

# Road plan would nix eastbound Freedom Road

By LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

Motorists could lose a little freedom in a proposed plan to alleviate traffic congestion at the Grand River, 10 Mile and Halsted intersection.

Michigan Department of Transportation is considering — among other things — shutting down eastbound traffic on Freedom Road from the ramp at Grand River Halsted to Treehill near the Chatham Hills subdivision. Westbound traffic would be

unaffected.

The plan is part of an overall remedy to the Grand River, 10 Mile and Halsted intersection, which is derisively termed as the "dysfunction junction."

Crossover from Freedom to Halsted/Grand River is particularly dangerous, state officials said. From 1989-91, there were average of 90 accidents on each of the four legs.

"It's not a good setup," said architect David Mariner of Orchard, Hills & McCliment.

Mariner gave an update on proposed changes by MDOT to Farmington City Council members Monday. Phase One begins in late 1997 and includes closing off numerous driveways and ramp improvements.

A second phase would add other improvements, including the addition of another bridge crossing at M-5 (formerly M-102). That is not expected to be completed for another 15 years.

City officials asked the architectural firm to look into any options that would keep two-way traffic on Freedom Road. No go, Mariner said.

"We couldn't come up with any options viable to keep Freedom Road open," Mariner said. "... With the angle of the ramp, there is no way to do it that would be safe."

Eastbound traffic would likely increase on Grand River downtown. Councilwoman JoAnne McShane was concerned about

traffic noise.

Trucks would also be a problem, councilman Dick Tupper said. Mariner suggested the city pass a load restriction.

The intersection was built in the late 1950s as a rural diamond to handle 10,000 to 15,000 vehicles, Mariner said. An estimated 35 to 45,000 vehicles travel through it daily.

Farmington Hills has received \$1.3 million for engineering work on the project. At least \$10 million is needed, officials said.

U.S. Rep. Joe Knollenberg, a Republican whose 11th District includes the Farmington area, said he's going to take the project "front and center" as a member of the House Appropriations Committee.

On a grading scale, portions of the intersection have earned an "F" by state transportation officials, Mariner said.

Retorted councilman Tupper, "A 'B' is what it is."

## Smooth sailing so far for Hospice proposal

By BILL COULTANT  
STAFF WRITER

A proposed Hospice development has drawn little criticism on its way to becoming a reality at the corner of 11 Mile and Middlebelt in Farmington Hills.

The Farmington Hills City Council unanimously approved a proposed Hospice development and amendment to a consent judgment for 11.8 acres to build the facility.

"We got a very good perspective of the concerns of the homeowners," said Norman LoPatin, president of Hospice of Southeast Michigan at a recent meeting.

And Councilman Aldo Vagnozzi agreed, calling the meeting pro-

ductive, and adding that concerns over the negative effect of property values from the project were likely mistaken.

"I think it's going to go the other way," Vagnozzi said of potential property values.

The Hospice complex would include four buildings with 20 units each for residents and a two-story administration building. The building and 80-unit residence would replace a consent judgment proposal for a senior housing complex that would have been 194 housing units.

Other advantages of the complex would include only one access, from Middlebelt, drainage improvements for properties to the south, landscaped screening of parking areas and the facility and a corner park of 14.2 acres and \$10,000 toward its enhancement.

Frank Pollard, a resident of the neighboring Pendleton Club Condos, said although Hospice is a good enterprise, he was concerned over the increased traffic.

"Would you want it next to you?" he asked. "It's a worthwhile project, but so are airports and waste disposal facilities."

LoPatin said traffic would not be increased that much because visitors would come at different

times, so that unlike an office, there would not be a morning or evening rush hour.

Tom Blaisell, director of public services, said the only similar model for traffic study was another Hospice facility in Dayton, Ohio. He said in that case, traffic was minimally affected.

The council unanimously approved the consent judgment change.

In other action, the council:

- Approved a special assessment district for water main installation for Westmoreland Drive from 1,600 feet north of 10 Mile to Harcourt Street and on Harcourt from Westmoreland to its northerly terminus.

The average cost will be \$7,614.60 for the improvements.

- Approved a total cost of \$686,308.53 for a special assessment district for road improvements in the Westbrooke Manor and portions of the Kendallwood 2,3, and 4 subdivisions. The average cost will be \$422.68.

