

13 Mile projects set to go

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER

Road improvements are scheduled this summer for 13 Mile Road from Chesterbrook to Farmington Road in Farmington Hills.

"There were 68 traffic accidents there in over a three-year period; almost one-third were personal injury accidents," said Skip Otwell, city engineer.

Work is expected to begin July 6, with completion by Aug. 25 when North Farmington High School on 13 Mile east of Farmington Road reopens.

The project includes paving the

gravel shoulders in the area of Chesterbrook to the high school. This will allow for a continuation of the four lane cross section that currently exists east of Chesterbrook.

The pavement will widen to five lanes at North Farmington High School and proceed through the intersection of Farmington Road.

West of Farmington Road, the widening will taper to a point of about 1,600 feet west of the intersection where it meets the existing roadway.

Farmington Road will be improved to a five lane cross section

for 600 feet north and south of 13 Mile Road.

Upgrade of the signal at the intersection to provide for left turn phases is also included in this project.

For several years, Farmington Hills has requested state and federal funding for the widening of 13 Mile Road from Chesterbrook to Farmington Road. The project was approved and a grant was obtained for the work.

The project will receive 75 percent of its funding from the Transportation and Economic Development Fund. Total cost is \$1,195,250 with the city's share at \$298,813.

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Social Services in a June 3 memo.

Contest criteria didn't suggest submitting a traditional historic name, answered Hills Mayor Jon Grant, who served on the selection committee.

Other committee members were councilman Juane Smith; Mary Foran and Sandra Donlon, parks and recreation commissioners; and City Manager Bill Costick.

In the end, the council voted 5-0 on June 8 to approve the name Woodland Hills Park.

"My feeling was, we had a contest, we reviewed the names and followed the process. Woodland Hills Park should be the name," Grant said later.

Costick showed similar feelings

in a June 4 memo in which he called the name Frontier Park unsuitable because it sounded like the name of an amusement park.

"Many people have told me they associate the name of Frontier Park with an amusement park, perhaps an offshoot of the Frontierland theme associated with the Disney parks," Costick said.

In an interview Friday, resident Bob Sklar, who had no problem with Woodland Hills.

"It's a fine name," Sklar said. "But I can't understand all the negativity to the name Frontier Park."

"We chose that name because we felt it closely reflected the theme es-

tablished by the names of Heritage Park and Pioneer Park. Frontier Park reflects the rustic nature and topography of the Pelz-MDOT property."

Several unusual names were submitted, although some were misspelled.

"My first choice was Potawatomi," Grant said.

Among the 160 suggested names were: The Hills of Wonder Farmington Hills Park, Clarissa's Woods, Trailblazer, Peaceful Park, Fun and All, Mallard Haven Park, Sauk Trail Park, Nature's Way, "Ticouleroga" Park, Fun With Nature Park, The Play-A-Lot Park and Nozzle Park.

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Only adults can purchase tickets, but they can also buy one and give it to a child.

All members of the 125th organizing committee have tickets and

rules on how the contest will work. Tickets are also being sold at both Farmington and Farmington Hills city halls, the chamber of commerce offices, Metrobank locations and at

the Farmington Observer. A booth will also be set up at the Founders Festival in July.

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