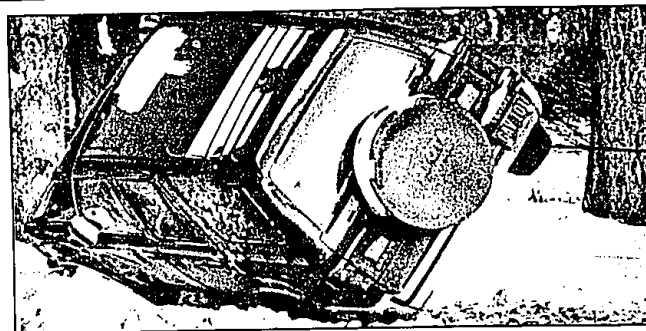


Busy place:
Joe Byren
dispatches
calls for tow-
ing at
Benner's
Amoco in
Farmington,
while owner
Duane De-
Marois fills
out a repair
form.



Getting right: Accidents related to snowy conditions and cold were many Tuesday and Wednesday. The Toyota at left ended up on its side on the side of Farmington Road south of Nine Mile. Apparently there were no injuries and the vehicle was pulled back on all fours and driven away.



STAFF PHOTOS BY SHARON LEMIEUX

They're tow tired

Phones at services stations were ringing like the bells of St. Mary's.

Anyone trying Hadley's Towing & Recovery in Farmington Hills Wednesday morning could expect a busy signal. Dispatcher Peggy Robbins said Hadley's received 150 calls in a 24-hour span.

A number of vehicles had to be pulled from ditches along I-275 and I-696. Most calls, though, were for jumping some life into dead batteries.

"And a lot of jump starts are turning into tows," Robbins said. "A lot of people are not keeping up on regular maintenance of their cars."

At Benner's Amoco on Grand

River in Farmington, owner Duane DeMarois was trying to keep up with phones that never stopped ringing. He knows about balky cars and cold weather — his own car overheated on the way to work Wednesday.

"You see these green slips?" asked DeMarois, indicating several neat rows of them on a counter. "They're what's known as road calls . . . mostly cars that won't start. We have 38 of them now, and it'll get worse. I hope Triple A has the money to pay me."

"We need a break," added DeMarois, a Farmington resident. "We need that 40 degrees they promised on Saturday just to catch up."

Hills city manager says county skates on snow job

Farmington Hills city officials think Oakland County has dropped the ball when it comes to snow plowing.

City manager Bill Costick said he had contacted the county about problems on roads in the city where the county has jurisdiction, especially 12 Mile and Orchard Lake.

"Yesterday morning (Monday) 12 Mile hadn't been plowed, or if it had, it hadn't been done very well," he said. "I told the county (road commission) director (Brent Blair) that I'm concerned. And he agreed it should be taken care of."

The county has responsibility for Grand River, Haggerty, 12 Mile, Orchard Lake and Middlebelt roads within Farmington Hills, Costick said. There had been a dropoff in plowing of local roads by the county since the opening of I-696 through the city, he said.

Councilman Aldo Vagnozzi

'Yesterday morning (Monday) 12 Mile hadn't been plowed, or if it had, it hadn't been done very well. I told the county (road commission) director (Brent Blair) that I'm concerned. And he agreed it should be taken care of.'

Bill Costick
city manager

brought up citizen concerns about the lack of plowing at Monday's regular council meeting.

In other action, the city council: **Scheduled a study session on the Jonna P.U.D. development at 12 Mile and Middlebelt, temporary sign regulations and redevelopment proposals for Eight Mile and Grand River corridors in a joint meeting with the planning commission Jan. 31 beginning at 7:30 p.m. A study session on enforcing a Dumpster ordinance, Community Development Block**

Grand program allocations and a false alarm ordinance will be at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 7.

Approved ordinances that would require public notification to affected residents on the request for qualification for a Planned Unit Development or Cluster Option development.

A representative from the county extension office and the agriculture department would make a presentation on the gypsy moth spraying program at the Feb. 28 regular meeting, Costick said.

Cold from page 1A

Farmington Hills firefighters did not have a high volume of medical runs associated with the cold, but when they did go out to assist accident victims, they were making sure those motorists did not get frostbite.

"In addition to treating any injuries, we're being careful to keep accident victims warm, getting them into blankets or into a warm vehicle," said Lt. Mike Garr of the Hills Fire Department.

Garr said firefighters were crossing their fingers in hopes there would not be a major fire because the conditions would make fighting one especially difficult. He added that if at all possible, residents should stay indoors because frostbite is a particular danger in this extreme cold.

"Sometimes when you feel it's getting cold, it's already too late," he said. "And when you do warm up (the part of your body affected by frostbite), try to make it a gradual warming, not total immersion in hot water."

Dr. Ron Lagerfeld, director of

'In addition to treating any injuries, we're being careful to keep accident victims warm, getting them into blankets or into a warm vehicle.'

Lt. Mike Garr
Farmington Hills Fire Department

emergency medicine at Botsford Hospital, said they treated four cases of frostbite last weekend. One man suffered frostbite on his ear after walking outside when his car broke down.

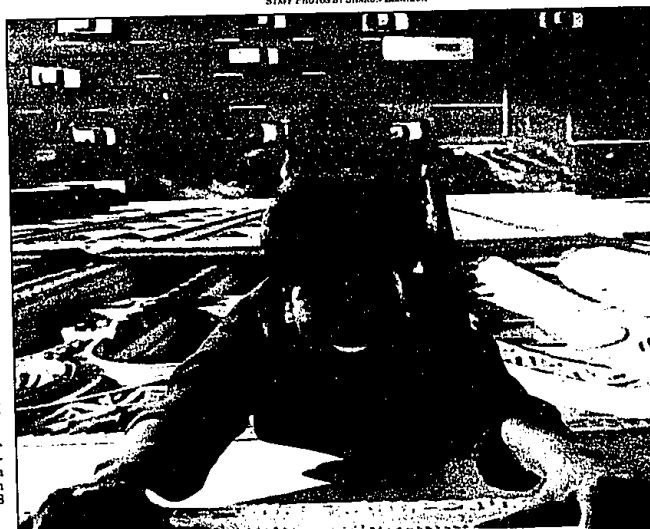
Two other cases involved people who were shivering and a woman received frostbite from sledding with her kids without gloves. "In the 20 years I've been in emergency medicine, I've usually treated one cold injury a year," Lagerfeld said. "To see four cold injuries in one weekend is a very unusual circumstance."

Frostbite was certainly a concern for mail carriers.

Farmington Postmaster Mark Bate said carriers were wearing layers of clothing and weather-proof boots and gloves and avoiding exposure of skin to the cold. Wednesday morning, though, the post office was looking for a jump start.

"Our main problem today is we can't get half of our vehicles started," Bate said.

"Our vehicles are no different than anyone else's vehicles. They're outside and exposed to the cold. Park and loop routes, that's our biggest concern. We're making every attempt (to deliver the mail)."



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