- Amended the city code to prohibit the operation of a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcoholic liquor or controlled substance, operating with unlawful blood alcohol content, or operating a motor vehicle while visible impaired. That amendment will conform to state law.

## Vinyl siding class set

Farmington Community Education in cooperation with Michigan Builders Institute will offer a one-day class on the techniques of applying vinyl siding on Tuesday, April 11, from 6:30-9:30 p.m. at Farmington Community School, 30415 Shawwassee.

The class costs \$35. Pre-registration is required no later than Friday, April 7, at Farmington Community Education. Those interested should call the school at 489-3333 during office hours.

## RECREATION

Each week, the Recreation Division of the Farmington Hills Department of Special Services presents a synopsis of upcoming activities. For more information on any of the programs, call the Recreation Office at 473-9570. For Council agenda items, call the office at 476-3838.

### HERITAGE PARK SHELTER RESERVATIONS

The Department of Special Services office, Farmington-Farmington Hills residents, in person, can reserve one of three different shelters located within Heritage Park. Rental and deposit monies must be paid at the time of reservation. To obtain rental fees, location and size of shelter, contact the office at 473-9570.

### ADULT SOFTBALL

Registration for new teams will be accepted at the recreation office for adult men's, women's and co-ed softball leagues. Registration fees are \$425 for men/women industrial leagues; \$465 for men/women open leagues and \$370 for co-ed leagues. Umpire fees are to be paid prior to each game. For information, call 473-9570.

### HI GOLF LESSONS

A six-lesson program working on golf swing, stance and grip will be offered on Mondays and Wednesdays and Tuesdays and Thursdays, starting the week of April 10 at the Novi Oaks Driving Range. Each lesson is 50 minutes, and you will need to purchase a bucket of golf balls for each lesson. Beginner classes only. Pre-registration fee is \$45, \$35 for senior adult classes.

### PARKEY KOSTRIVAGANZA

Parkey the Panda has planned a special day on Saturday, April 8, for children to join him in games, net projects and, of course, an egg hunt. Children ages 3-5 are scheduled from 10-11 a.m. and ages 6-10 from noon to 1:30 p.m. This activity will be held in Heritage Park Day Camp Center. Pre-registration of \$5 per child.

### OUTDOOR BAND

VOLLEYBALL REGISTRATION Registration for returning teams will begin March 27 at the recreation office. New teams can begin registering on April 17 on a first-come first-served basis. All games will be played at the Founders Sports Park and volleyball courts. For further information, contact the recreation office at 473-9570.

### SPRING BREAK DAY CAMP

Children ages 6-8 or 9-12 will participate in sports, games, nature study, arts, creative play and more at Heritage Park Day Camp Center from Monday, April 17 through Friday, April 21, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Campers should dress appropriately for the weather and bring a sack lunch with them each day. A pre-registration fee of \$70 is required.

### CHILDREN'S TOURS

Children ages 7-11 can travel to both educational and recreational sites to discover the opportunities within the metro-Detroit area. Children should bring a sack lunch daily and a beverage will be provided. Transportation will be provided using school district buses. Children will leave from the Heritage Park Visitor Center parking lot at 9 a.m. and return at 3 p.m. A pre-registration fee of \$75 per child is required.



"It was reassuring when a Botsford nurse visited us at our home."

Since Anthony is my first child, I didn't know what to expect. But the doctors and nurses at Botsford were very supportive during my pregnancy, delivery and after our baby was born.

At the Special Delivery Center, my husband was able to stay with me from the time we came in the special, separate entrance and throughout my stay. My Labor/Delivery/Recovery room was spacious yet comfortable and private.

The nurses showed us how to care for our new baby and offered bathing and breast-feeding guidance. We also received an informative manual and a phone number for a 24 hour hotline.

Two days after we were home, a Botsford obstetrics nurse visited us. She made sure that Anthony was in good health, completed an assessment on Anthony and me and answered all my questions.

My mother lives in Florida and couldn't be here — so I appreciated everyone at Botsford making us feel right at home.

Reaching out to the people of our community.  
28050 Grand River Avenue Farmington Hills, MI 48336-5922

For more information, or to register for *Great Expectations*, a seminar for couples who are thinking of having a baby or are expecting, call (810) 442-7986 today.

