

Crash

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"You try to watch them, but you know that kids will run and play tag, and it's just not safe there," Dadey said.

The complaint is not a new one. When the Farmington schools changed bus routes as part of a cost-cutting move in 1991, 150 angry parents showed up at a September school board meeting to protest.

The fear that having kids wait for buses on busy roads is dangerous was an issue then, as it was again in 1992, when Cheryl Oliverio, since elected to the Farmington Hills City Council, brought it up again. Residents also complained in the spring of 1993.

An accident Jan. 10 of this year where a Ford Explorer wound up in the backyard swimming pool of a residence near 11 Mile and Hasted during bad weather also brought complaints from residents about the location of bus stops, even though no one was seriously injured in that accident.

Bev Hausman, purchasing and transportation supervisor for the Farmington schools, said the district has researched where to put the bus stops.

The one on Fredricksburg was selected because it provided 400 feet of visibility, as required by law, on the curving road.

"We try to establish the safest bus stop under the circumstances," she said.

The road had not yet been salted, in part because crews were working on main roads at the time, Hausman said.

Main roads often safer

Sgt. Ray Cranston, Farmington Hills police traffic supervisor, said the police department acts strictly in an advisory capacity concerning school bus stop locations. But, the accident on Fredricksburg was caused because of poor driving conditions, he said.

He added that the main roads are often safer places for bus stops in bad weather because



THESA SEBASTIAN

Close call: Farmington Hills firefighter Jeffrey Stribbell is on the scene of Friday's bus/car accident that caused no serious injuries, but left a Farmington School bus atop a Toyota Camry. Road conditions were slippery.

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Darla Dadey

they are salted more quickly and do not have as many curves.

"One of our concerns is that many bus stops are in subdivisions where drivers travel at excessive speeds," he said.

Warsh and Dadey said the bus drivers are careful and are not to blame, adding that many

people drive too fast through their sub.

Police will not issue tickets in Friday's accident, because there were no witnesses, the tracks of the two vehicles were obliterated by vehicles and onlookers, and the stories of the two drivers were inconsistent. Cranston said. He did say that even under

the circumstances, the accident could have been avoided.

The bus driver told police the car had crossed over into her lane and she went off the road to avoid hitting him, Cranston said. The bus then caught a bush with its front wheels and spun sideways, crashing into the Camry.

Cranston said Kitano told police he drove off the road to avoid the bus but couldn't avoid being hit.

"What we do know is that both drivers were operating at speeds too fast for conditions," he said.

Disasters

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ont company, which owns banks and other businesses in California, was able to keep delivering service to customers throughout the days of the California quake in January. Other companies have also planned for disasters.

"If we have a power failure and no backup, we would not be able to deliver our packages on time," said Dan Beaudet of United Parcel Service. "We had a snowstorm in Louisville (Ky.) where we couldn't get out of our deliveries. But having a backup plan gives us peace of mind."

As Beaudet says, even backup plans are not infallible. But having a plan, and keeping in communication with employees and customers is important.

"You have to see to employee needs, because all of a sudden, they're out of a paycheck," Cope said.

And in some cases, that means telling employees in Farmington Hills what the company is doing to help employees who are quake victims on the West Coast. That

reassures employees that the company is looking out for their interest, Cope said.

"You're sharing information that says 'here's what we're doing for our employees in California,'" Cope said.

Alexander Hamilton also stores duplicates of many valuable papers, records and files in another location, in case its main facility near 12 Mile and Farmington Road is hit with a fire, flood, tornado or other disaster. The company also has arranged in advance to rent space if need be at an office building that has hookups for computers and other equipment so that some employees could continue to work during and after a disaster at the headquarters.

Lt. Mike Garr, a fire prevention officer with the Farmington Hills Fire Department, said keeping computer files on backup tapes is something businesses should do.

"People think they're protected by backup files," he said. "But then they leave them in the same room."

NEW BUSINESSES

Following are some of the new businesses that have opened recently in Farmington and Farmington Hills:

CADILLAC CAFE — 30555 Grand River, Farmington Hills. Meggie Heyden, manager. 378-2010.

IT'S CREEK TO ME — 32734 Grand River (Village Commons), Farmington. Nick Lentzou, owner. 474-3382 (FETA).

GOLDEN RIVER CONEY — 30746 Grand River, Farmington Hills. Joe Serhal, owner. 474-3226.

FARMINGTON HILLS BEEF HOUSE — 28975 Grand River, Farmington Hills. Formerly Here's. Toni Ceclev, manager. 477-5845.

SINBAD MIDEAST IMPORTS — 25836 Middlebelt Road, Farmington Hills. John Shuniga, owner. 474-9906.

TAURANT — 22048 Farmington Road (Crossroads Plaza), Farmington. Mrs. Kwok, manager. 478-8885.

PATTI'S CLOSET — 33181 Grand River (Downtown Center), Farmington. Women's used clothing. Patti LaPlante, owner Janet Ormsby, manager. 474-8758.

MARKETPLACE SOLUTIONS INC. — 24361 Indoplex Circle, Farmington Hills. Formerly American Business Systems. Distributor of computerized point-of-sale management systems for hotels, clubs, hospitals and retailers. Craig Bickley, president. 473-5900.

Do you own or manage a new business in the Farmington area? The information may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 21858 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336, faxed to 477-9722 or dropped off at the newspaper office.

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