Sunday August 22, 1999

Starting Sunday afternoon, the exit ramp from northbound I-275 to eastbound I-696 will be closed for reconstruction and traffic

to eastbound 1-696 will be closed for reconstruction and traffic detoured about five miles onto casabound M-6. From northbound 1-275, motorists looking to exit to casab-bound 1-696 will be directed onto the eastbound M-6/Grand River exit and follow two lanes onto way in Farmington Hills. Motorists will drive 2.5 miles cast, That will take then past the Grand River exit, then they will turn around on a tomporary ramp, then proceed on weatbound M-5 another 2.5 miles to the east-bound 1-696 exit. Construction crews also contin-ued work this weekend on the cight Mile Road entrance and exit file Mile ramps are com-pleted, crews will move to Seven Mile for construction there.

TV Book: The Observer Newspapers have discontinued the TV cable guide. Reader surveys have shown that the guide hasn't been popular with the majority of our readers.

We will continue to focus

our attention on improv-ing other aspects of your newspaper. We apologize for any inconvenience.

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Mayor chides Edison

While Detroit Edison cuts tree limbs in the area, Farmington Hills Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi shot off a letter to Edison criticizing the utility for power outages and what he says is a lack of responsiveness.

BY LARRY O'CONNOR STAFF WILTER Joconnor Gos.homecomm.net

loconnor@ochomecomm.net
Detroit Edison continuous to cut tree limbs in attempt to prevent downed wires, but it's far from an olive branch a Farmington Hills elected official wants.
Hills Moyor Aldo Vagnozzi is upset with the utility's lack of response to demands made by city officials regarding frequent power outages. Some 8,000 Farmington Hills residents lost electricity us a result of a severe thunderstorm

Aug. 7. Detroit Edison is spending \$40 million this year - compared to \$32 million in 1998 - on line clearance, which reduces potential for power

outnges. Farmington Hills was one of the areas target-ed before the recent power losses, an Edison spokesman said. "This is a continuation of Detroit Edison's line clearance activity," said Carl Just, utility

spokesman. Please see EDISON, A4



Way up: A crew member works to remove overhanging tree limbs from Power lines on Shiawassee Road. Edison had crews throughout Farmington and Farmington Hills clearing lines this past week.

Safety: While crews were cutting tree limbs others were ensuring safety by guiding traffic around the trimming process.



New fund debuts for Civic Theatre facelift

BY TIM SMITH STAFF WRITER

mm.net The Farmington City Council estab-shed a special budget fund Aug. 16 armarked solely for operations and enovations of the recently purchased Civic Theatro

Council members also approved a 10-

year loan for start-up costs. About \$180,000 will be transferred from the capital improvement fund into the new community theater fund, suid Frank Lauhoff, Farmington city manager. Repayment of the loan is not consid-ered problematic. Budget projections for several years "anticipate increased attendance and revenues," enough so

that the \$180,000 begins to be paid off in June 2004, according to Lauhoff's report to the council. That capital will 'only be used as needed,' Lauhoff explained, such as for any renovations that Wixom-based con-struction manager M.K.A. Inc. intends to make over the next several months, after the city takes over the Civic from

longtime owner Greg Hohler. Some of those changes are already being studied, such as relocation of the box office, extension of the main con-cession stand and the installation of new seats in the lower auditorium. "We don't want to have a 'grand

Planke see CIVIC. A4

Ready New teachers prep for first day

"I'm impressed," summed up new Wooddale Elementary School teacher Brian Graves neur the conclusion of three days worth of staff orientation. "I just want to got my classroom."

See related story page A6

The resulting laughter from approximately 70 new staff mem-bers filled the Farmington Training Center configuration Graves' comment was a reference to the ongoing construction that threatens to make the start of the 1999-2000 school year anything but hassle-free. But whether or not buildings are ready on time, the latest infusion of teaching talent to Team Farmington carlt wait to greet students can Monday, Aug. 30. Enthusiasm and budding camaraderie filled the conference room on Thursday afternoon, when the newcomers passed around a microphone and offered observations about what they

Please see TEACHERS, AG



Leaming: Ellen Wiland learns how to keep attendance on the computer. New teachers attended an orientation Thursday to prepare for their new duties.

Stressful year only spurs Anhut on to future

John Anhut had a year that all the broken mirrors a a funhouse and a litter of black kittens would be

hard to produce. First, the Farmington Hills fixture had to take back the operation of his beloved Historical Basford Inn, which became awash in debt under another

owner. Despite Anhut's tireless efforts as Economic Devel-opment Corporation chairman, the city's largest com-puter firm, Compuware, announced a pending move to Davadi to Detroit.

Ho also spoke in favor of a controversial plan to expand Botsford Hospital parking lot, which was

unpopular with some neighbors. But pass the crying towel to someone else. If any-thing, Anhuts waltz with misfortune proves he's as buoyant as a cork canoe guided by inner tubes. While selling the historic inn to Buotaford Hospital for \$1.4 million in June, Anhut doesn't plan to finde away.

for \$1.4 million in bone, tanks tank, and a away. "I'm going to kick butt," Anhut said. "I'm going to revive and get busy on this EDC and get involved in things I haven't been able to do up until now." In addition to his EDC work, he's on the Warner Manaion committee and is chairman of a finance committee involved in Bothford Hospital's endow-ment campaign. He also chairs the Grand River Cor-ridor Study Group. Farmington Hills City Council honored Anhut with

a proclamation for all his volunteer work at its Aug. 9 meeting. Farmington Hills/Farmington Community Foundation did the same July 27. Anhut's watched Dearborn buy the Jacobson's building and Farmington purchase the Civic Theatre-Ile wonders if the EDC could do the same with an abandaned property on Grand River. The tity is wrapping up a \$1.2 million right-of-way improvement project on Grand River, which has helped increase property values and create jobs. The Botsford Hospital parking lot expansion looks great despite neighbor's worries, Anhut said. "If the has't added another \$10,000 in value to their homes, I'll cat my hat," Anhut said in typical candor. Hie's also on top of the Botsford Hospital's fund.

Please ace ANHUT, A5



BY LARRY O'CONNOR STAFF WRITER loconnor@oe.homecomm.net

E3

E1

E5

Gl

H6

H1

A new tenant could soon be occupying the vacant Crowley's building on 12 Mile and Farmington roads, a leasing agent said.

CROWLEYS

A spokesman for owner Ludwig and Karas is "very optimistic" an announce-ment will be made in a month on a possible tenant for the three-level structure, which anchors the Kendallwood Shopping Center. Crowley's closed all of its stores in Fobru-ary after the parent company filed for bankrupty. "We are in dircunsions with a number of interested parties," said Store Karas of Ludwig and Karas, which is a leasing agent for the building. "The interest is pretty strong." Butter Farmington Associates owns the shopping center.

shopping center - CROWLEV'S. A4







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