

Deacon from page A1

of the former Global Furniture building that was demolished so road improvements could proceed.

The event capped off a two-year effort by local leaders to get the interchange named in honor of the former city official, who died suddenly Feb. 12, 1998, at Metro Airport after returning home from a church convention.

Deacon long championed interchange improvements at the site dubiously known as "dysfunction junction."

As a member of the Economic Development Corporation, he persisted with trips to Lansing to let state officials know how the clogged corridor hindered economic development.

"This is such a magnificent honor for him," said Deacon's daughter Donna Fuciarrelli, wiping away tears.

Wife Lois, who was standing near by the green road sign that bears her husband's name, said the dedication would have meant a lot to him.

Lois and Keith have two children, Donna and Daniel, and three grandchildren, Megan, Tyler and Adam. Daniel is on a work assignment and couldn't

attend.

"It was a long struggle. He went to a lot of meetings," said Lois, who lives in Farmington Hills. "He kept saying there was congestion at the interchange."

Deacon also served as a Farmington Hills City Council member and mayor. He also helped write the city's charter in 1973, Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi said.

"I think we can agree no one person played a bigger role at the local level than Keith Deacon," Vagnozzi said. Farmington Hills City Councilwoman Nancy Bates and the Rev. Mark Jensen of North Congregational Church joined state Rep. Andrew Raczowski in an effort to get the freeway named in Deacon's honor.

Bates testified twice before the state House in support of legislation introduced by Raczowski.

The highway has been resurfaced and, in some areas, completely reconstructed. A right-turn lane was added from eastbound M-5 to Grand River and improvements made to the off-ramp at M-5 and Freedom.

The bridge has also been rehabilitated as part of the \$5.5 million project.

U.S. Rep. Joe Knollenberg, R-Bloomfield Hills, obtained \$1.3 million through federal demonstration funds to help pay for the project. A bulk of the \$5.5 million is coming from Gov. John Engler's Build Michigan II plan.

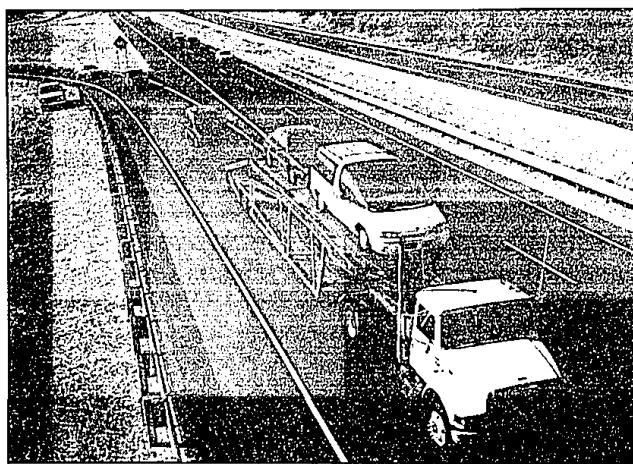
"This interchange marks the end of eight years of cooperation and commitment by the Economic Development Corporation, state, federal and local organizations to deliver needed transportation improvements," said James DeSana, Michigan Department of Transportation director, who attended the ceremony.

Bates related how Deacon called for a meeting nearby so state road officials could experience the gridlock firsthand.

"Keith was imposing by size but gentle by nature," Bates said.

Friends and family used the dedication to reminisce about Deacon, who used to regularly attend North Farmington High football games and sit in the press box.

Said family friend Carolyn Godwin, "He was a gentle giant who didn't need a stick."



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BEEBLES

Believe it or not: The new interchange is one of the few uncongested roadways in southeast Michigan. Keith Deacon long championed interchange improvements at the site dubiously known as "dysfunction junction."

Help from page A1

Pavlik.

Although Pavlik did acknowledge the bakery and other donating businesses will gain from contributing, he stressed that community service is the real reason for taking part.

"It seems like all the business-

es are starting to pick up on being more community oriented," said Pavlik.

Another example of that will be demonstrated at the unveiling of the new name for the historic Governor Warner Mansion at 33805 Grand River, set for 6

p.m. Thursday.

The Farmington Bakery, along with Panera Bread and Starbucks, will cater the sign dedication event, hosted by the Governor Warner Mansion Development Committee.

Grads from page A1

gave the class address. Farmington School Board President Cathy Webb spoke to the graduating class about living life with always a mind for leaving a legacy.

