concern for Councilman Jerry Ellis.

"We're under a court order to clean up the water in southeastern Michigan, ... and we don't have enough money to do it ourselves," Ellis said. "It's a federal clean water act that we're being asked to make sure is taken care of."

"But if we don't get the money from the federal government to do it, it's like another unfunded mandate. And that's the problem we're facing here. Our citizens have a right to expect clean water."

Concurring on that point was Stabenow. "I believe it is an unfunded federal mandate and we have an obligation to come forward with that funding."

### Money for COPS

Stabenow, accompanied by members of her Washington, D.C., staff, also made some comments during the regular council meeting, held later Monday evening.

She told council members that one area certain to be "heavily debated" during the final phase of budget discussions is funding for the Community Oriented Policing Services, COPS, which has led to the hiring of 3,400 new police officers in Michigan municipalities (including Farmington Hills) since 1995.

Stabenow is the original cosponsor of a bill that would extend the program, created by the federal 1994 Crime Act, and authorize more than \$1.2 billion over the next six years. That money would pay to hire more officers, provide departments with better law enforcement technology and supporting community prevention programs, among other initiatives.

In a press release, Stabenow stated that President George W. Bush "has proposed to end the extremely popular and successful COPS program. As I have traveled around Michigan, I have continually heard from local government and law enforcement agencies throughout the state how instrumental the COPS program has been in their efforts to reduce crime."

It is Stabenow's hope that the Bush administration "will seriously rethink their decision to eliminate COPS program funding."

### Real world connection

During comments to the council, Stabenow also noted that she intends to spend a lot of her time talking to Michigan constituents. There will be six satellite offices established throughout the state.

"I view it as a long-distance commute to work," said Stabenow, adding that it is essential for local governments to work together with federal representatives to help them "understand what's happening in the real world."

That suited Ellis just fine. He assured Stabenow the city council's on her side.

"You know our agenda, and know the things we're looking for, (both) for Farmington Hills and southeastern Michigan," Ellis said.

### College fair slated

Prospective college students should mark Tuesday, April 24, on their calendars. That's the date of the free Metro Detroit National College Fair at the Novi Expo Center, Novi Road just south of I-96. Hours are 9 a.m. to noon and 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Representatives from colleges and universities from all over the country will be on hand.

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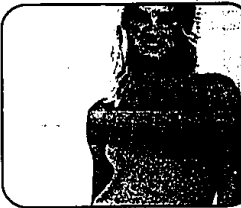


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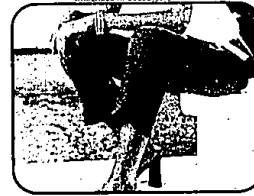
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