



IN THE PAPER
TODAY

Open Road: At long last, construction on Orchard Lake Road north of Grand River in Farmington is finished. /3A

Ground broken: Farmington Hills city officials were on hand recently as the shovel hit the dirt in preparation for a new AAA of Michigan facility. /8A

COUNTY NEWS

Aged crusaders: Members of the Oakland County Senior Citizens Advisory Council are eager to quickly improve the lot of older county residents because, "We don't have all the time in the world," said representative Leroy Wheatley. /7A

OPINION

Varoom-Varoom! Is that the sound of political machine being klick started on Shiawassee Hill? In the wake of the election, the Observer has some serious concerns about the school district. /16A

SPORTS

Swim results: The Northwest Suburban Swim League began a new summer schedule of dual-meet competition. /2B

ENTERTAINMENT

Movie Hero: "Last Action Hero," starring Arnold Schwarzenegger and Mercedes Ruehl, delivers occasional thrills and laughs. /6B

CREATIVE LIVING

Battling gypsies: Read part two of our three-part series "Gypsy Moth: Suburban Scourge." /6D

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Traffic relief takes right turn



There's good news for a bad corner in Farmington Hills. A U.S. House committee has approved \$4 million for a project that could relieve traffic congestion at M-102 and 10 Mile Road with a new bridge and other improvements.

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

A long-awaited solution to congested traffic at the M-102/10 Mile Road interchange has been endorsed by the House of Representatives committee that works on transportation issues.

U.S. Rep. Joe Knollenberg, R-

Bloomfield Township, announced last week that the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation approved \$4 million for a new bridge project that would help relieve congestion at the interchange.

The overpass near 10 Mile and Grand River is arguably one of the

worst traffic congestion nightmares in Oakland County," Knollenberg said. "It is a real safety hazard."

City officials couldn't have agreed more with Knollenberg.

"It's a serious problem we've been trying to solve," said city manager Bill Costick. "We're most grateful to Congressman Knollenberg and Congressman (Bob) Carr (the Lansing Democrat who chairs the subcommittee)."

Farmington city officials were just as pleased to hear the news. The congestion affects the Kmart in the

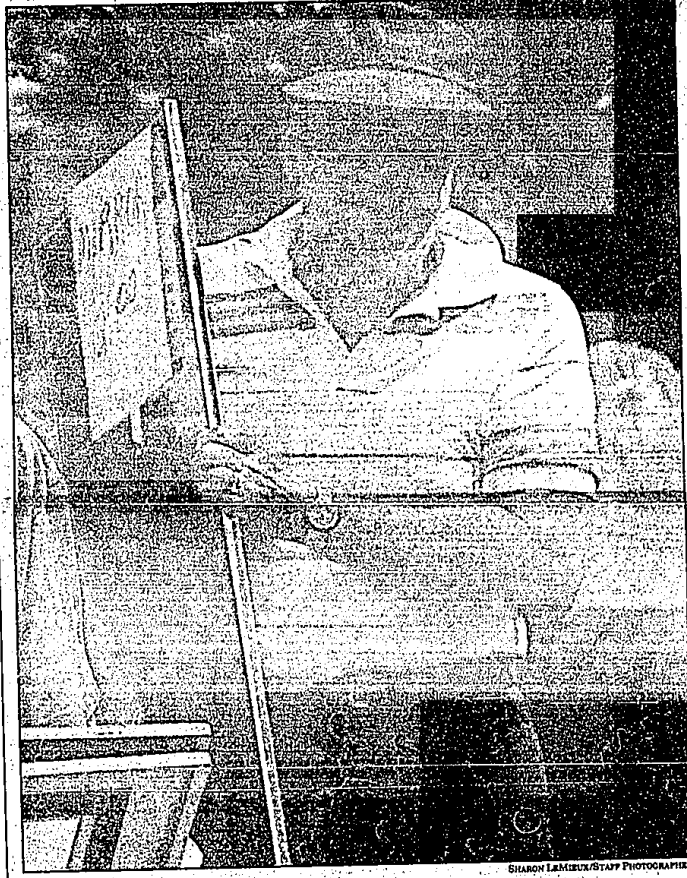
Grand/Halsted shopping center and residents in 300 homes in nearby Chatham Hills.

"Maybe they can see there is relief in sight," said Farmington councilwoman Shirley Richardson during Monday's council meeting. "Maybe this will help them. This has been a very difficult time for them."

Built in the 1950s, M-102 served as a link in the interstate system connecting the Detroit area with Lansing. It was replaced by I-96 and I-696.

