

# Crash from page A1

by its policyholders in 1999 and 2000. It takes into account the number of crashes at various intersections, how many of those crashes involved injury, the severity of those crashes and the percentage of vehicles insured by State Farm in areas where the intersections are located.

While the RCOC appreciates the effort — and the \$20,000 State Farm will contribute towards a study of those intersections — Bryson said accident counts may not provide an accurate picture of actual road conditions.

The roads involved have traffic volumes among the highest in the county, and where there are more cars, there will be more accidents, he explained. Oakland County relies on the Traffic Improvement Association, based in Sylvan Lake, to provide statistics that take those volumes into account.

"The rate of accidents may be

**Information about the dangerous intersections in Michigan and nationwide is available on the Internet, at [www.statefarm.com](http://www.statefarm.com)**

lower than the raw numbers," he said.

City and county officials won't argue conditions at both intersections are bad. Hills Mayor Nancy Bates believes safety will improve when a new I-696 interchange, slated for construction in Southfield, relieves some of the traffic from the I-696/Orchard Lake area.

"We have plans for improvements to the Northwestern Connector that involve Orchard Lake," she added.

The city, county and state

highway department have proposed intersection improvements for a number of roads in that area. Bryson said while those are a few years away, the State Farm grant will allow the county to look at interim improvements, like re-timing signals.

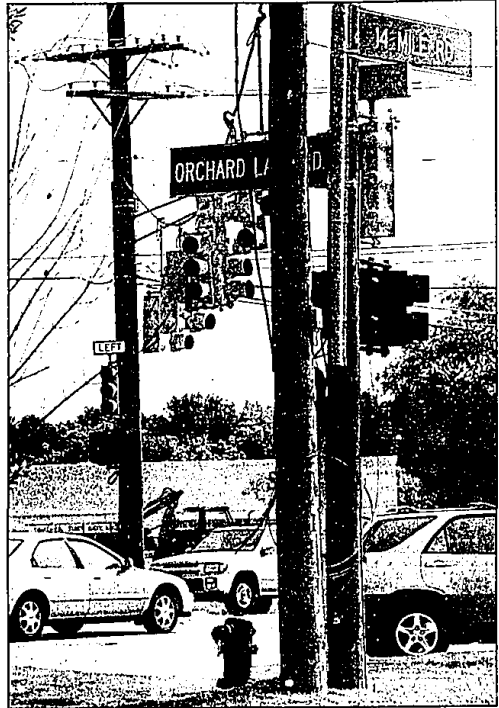
"We don't object to somebody whose goal is improving safety," he said. "We might quibble a little with their methodology."

Bates said the city also welcomes the opportunity to make changes for the better.

"This may be an opportunity to do some more things there," she said. "Safety is always a primary issue."

And erasing a somewhat negative image for the city wouldn't hurt, either.

"We may lose our standing the next time around," she said.



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL DRISLER

**Crash contral:** State Farm Insurance's annual report on dangerous intersections lists the intersection of 14 Mile and Orchard Lake Roads as the sixth most dangerous in the state. The ranking is based on the number of accident claims reported by motorists who carry State Farm Insurance, as well as a number of other factors. The Orchard Lake / 12 Mile intersection was ranked #8. The dubious distinction will result in the Road Commission of Oakland County receiving \$20,000 to study both intersections in the hopes of uncovering measures that will improve traffic safety. Long term projects are also planned.

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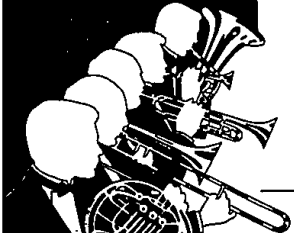
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## INKWELL

### PTA HONORS

The following Farmington Public Schools students were recently recognized for their entries in the PTA Reflections Contest. The contest encourages students in grades preschool through 12 to express their various creative talents.

Literature Award of Excellence: Makalya McCoskey, Kenbrook and Brent Atkinson, Hillside; Literature Award of Merit: Ashley Stevens, Longacre; Music Award of Excellence: Mark Lecerf, Highmeadow Common Photography Award of Excel-

lence: Michael Minkus, Wood Creek; Photography Award of Merit: Michael O'Connor, Gill and Jessica Love, Kenbrook; Visual Arts Award of Excellence: Jordan Berman, Eagle; Stephanie Sanders, Highmeadow Common; Ryo Namiki, Kenbrook and Garrett Pelowski, Highmeadow Common; Visual Arts Award of Merit: Melissa Butman, East

**WRITING WINNERS**  
The National Council of Teachers passed out awards to three Power Middle School students.

Rachel Kolbasa received a certificate of recognition for promising young writers. Receiving certificates of appreciation were Abigail Velling and Stephanie Guibert. Power teacher Carol Taylor assisted the students with their entries.

**STUDENT AMBASSADOR**  
East Middle School student McKenzie Curri has been selected to be a People to People Student Ambassador and will travel to France, Switzerland, Austria and Italy this coming summer to represent the United States.

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