

## Cities get together to improve roads

By Susan Buck  
staff writer

Improvements on Drake and Freedom roads will be coordinated by Farmington and Farmington Hills at a cost of \$478,000.

The improvements were approved in the 1991-92 highway budget, but were delayed in order to coordinate the effort between the two cities.

After May bidding, work could start as early as June, depending on the availability of the contractor, according to Robert Deadman, Farmington city manager.

Drake and Freedom roads run through both cities.

The Farmington City Council Monday reapproved the project for fiscal year 1992-1993.

The Drake Road improvement includes intersection widening at Grand River.

"Farmington Hills also wishes to widen this intersection north of Grand River," Deadman said.

"Freedom Road begins and ends in the city of Farmington Hills. Farmington Hills wishes to improve Freedom Road so that when the repairs to the road are complete there will be a new surface to the entire road."

The project was further delayed to improve the sight distance on Drake Road.

"The current design of the road provides for adequate sight distance at 25 miles per hour," Deadman said.

"It is our desire to improve the sight distance by at least

five miles per hour which is more reflective of the actual speeds being traveled in the area of the hill."

"THE GRADE of the hill will be lowered by 18 inches. Additional grade reduction is not feasible because of existing entranceways into the Drakeville Apartments and the office complex on the west side of the road."

"It will cost \$100,000 to pull the top of the hill off," Deadman said.

Drake Road repair includes base repair and a 1.5-inch overlay over the entire surface. The widening at Grand River will consist of five lanes and a left-hand turn lane. The estimated cost for the Drake Road improvement is \$279,500.

Freedom Road repair will include repair of concrete joints which have refracted through the asphalt, milling of the existing asphalt surface and a 2.5-inch asphalt overlay.

The Farmington project will begin at Nine Mile Road and proceed east to Gill Road.

Farmington Hills will pave between Grand River west to the end of those city limits near the Hillview subdivision.

The estimated cost of the project is \$199,500. The total of both the Drake and Freedom projects is \$478,000.

Of the \$478,000, \$300,000 will come from Act 51 highway bonds, \$153,000 from the general fund capital reserves and \$25,000 from the major street fund, Deadman said.

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porters "three or four weeks ago," before the decision on the third judge — that he would not run.

"Some people said that I was clairvoyant," Sowerby said. "I am supporting Jack McDonald and Maria Parker (in the primary). I don't want to give up a lucrative law practice on the outside chance that I might win."

BUT SOWERBY doesn't think that McDonald has a lock on the position, adding that he likes competition. "I've endorsed Maria. She'd be a wonderful judge," Sowerby said.

He added, "The judicial process is so politicized," and that it takes a large amount of money to run.

"I'm the logical person (to run), Parker said. I'm the magistrate and there's a woman retiring."

## Hills woman teaches dos and don'ts of wildlife

Farmington Hills resident Beverly Cornell — known for taking in orphaned wildlife — will tell others how to do just that May 1.

Cornell, who is licensed by the state Department of Natural Resources to rehabilitate wildlife, will tell the do's and don'ts of caring for abandoned, sick or injured wild animals at a 7:30 p.m. presentation at the Visitors Center in Heritage Park, on Farmington Road, between 10 and 11 Mile. The presentation will be in the interpretive room.

"I'll provide handouts on raising ducks, birds, squirrels, geese, wild bunnies and raccoons," Cornell said. She also will provide information about rabies.

Cornell has long taken in injured

Parker, a magistrate for three years, said she'd prefer a situation where she and McDonald would not run against each other.

Shirley Saltzman, a general practice attorney, said that she intends to run. "I was going to run whether there was a third judge or not," Saltzman said.

Surowiec has been a Farmington Hills trial lawyer for 25 years. He serves as a special assistant Attorney General and is a mediator in both the 47th District Court and the Wayne County Circuit Court.

He has written letters to every Farmington Council members asking for endorsements, Robert Deadman, Farmington city manager said. JoAnne McShane, a Farmington city councilwoman, and Nancy Bates, a Farmington Hills councilwoman said that their councils had been solicited by Surowiec.

Traditionally, councils and council members do not endorse candidates for judgeship. McShane said that she received Surowiec's letter in her council packet Friday night.

BARRY BRICKNER, who resides in Farmington Hills but has an office in Dingham Farms, was on vacation. Through his assistant, Brickner forwarded a message that he will not run.

"It's disappointing that the governor put the pressure on the legislature to stop the third judgeship," Brickner said. "It's said that the governor doesn't think a community like Farmington-Farmington Hills, which grew by 16,000, isn't deserving of a third judge."

Richard Poehlman, a former Farmington Hills city attorney for 12 years, also plans to run. It all

comes down to who's the best candidate, he said.

"It's something I decided that I would like to do," Poehlman said. "I probably have spent the most time in the 47th District court. I started out as a Wayne County prosecutor."

Ric Knauer, who lost to District Judge Frederick Harris in 1990, was traveling in Europe and could not be reached. A spokesman said that Knauer had not yet filed.

In 1991, the court heard 38,300 cases, according to court records. The court caseload grew from 22,399 in 1983 to 37,340 in 1990. According to state statistics, the 47th District court — with its caseload — should have 35 judges now. In addition to Schaeffer and Harris, the court has three part-time magistrates.

The 47th District Court is the third largest in Oakland County.

or abandoned wildlife — generally babies — nursed them back to health, helped them learn their natural skills and released them into nature preserves.

She also has developed methods of care and feeding when information was not available on certain animals.

The program is sponsored by the Women's National Park and Garden Association. The program is free and open to the public.

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