See TRAFFIC, 12A

It's a deal!



Mirror changes hands: Dick Amrhein carries a \$2 mirror to the car for a customer who bought it at Amrhein's garage sale recently in the Colony Park subdivision of Farmington Hills. For a story on the garage sale, please see page 2A.

Downtown hungry for restaurant

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

A Farmington resident wants to bring an upscale restaurant downtown. City council members like what's on the building menu.

Randall Patterson would like to renovate the former Peoples State Bank building — which at one time housed city offices, at 3312 Grand River — into an eatery featuring a main dining room and a second-floor banquet facility. Plans also include an outside deck area to be open during the summer.

Before the place opens, though, Patterson and his partner need a Resort Class C liquor license.

City council offered to help. A letter of support will be sent on Patterson's behalf to the Michigan Liquor Control Commission.

"I think it would be a positive step forward for the renovation of the downtown area," said Patterson. "And positive in the sense it would bring patrons in and increase revenues for the existing businesses . . . with a barbershop, a shopping center and a movie theater, hopefully one can play off the other."

Patterson's submitted a draft for the plan to council for review.

Patterson said he wants to restore the historic luster of the building that once housed Peoples State Bank. He said he's made initial contact with the historical commission and retrieved a photo of the double-pillared structure at the library.

Repairs need to be done first.

The building has been vacant for a year; the last occupant was Century 21. Patterson said there is significant water damage due to a leaky roof.

Plans include extending the rear of the building, installing a deck, redoing the roof and replacing a wall in the back.

Also, Patterson said one of the pillars is warped and unstable. That would need to be removed, but he believes it won't detract from the historical nature of the building.

"We want to . . . restore the front of the building to as close as possible to the original appearance," Patterson said.

See RESTAURANT, 12A

Loss of files from car dealer leaves couple feeling flat

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

A Novi couple hasn't found a way to settle a \$2,200 misunderstanding with a Farmington Hills car dealership — but they say they have learned an expensive lesson.

Anna and Doug Carlesco bought a new Olds 98 Touring Sedan from Bob Saks Oldsmobile on Grand River in November of last year, trading in a 1987 Olds for the new car. At the

time, Anna Carlesco, a Realtor, was moving into a new office in Livonia, and had files and other business papers in the trunk of her '87 Olds.

The Carlescos had planned to empty the trunk when they bought the new car, but the salesman told them they could take delivery on the new car and come back to get the papers later.

When they did return for the papers, they were told the papers had

been accidentally thrown out.

Doug Carlesco said the dealership owner, Bob Saks, assured them that the loss would be covered by insurance. But his insurer denied the claim because the loss was not due to theft or vandalism. The Carlescos' insurer also denied the claim.

"He was quite willing to pay, right up until he found out that the insurance wouldn't cover it," Doug Carlesco said.

The Carlescos, through their attorney Ron DeNardis, have tried short of a lawsuit to have their loss reimbursed by Saks without result.

"His people had a meeting with my client (in January) and verified in front of everyone that they had lost the files," DeNardis said. "You would hope we could resolve this without going to court."

See FILES, 8A

Drop on by

Kids need not have those summertime blues. Farmington Youth Assistance has opened its Summer Activities Center at William Grace Elementary School, 29040 Shiawassee Road.

The drop-in center is open to children between the ages of 11-16 who live in Farmington or Farmington Hills. The center is open 2-8 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

Field trips are planned on Wednesdays to such places as Tiger Stadium, the Detroit Zoo and water pools.

Kids can play basketball, billiards and video games as well as participate in other special activities.

Registration fee is \$5, which is good for the entire summer. An additional \$5 will be required for

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each field trip as well as a signed parental permission slip. For information, call 469-3434.

Sale for Discovery

Columbus had to sail the ocean to discover America, but bargain hunters need only show up at The Discovery Shop to find a sale.

The resale store in the downtown Farmington Shopping Center, Grand River and Farmington, is operated by volunteers with proceeds benefiting the American Cancer Society. Gently-used clothes, jewelry and household items are sold there.

On Wednesdays until Aug. 18, the store will have its Summer Fun Series sale with price reductions on certain items. The store will also have a 50-percent off sale July 2-3.

Memory lane

From the June 25, 1953 edition of The Farmington Enterprise:

An eight page automatic Duplex newspaper press will be installed in The Enterprise this week, replacing the present four-page hand operated Melihle press.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 21898 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336, dropped off at the newspaper office, or faxed to 477-9722.