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Click watcher: Sheri Donovan checks the time during an interview.

"A lot of stations have gotten so safe," she said. "There is a lot of talent in Detroit and it's not being heard."

Donovan made the case that listeners would agree and support a program for local musicians. "Home Cookin'" is taped during the week because many bands have to perform on Sunday night.

"We have a lot of bands from the Detroit area and some from as far away as Lansing," she said. "If Detroit performers aren't heard, nothing is going to happen for them. And there are a lot of talented people here."

Donovan said the area is not only a rich source of rock talent, but has its share of capable producers as well.

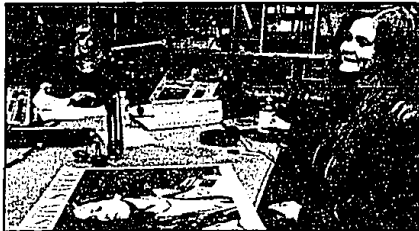
Donovan said she is trying to make time to hear bands in person, but receives tapes of most groups interested in an appearing at the Farmington Hills radio studio. The program features four selections from each group along with interviews.

"It's fun," she said. "You can really be creative. That's what I like about it."

Donovan said her "Donovan's Dirt," a two-hour segment of requests; and her afternoon program of weather, traffic, sports and rock will continue to be geared toward mainstream audiences. But she plans to keep her finger on the fret of the local rock scene.



On the air: Members of the local rock band 3rd Nature (from left) Nathan Rouse of Pontiac, Scott Dailey of West Bloomfield, David Jack of Berkley, and Randy Kujawa of West Bloomfield are interviewed by Sheri Donovan.



Taking a break: Royal Oak resident Kristin Sayer (right) and WLLZ-FM's Sheri Donovan take a break during an interview at the station.

Sewer improvement project almost ready for 1st flush

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

The Sewer Improvement Project timeline keeps getting backed up, but that's only because of continued testing.

Farmington City Manager Frank Lauhoff told city council Monday he expects the \$13-million project to be on line within two weeks.

"We're right down to the end," Lauhoff said. "We're down to testing one area of piping."

Once testing of 18-inch pipes leading into the pumping station

is completed, the system will go on line.

Contractors will do a "wet" run of the system at 90 percent capacity for five days. The Department of Natural Resources certification process will continue throughout the year.

Delays have caused the start-up date to be continually pushed back.

The project, though, will be finished within the \$13.09-million budget appropriated from the State Revolving Loan Fund.

The biggest obstacle involved the removal of contaminated ma-

terials near the Nine Mile Road pumping station. The removal cost an additional \$500,000 and put the project behind by six months.

Undetected catch basins were also discovered last year, causing additional separation work and construction along Kingslane Road and Mooney Street.

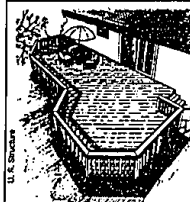
The project has taken more than 2 1/2 years and involved separation of sanitary and storm sewers and the building of a wastewater retention center and pumping station.

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