

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

Business from page A1

game for construction next sum-

game tor construction next sum-mer.

"We've heard that it's going to be ripped up," said Liskiewicz.

"We're a seasonal business. If that's torn up in our prime sea-son, it'll be very detrimental to us."

us."
Mike Yousif, 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 construc-

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

anid.

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

"If I'd known (about the construction). I wouldn't have
opened for business," said
Nyikon, 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
asid. "I don't know if I'll be
asid. "I don't know if I'll
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

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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 there.

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

the expansion is completed.
Linkiewicz is actually hoojng
business will improve.

"The widening) will help us,
so we're trying not to do a let of
complaining, the said. "In the
iong run, it'll be better. But it's a
long period of time, and frankly,
we're going to be the most affect-

we're going to be the most affected."
Waling 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 atop, and just
mover came back.

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

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Young cyclists to cruise Hills streets

They may not be old enough to drive, but local kide 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

"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 at program," he said.

Members of Hills city council praised the event at its meeting

Monday night

"This event will stress blke 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."

parks and recreation."

Parents of riders are invited to attend a picale dinner in the park at the event's conclusion. Adult volunteers help organize the picale, 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.

mets.

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

The cost is \$5. Call (248) 473-9578 to register.

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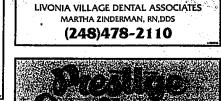
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