

## THE WEEK AHEAD

**Hills Council:** Council members will hold a public hearing on the city's acceptance of a Law Enforcement Block Grant at their Monday, August 13 meeting. Officials will also consider approving a resolution of intent to establish a brownfield redevelopment zone in the Northwestern Orchard Lake area. The meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. at Hills City Hall, 11 Mile and Orchard Lake Roads. The Council will consider an agreement regarding San Marino Golf Course at their August 20 meeting, not August 13 as previously reported.

## MONDAY

**Farmington Planning Commission:** Commissioners will consider a site plan request for a Planned Unit Development, submitted by Louis Leonor, D.D.S. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. at Farmington City Hall, 23600 Liberty Street.

## THURSDAY

**Hills Planning:** Public hearings on a site condo plan for property at 21365 Goldsmith and special land use approval for a fitness center at 24168 Haggerty will be taken up by the Commission at their regular meeting, which begins at 7:30 p.m. at City Hall.

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## Traffic Jams



Sit and wait and sit and wait and: Long after rush hour ends cars still wait several traffic light changes to move through the intersection at Farmington Rd. and Eight Mile.



If you think driving through  
construction traffic is tough, try  
living or doing business in ...



## The Construction Zone

Haggerty opens, but  
Orchard Lake folks are  
in for the long haul

BY KEVIN BROWN  
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Orange road barrels and red brake lights are giving some people the blues. But residents and business people along three major road projects in Farmington Hills say they're coping with traffic backups, knowing that better roads are coming.

The detours caused by the Haggerty Road bridges repair project ended Aug. 8 as the four rebuilt bridges - over M-5, I-96, I-695 and the I-275 interchange - were reopened one month ahead of schedule.

"It's very good news," said Farmer John's Greenhouse

Please see HILLS, A3

Business owners on  
Farmington Road say  
they've suffered losses

BY SUE BUCK  
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"Oh, God. Yeah." When the subject of Farmington Road construction comes up, even the busiest business person is willing to make time to talk about it.

For stores located along the stretch of Farmington Road between Eight Mile and Nine Mile, construction represents progress, temporary inconvenience and business woes. That first phase, which began last month, is expected to be completed by Nov. 30, according to Craig Bryson, spokesman for the Oakland County Road Com-

Please see FARMINGTON, A3



Motorist: Lee Miller is a Hills employee.



Wide open spaces: An empty parking lot illustrates the impact of the Haggerty Rd. construction closing.

## Knollenberg, local clergy respond to President's stem cell decision

BY KEVIN BROWN  
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President George Bush's stand on use of cells from human embryos for research drew a mixed reaction from Farmington area clergy and politicians.

Bush will allow using federal money to research existing stem-cell lines, a decision he said balances concerns about "protecting life and improving life."

Around the nation, those favoring the research criticize Bush for not allowing scientists to develop new lines

for study. Those strongly against it equate the research to the taking of human life in the name of science.

Adam Chalton, assistant rabbi with the Birmingham Temple of Farmington Hills, said, "My feeling was that he was in a way postponing the decision."

He said that Bush's choice to use only existing stem cell lines puts off a defining decision on the issue for later. "They'll have to re-evaluate the issue in a couple of years. Most politicians like to put off decisions."

Chalton said a majority of Birming-

Please see STEM CELLS, A3

## Banks offer \$2,000 reward for information about robberies

BY STACY JENKINS  
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He stands patiently in line at the bank, doesn't say a word, then slips a note to the teller before casually walking away with a load of cash. He's done it at least five times in the past three weeks in three communities and now police and federal agents are stepping up the search for the suspect.

The Detroit Clearinghouse, a

group of financial institutions, is now offering a reward.

"They are offering a \$2,000 reward for information leading to the identification, arrest and indictment of this bank robbery suspect," said Terry Booth, FBI special agent.

In Redford, the 6-foot tall, light-complected black man with a goatee and baseball cap, stood a few feet away from the counter at First Fed-

Please see ROBBERIES, A3

## Credit Union expansion approved

BY SUE BUCK  
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Plans for an expansion at Suburban Family Credit Union received the go-ahead Aug. 6, with Farmington City Council's unanimous approval of its rezoning request.

The council agreed with the planning commission's recommendation to rezone an adjacent parcel from single-family residential to commercial. A residential building has been removed from that property.

■ 'The plans blend very well with the residential area.'

Mary Bush  
—Councilwoman

The credit union has been located on Grand River at Lakeway in Farmington for more than 30 years. Proposed changes will include a drive-through.

The council also decided Aug. 6 not to schedule an additional public hearing.

"To date, there have been a total of three meetings regarding the issue which included the public hearing where property owners within 300 feet of this property were notified," said Farmington City Manager Frank Lauhoff. "We believe an additional public hearing would not provide any infor-

Please see CREDIT UNION, A2

## Tree House will head back to planning board September 10

BY SUE BUCK  
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The owner of The Tree House for Earth's Children will go to the Farmington Planning Commission Sept. 10 with a new site plan.

"We will submit a plan with more specifics," said owner Christine Meinke.

For several months, the business on Mooney Street and city officials have been embroiled in a dispute that began prior to the construction of parking lot planters (referred to as "urban gardens").

An original ticket cited Meinke for improperly used cinder blocks.

The Aug. 2 court date in 47th District Court was adjourned to a new date and time to be set by the court, because Meinke will be applying for planning commission approval regarding the planting areas and outdoor seating.

She received four violations last month: failure to obtain site plan approval for the planting area; parking lot not maintained; Mooney Street right of way not maintained; and no approval for outdoor seating.

### New site plan required

"The most important part of the order requires that the owners of The Tree House present a new site plan for the parking lot planters at the regular planning commission meeting of Sept. 10," said Farmington City Manager Frank Lauhoff in a memo to Mayor Bill Hartcock and Farmington city

Please see TREE HOUSE, A2

