



Trouble ahead: Drivers face a maze of signs, orange barrels, workers and slowed traffic just to get near the 8 Mile/Farmington area businesses.

Business from page A1

game for construction next summer.

"We've heard that it's going to be shipped up," said Liskiewicz. "We're a seasonal business. If that's torn up in our prime season, it'll be very detrimental to us."

Mike Youself, owner of Antonio's Pizza across the street, estimates he's lost 20 percent of his business, and is upset that he wasn't notified of the construction.

"I would've probably called my customers and told them that delivery would take longer," he said.

Apparently no one notified Shirley Nytko, owner of the Power Source ceramics studio on Eight Mile, either.

"If I'd known (about the construction), I wouldn't have opened for business," said Nytko, who also reported that the construction caused the studio to lose power Thursday after-

noon.

"I've only been open a year," she said. "I don't know if I'll be able to survive the summer." Some stores are alternately thriving and withering as turning lanes into their parking lots are opened and then closed on a rotating basis to facilitate construction. Other stores, such as The Vitamin Source on Farmington Road, have cut back on employees to keep expenses down.

Since construction is right on the city and county line, businesses in several areas have been affected.

"Farmington, Farmington Hills, Livonia, Oakland County and Wayne County are all involved," said Bill Richards, Farmington assistant city manager. "A lot of communities intersect the construction."

The situation may be grim, but many stores are optimistic that things will return to normal once

the expansion is completed.

Liskiewicz is actually hoping business will improve. "The widening will help us, so we're trying not to do a lot of complaining," she said. "In the long run, it'll be better. But it's a long period of time, and frankly, we're going to be the most affected."

Waiting isn't as hopeful.

"Two or three years ago, when they repaved Farmington Road between Seven and Eight Mile, my business dropped right away," he recalled. "When they opened it again at the end of the summer, (business) increased, but never up to the previous level. I think people found alternate ways to get to work, found other places to stop, and just never came back."

"When (Eight Mile) reopens, the likelihood of people coming back through here... I'll take about six months or a year to get back to where I was before this."

Young cyclists to cruise Hills streets

They may not be old enough to drive, but local kids can still cruise the streets of Farmington Hills on Saturday, June 28.

That's the date of the third annual Children's Tour De Hills, an organized eight-mile bike ride through different neighborhoods, sponsored by the Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Department.

The non-competitive event is for kids ages 8-13, and winds through paved subdivision roads

in the northern part of the city. All crossings of major streets will be done at traffic signals with police officers present.

"We started a bicycle safety program and had a bike rodeo about four years ago. This was one of the ideas that grew out of it," said Andrew Lang, superintendent of the city's parks and recreation.

"It's an activity that allows children to put what they've been told into practice," he added.

The parks and recreation department and Hills police hold a bike safety program each year, sending officers into seven elementary schools. Lang estimated the programs reach about 1,200 kids in grades 3-5.

"This is kind of a spinoff of that program," he said.

Members of Hills city council praised the event at its meeting

Monday night.

"This event will stress bike safety and proper riding procedures," said Councilwoman Vicki Barnett. "I think it's great that we use this kind of event to promote bike safety. I applaud the police and the department of parks and recreation."

Parents of riders are invited to attend a picnic dinner in the park at the event's conclusion. Adult volunteers help organize the picnic, while others ride along at the front and back of the pack.

The event begins at 4 p.m. on Saturday, June 28, at Pioneer Park. All riders should bring helmets.

The tour lasts until 5 p.m., and ends back at Pioneer Park for the picnic. Adult volunteers are still needed.

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by Herbert M. Gardner, D.D.S. & Martha R. Zinderman, R.N., D.D.S.

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