

Public safety official urges pedestrians to be cautious

BY TEM SMITH
RUFF WRITER
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Motorists often are urged to drive defensively, or to look out for the "other guy" when they're out on the road.

But perhaps people need to walk *defensively*, too, said Farmington Public Safety Deputy Director Mike Wiggins.

That means using sidewalks and crosswalks, avoiding the urge to cut across the middle of a street and not being in so much of a rush to put shoe leather to pavement the instant a green "Walk" sign is illuminated.

Shortly before 11 a.m. last Wednesday, a 66-year-old Farmington woman was injured when she attempted to cross the middle of Farmington Road about one block south of Grand River.

FARMINGTON

She avoided serious injury, but only because the vehicle that struck her slowed down to about 5 miles-per-hour at the point of impact, police said.

"Pedestrians need to stay on the sidewalks and stay on the crosswalks," Wiggins said. "Don't cross the roadway where safe passage is not provided."

The rules seemingly are simple. Walkers use the crosswalks, and when they do, motorists yield to them, Wiggins explained.

But that doesn't always happen.

"Just as you drive, you should walk defensively as well," Wiggins said. "On the other hand, I

don't blindly walk out there" either when having the right way.

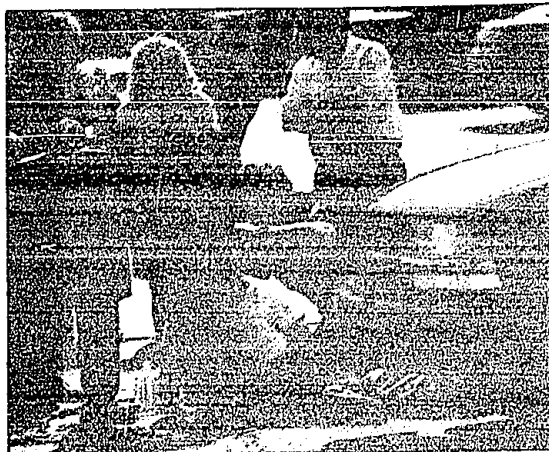
"(Motorists) don't always follow the lights and the signs," he added.

Wiggins said the driver of the Chevrolet pick-up truck involved in Wednesday's mishap was not ticketed.

The victim, who was treated at and released from Bowdoin Hospital, sustained a severe cut to the top of her head and lost a significant amount of blood.

"As accidents go it was a very fortunate set of circumstances with the slow-moving vehicle," Wiggins said.

The woman actually was injured when she struck her head on the street and not from the impact of the vehicle.



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attend to
a 66-
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SUMMER CONCERT CALENDAR

The cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills offers musical entertainment throughout the summer:

■ The Downtown Development Authority continues its evening concert series "Cele-

brate the Sounds" at 7:30 p.m. Friday, July 16, under the gazebo in downtown Farmington next to the Village Commons on Grand River. The Willy George Band will perform big band sounds of the '40s.

■ The Novi Community Band

will perform as part of the Stars in the Park concert series at 8 p.m. today, July 15, at Heritage Park in Farmington Hills. This musical series is presented by the city's Department of Special Services and features local talent every Thursday night. The Farmington Community Concert Band will perform July 22.

There is no charge.

■ The Detroit-Oakland Chapter of SPEBSQSA, barbershop chorus and quartets, will perform as part of a free concert series at 8 p.m. Wednesday, July 21, at Nardin Park United Methodist Church in Farmington Hills. All concerts are free. Call 478-8860.

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The Farmington Observer

in the 90's
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