



Checking it out: Phil Wantin of Farmington Hills reads the label on a bottle of engine fuel while his friend Josh Humphrey of Novi looks for extra parts for cars and planes.



An eye for trains: Chuck Nunn, who works at Michigan Barricading in Farmington, stops by Joe's to look over the N scale trains in a display case.

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"anything radio controlled" with son, Alex, 7.

Leonard Hale traveled from New Hudson with his grandson, Raymond Stoney, 12. He watched as his progeny scanned the aisle, trying to decide how to spend a Christmas gift certificate from his grandparents.

Hale himself was an avid model plane builder. He made gliders and gasoline engine airplanes, which would be sent up to navigate their own course and had to be retrieved.

"We didn't have remote control then," he said.

Hale looked wistfully at the model craft before him. He still builds metal airplanes occasionally, he said, but is not fully involved anymore.

"If you had enough time, it would be fun to do it all again," Hale said.

For many adults, such pursuits are a connection to a sim-

ple time.

W. "Soup" Campbell of Detroit uses model airplanes to complement his career as a mechanical engineer.

He has 40 model airplane engines, and was buying balsa wood to build another craft. Three grandchildren were at this side.

"I love engines and all the fine things they bring about," Campbell said. "They always sing such sweet songs."

Such odds are heartening to hobby store operators. However, they see a troubling trend developing.

They don't see a new generation of hobbyists emerging. Too much TV and video games are hurting the business, Dallaire said.

"When we were growing up, we never thought anything of building a model airplane and riding our bikes 10 miles away to

Southfield and Northwestern to fly it," Dallaire said. "Kids today don't want to cross the street."

With model airplanes or cars, kids could use their imaginations and dream. Dallaire's fancy with flight led him to become a Navy Air Corps flight engineer during World War II.

Some of his buddies who also flew model airplanes went on to become fighter pilots. "We lost some of them during the war," Dallaire said.

Lifelong hobbyists like Dallaire worry about who will carry on. But, where there's youth, there's hope.

A youngster tagging along with Campbell and his grandkids grabbed a foam glider off a rack. He asked if Campbell would buy it for him.

With no hesitation, Campbell said, "Yeah."



He's still around: The original Joe — 75-year-old Joe Dallaire — can still be found at the Farmington hobby shop that bears his name.

Lined-up 9 Mile left-turn lanes aim to put brake on accidents

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

When making a left turn from Nine Mile Road onto Farmington Road, drivers will soon be able to look at each other square in the eye.

They can't at present, and that's been the problem.

An obstructed view of oncoming traffic is created by an offset in left-turn lanes on Nine Mile Road. This has led up to an estimated 31 percent of accidents at the intersection, officials said.

A restriping of Nine Mile Road, bringing the left-turn lanes in line with each other, is seen as a solution. Farmington City Council approved the idea Monday.

"I'm glad to hear that," said Dana Kukla, who works as a bookkeeper at Motormans Engineering on Nine Mile.

Kukla wrote to the city of Farmington, requesting something be done about the intersection. She turns left onto Farmington Road daily en route to her Lincoln Park residence.

"You basically had to sit there until the light turns red to make a left-hand turn, or you took your chances on getting hit," Kukla said.

Nine Mile, east of Farmington Road, will be reconfigured. Eastbound traffic will be narrowed to one lane to accommodate the added left-turn lane. A solid left-turn lane will be marked for eastbound traffic on Nine Mile, west of Farmington Road.

Completion date is tentatively set for Sept. 1.

Restriping was suggested after a review by the Farmington Traffic and Safety Board and Farmington Hills traffic engineer Kevin McCarthy.

Nine Mile, west of Farmington Road, is within Farmington Hills city limits. Hills is expected to pick up two-thirds of the cost, which is estimated between \$6,000 and \$7,000. Farmington will pay less than \$2,000.

Council backed the plan, but some members wondered if more can be done.

One worry is the amount of traffic exiting onto Nine Mile from M-102. Farmington Public Safety director Gary Goss said Michigan Department of Transportation has been asked to put a stop bar on the exit ramp.

Councilman William Hartsock was concerned about the amount of potential traffic lining up to make left turns south onto Farmington Road.

"You're going to have offices letting out, and you'll have some stocking up there," Hartsock said.

The left-turn lane can be lengthened to include more cars, Goss said. The public safety director sees restriping as an alternative to a left-hand turn signal.

"We'll do that if this doesn't work," Goss said. "As council knows, that is a very expensive option."

New owner on tap at Dunleavy's pub

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Dunleavy's Pub is about to change ownership but no Irish wake is in order, according to the buyer.

Farmington attorney Anthony Domol is buying the Grand River Avenue restaurant from owners Jack Dunleavy and Marty Burke. Sale price is undisclosed.

Dunleavy and Burke have been partners since 1977 in the business, which is known for its lively St. Patrick's Day celebrations.

Farmington City Council approved the transfer of the Class C liquor license with dance permit to Domol's D&D Restaurants Inc. Monday. No major changes are

planned for Dunleavy's, Domol said.

"I plan to keep it just the way it is," said Domol, who also intends to retain the Dunleavy name.

Current owners cite several reasons for selling.

Burke said he's thinking of retiring. Dunleavy is looking into a Lansing-area business, Burke added.

Dunleavy couldn't be reached for comment.

Burke, 67, joined Dunleavy to open the restaurant, which was previously known as Brendan's Irish Pub and the Purple Plum prior to that.

"It's been wonderful," said Burke, who used to be part owner of The Press Box in Detroit's

Corktown neighborhood. "It's a great neighborhood, and they've been some of the finest customers I've met since I've been in this business."

Negotiations have taken several months to complete, Domol said. This is Domol's first restaurant venture.

Some upgrades will be made to the restaurant's appearance, Domol said. He told council he plans to be a hands-on owner.

"I have a couple of friends who are also lawyers and who are also restaurateurs," said Domol, whose law practice is on Grand River Avenue. "I got some encouragement from them."

"It's a new life for me, going from an attorney to doing this."

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