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Headache

One awaits commuters who use 12 mile Road

By Joanne Mallazewski
staff writer

An estimated \$2 million construction project planned to relieve the traffic congestion on 12 Mile Road in Farmington Hills moved a step forward this week.

"We hope it will be built this summer," said William Costick, assistant city manager, referring to the planned widening of the city's two-mile stretch on 12 Mile.

In a first step toward construction, Farmington Hills City Council Monday authorized City Manager Lawrence Savage to sign an agreement with the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) for the preliminary engineering designs and specifications for the project.

THE ROAD improvements call for widening 12 Mile to four lanes between Middlebelt and Orchard Lake roads and to five lanes between Orchard Lake and Farmington roads, Costick said. When widened, the two-mile stretch will be resurfaced.

While under construction, however, 12 Mile Road will be open to traffic, Costick added.

Available through the Federal Aid to Urban System Program (FAUS), federal money will pay for 75 percent of the estimated \$2 million price tag for widening and resurfacing.

Farmington Hills is expected to pay the remaining 25 percent share, or \$500,000, of the road improvements. Council members last August set aside the city's share in the capital improvement fund.

ALTHOUGH THE preliminary engineering authorized this week will cost an estimated \$75,000, federal aid will pay the greatest share with the city paying only \$18,750.

Although city officials have been concerned about 12 Mile's congestion, the county road commission did not have plans to solve the problem.

But city officials in September asked road commissioners to apply for newly available federal highway grant dollars. Road commissioners then agreed to apply for the federal dollars if the city paid all of the local share, including the county's half (12.5 percent) of the road improvements.

Road commissioners generally base improvements on safety. That means the roads with the highest number of accidents usually get top priority.

DESPITE THE congestion, most accidents on 12 Mile involve property damage and vehicles.

In January, traffic consultants Jon Crane and Mike Labadie, who are conducting the 12 Mile road study, presented the council with some preliminary

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School chief finalists await trustees' call

By Teri Banas
staff writer

Clarencerville school trustees are expected to name the finalists in the search for a new school superintendent tonight in a special session that follows three days of interviews.

At least two and possibly three finalists will be named from the field of seven candidates who were interviewed by trustees in separate sessions Friday, Saturday and Monday, trustees said this week. Initially, there were 92 applicants for the job. Fewer than five residents attended each of the public sessions.

THE SPECIAL session begins at 8 p.m. in Clarencerville Junior High, 20210 Middlebelt, Livonia.

Several key questions emerged in the process. Trustees wanted to know, for instance, how the candidates planned to "motivate an aging staff" in their views on state assessment tests; how they would react to cuts in state funding; their views on teachers teaching outside of their majors and minors; views on disciplining students, staff and administrators; as well as their personal strengths and weaknesses.

Lorene Erickson wanted to know if the candidates believed there were any proven predictions in the novel "1984" by George Orwell.

A BRIEF summary of the candidates' responses follows:

• Robert Hagerty, 47, director of student services, evaluation, research and special services for the Hazel Park Community School District, described himself as an advocate of the "Effective Schools Program," a motivation plan aimed at raising teachers' expectations of students. The plan was pioneered in Bay City, he said, and brought "marked improvements" in learning.

According to trustees, Clarencerville stands to gain some \$277,000 in additional state aid this year over last year's amount. But asked how he would increase revenues if that proposed legislative package failed, Hagerty said he'd consider other sources of income such as developing a pre-primary special education program. "You expend only half of what the gross state aid per student is," he said. Other suggestions included increasing participation in the adult education program, another money-maker, becoming involved in joint lobbying efforts with other in-formula districts for a "fairer distribution" of income statewide; and consider cutbacks in staffing.

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That's some bunny

At least that's what these tots thought recently when they met none other than the Easter Bunny over at the Farmington Hills branch library. The bunny will be hosting lunch on April 14 from 11 a.m. to noon at the First United Methodist Church, 33112 Grand River in Farmington. Price is \$2.25. Reservations are being taken by the

Farmington Area Jaycee Women, who can be reached at 478-8824. Meeting the bunny were: Brian Swanson, far left; Tommy Rudolph and Stephen Swanson on the bunny's lap, left to right respectively; Anita Rudolph is holding her daughter, Crystal.

RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Hospital faces cutbacks; expansion plans stalled

By Tom Beer
staff writer

Boisford General Hospital may be in the midst of an \$11 million expansion program, but its work force soon will shrink by about 100 employees.

By Friday the nail biting will be over for wage earners — health care professionals and office workers alike — at the 350-bed osteopathic hospital in Farmington Hills.

Friday's the day layoff notices go out to affected employees.

Boisford, the city's largest single employer with about 1,100 full-time and 400 part-time and "casual" employees, was forced to make the cuts because of a "dip in census" during 1983, according to vice president Gerson I. Cooper, who has been explaining the impending layoffs to hospital employees at a series of meetings.

"RUMOR MILL" being what it is, I think most of you know what this session is all about," Cooper told a group of about 200 employees at a meeting Monday afternoon.

Cooper went on to say that last year there were 115 fewer admissions to Boisford than in 1982, when 11,200 patients were admitted.

Additionally, he said, half a day was trimmed from the average length of stay, resulting in a loss of 9,000 patient days at Boisford in 1983.

"Collectively, we're all paying the price for doing what is right," said Cooper, explaining that current thinking in



Gerson Cooper

the health care field urges "keeping the patient vertical," or out of the hospital, whenever possible to reduce costs.

CUTBACKS BEGAN around the first of the year, according to Cooper, with freezes on hiring and pay increases. The hospital's \$32 million budget was "redone," he said.

"In addition, anyone who left was not replaced," Cooper said.

Cooper said that the "targeted reduction" in staff would amount to about 15 percent of the original budgeted positions. The exact number of people to be

laid off will depend on the cuts made earlier, he said.

"It could be 90 to 100 people," Cooper said. "It could be considerably more than that, or lower. I really couldn't say right now."

COOPER SAID that he'd chair an administrative committee which would work with the department heads to decide who'd be laid off.

"With as much sensitivity and creativity as we can muster, we're going to examine every single position in this hospital," he said.

Seniority will rank "very, very high," Cooper said, "but will not always be the determining factor... the sole determinate. Nor will we be going strictly by department. You can't run a hospital that way."

A recall system has not been established, Cooper said in answer to an employees' question, but workers will retain seniority when they are called back.

COOPER ALSO attempted to squelch rumors that licensed practical nurses (LPNs) would be laid off in favor of registered nurses (RNs), and that some employees had been given raises.

"If anybody thinks there's been any raises given around here, please come to me and we'll track it down," he said. It also had been rumored that 30 Lincoln linemen had been purchased for use by hospital executives. Only 14 po-

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House robbers boost crime

By Joanne Mallazewski
staff writer

Weekend breaking and entering aprees are listed by Farmington police as a major reason for the more than doubled rate of residential burglaries in the city's subdivisions during 1983.

"Our belief was that they were basically kids," said Chief Robert Siefert, director of the Farmington Department of Public Safety. "The biggest percentage of weekend epidemics showed methods of operation that indicated juveniles."

But also listed in an annual crime statistics report prepared by Siefert are increases in reported crimes of aggravated assault, larceny and auto theft during 1983. Incidents of armed robbery, however, dropped from eight in 1982 to three last year, Siefert said.

WHEN THOSE crimes (called Part I offenses), plus the three reported rapes and three reported arson fires, are tallied, Farmington experienced a 12.2 percent increase in serious crime.

When combined, however, with the 1,050 Part II offenses reported — which include crimes such as disorderly conduct, assault without a weapon and Operating Under the Influence of Liquor (OUIL) — a 19.5 percent increase in total offenses occurred.

Siefert said crime against property accounts for 93.4 percent of all crimes reported in the city.

CERTAIN AREAS of town, such as Farmington Meadows subdivision, were "singled out" for the weekend breaking and entering aprees, generally with about 12 homes burglarized at one time, Siefert said.

Police are hoping that the budding Neighborhood Watch program can help curb residential burglaries in 1984, Siefert said.

Police in patrol cars have a hard time limiting burglaries in subdivisions because they "can't tell who belongs there and who doesn't," Siefert said.

NEIGHBORS, WORKING through the Neighborhood Watch program, can curb the crime in their own subdivision because they know who should be in the area and who shouldn't, he added.

The watch program also allows neighbors to alert police immediately

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