She told students she interviewed a number of older people who said that if they had their

lives to live over, they would live life to its fullest.

"They wished they had been more courageous, to have taken more risks," Webb said.

Following the presentation of diplomas by school board members Priscilla Brouillette and Linda Enberg, the senior class

broke into song - "Forever Young" of course.

The symphony band and orchestra closed the commencement ceremony with "War March of the Priests."

For more photographs and a listing of 1999 graduates, please turn to page D6.

Arts from page A1

People can weigh in on art and cultural issue through a series of questions using a five-point scale from "strongly disagree" to "strongly agree." They can also circle "DK" for don't know.

Respondents are also asked to list what they view as the community's key cultural assets, organizations and events.

Information from the written portion will be combined with a random telephone survey of 400 households during the next week. People contacted by phone should not complete the survey in order to prevent duplication, which skews results.

"I know people are annoyed with getting phone calls, but this is important," said LePla-Perry, who previously served as cultural arts coordinator but resigned because of time constraints. "We've also found this is the most cost efficient and statisti-

cally accurate way to go about it."

Studies show communities with solid cultural arts programs see economic benefits, LePla-Perry said.

A committee member and artist said this community has a vibrant arts scene, but there are some voids.

"I belong to the art club and we're getting a good response," said Alice Nichols, a Farmington Hills painter. "There are a lot of performers who are not getting that response. I don't know if it's a lack of publicity or a lack of awareness. That's what this (the survey) is about."

Once the cultural arts master plan is drafted, public hearings

will take place. Organizers want to adopt the mission by the end of the year.

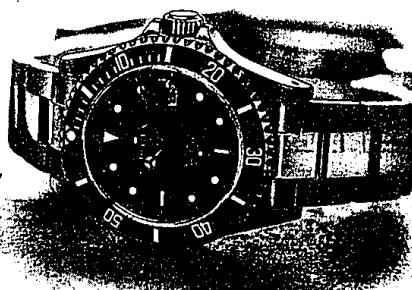
The cultural arts portion will become part of both cities' master plans.

Candidates are being interviewed for the vacant cultural arts coordinator position, which has been bumped up to full time. LePla-Perry worked as cultural arts coordinator part-time. She still works as a consultant for the Farmington Hills Special Services Department.

"It (cultural arts master plan) will give a wonderful design or layout for the new coordinator," LePla-Perry said.

**GIVE YOUR DAD
THE TIME OF DAY.
FATHER'S DAY IS SUNDAY, JUNE 20.
ISN'T IT TIME
TO REMEMBER DAD?**

ROLEX



GREENSTONE'S
CREATORS OF FINE JEWELRY SINCE 1925

528 N. Old Woodward, Birmingham, MI
4 Blks North of Maple
248-642-2650

MONDAY - FRIDAY 10-5:30 • THURSDAY UNTIL 7:00 • SATURDAY UNTIL 5:00

Green Rolex Oyster Perpetual Submariner Officially Certified Swiss Chronometer. Powered by Rolex. Rolex Oyster Perpetual and Submariner are trademarks.

Don't gamble on who you store your fur with this summer... Pick a sure winner!

34°F. Light Humidity & Vermin Controlled Vents

Dittrich
Since 1939

The Safest Environment For Furs
Save Up to \$35.25 With
Dittrich's 7 Step Fur
Care Package And
Free Garment Bag

Package Includes:
Store • Clean & Glaze
• Clean Lining
• Guaranteed 1 year Protection
• Expert Thoroughness
• Lock Tight Lining
• Light & Airy

Call Today For A Free Pick-Up
(313) 873-8300 or (248) 642-3000

2737 Third Ave.
Bloomfield Hills
1515 N. Woodward Ave.
www.dittrichfurs.com

**SUNNY CHOI
LANE DAVIS
ERIC GASKINS
TERI JON
CHRIS KOLE
LIANCARLO
JESSICA MCCLINTOCK
NITELINE
TOM & LINDA PLATT
RIMINI
VICTORIA ROYAL
ST. JOHN
KAY UNGER
HEIDI WEISEL**

Oval Room™ fall 1999 trunk show
Friday June 18 ten a.m. to four p.m.
Somerset

THIS SEASON@HUDSON'S

For more information about the collections, or to schedule a complimentary appointment with a SELECT personal shopper, call toll free: 1-800-695-0275.