

At the car wash

Flanders Elementary pupils see what work world is all about



STAFF PHOTO BY ELIZABETH CARNESE

Spraying around: Daniel Clunis makes sure he gets the dirt off the wheels of a customer's sport utility vehicle at Colonial Car Wash & Oil Exchange in Farmington.

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER
tsmith@oe.homecomm.net

Holding a water hose bigger than he is, Flanders Elementary School second grader Eli Cromwell took aim at one of the dirt-covered cars rolling along on the track to cleanliness at Colonial Car Wash & Oil Exchange.

Eli sprayed the bumper and wheel covers, an experience shared by other pupils in the second-third grade classroom of Flanders teacher Pam Green.

The youngsters did a lot more, of course, during their field trip last week to Mary and Holly Owen's dual-purpose shop in Farmington. The field trip intended to provide youngsters

with a close glimpse at the "working world."

On the car wash side of the Nine Mile Road business, they also: Talked to the customers to find out what kind of wash they wanted; scribbled a wash "code" on the windshield; collected money; and doled out coupons.

Over on the oil change side, they filled tires; checked oil levels; talked with customers about the importance of wearing their seat belts; and watched closely from the pit, as employees drained oil and proceeded with their work.

Later, Eli and classmate Becky Varnesaid their favorite part of the day was watching from the sidelines as streams of different-colored soap hit the

vehicles on their way through the car wash cycle.

But Eli's mom, Donna, saw some other important benefits to the field trip.

"It exposes them to businesses in their own community and to how businesses work," Donna Cromwell said. "They see behind-the-scenes kinds of things."

Colonial Car Wash & Oil Exchange began collaborating with Farmington Public Schools for such field trips in 1994, and have continued them almost every year since.

In '94, the district awarded the Owenses with a plaque for the school-business partnership "Wall of Fame."



Closer look: Jeff Davis, the lower tech, looks up to the students while garage manager Tony Fields prepares to put fresh oil into the car.

Northwestern focus of meeting

BY DAN WEST
STAFF WRITER
dwest@oe.homecomm.net

Designers will present a pared list of ideas to expand the Northwestern Highway corridor during a pair of public meetings this week.

DLZ Michigan Inc., a Lansing-based firm has spent more than a year so far on a study to develop a proposal to better circulate traffic on and off the triangular intersection of Northwestern, Orchard Lake Road and 14 Mile Road.

Firm representatives will share their research with a series of private and public meetings at West Bloomfield Town Hall on Monday and Farmington Hills City Hall on Wednesday. They will meet one-on-one during the day with rep-

resentatives of residential and condominium associations along 14 Mile, Orchard Lake and Northwestern.

Public walk-in meetings will begin at 7 p.m. both days.

"We wanted to have some meetings with smaller groups so we can get some constructive dialogue," said DLZ's Steve Metzger, the project manager.

Presentations will explain the study, which options were eliminated, which options still are being considered and conclude with public input and questions sessions.

Based on safety, cost and ability to handle traffic volumes estimated for 2020, Metzger said the company plans to offer a recommendation by late fall to a municipal consortium which includes Farmington Hills.

AGENDAS

City of Farmington Council Meeting
23000 Liberty Street
Monday, April 17
8 p.m.

■ Presentation and recognition: Recognizing the efforts of Mr. Doug Dadisman and the Archdiocese of Detroit Legal Services.

■ Presentation: 47th District Court 1999 Annual Report - David Walsh, court administrator.

■ Request from Commission on Children Youth and Families declaring the week of May 14-21 as a "Salute to Those Whose Efforts Support the Family."

■ City Manager's recommended FY 2000-2001 budget.

City of Farmington Hills Regular Council Meeting
31565 W. 11 Mile Road
City Council Chambers
Monday, April 17
7:30 p.m.

■ Proclamations in recognition of United Way Awards received by David Kinchen and Matt Webb.

■ Monthly Service Club Presentation: The American Association of University Women (AAUW) (Debra Hoffman).

■ Presentation by Detroit Edison representative on service issues.

■ Consideration of determination of Special Assessment Dis-

trict for water main installation for Sans Souci Road, from 200 feet east of Middlebelt to its southerly terminus and notice of intent to issue bonds and declaration of interest to reimburse project expenditures with bond proceeds.

■ Public hearing on special assessment district costs for Moran Ave. Road improvement and drainage improvement.

■ Hearing on introduction of ordinance to amend section 34.32 of the City Cod, rezoning request as follows:

Location: Southeast corner of Middlebelt Road and Dresden Boulevard, lots 82 and 83 of Meadowbrook Heights subdivision.

Request: Rezone from OS-1, office service district classification to RA-3, single-family residential district classification.

Propponent: Kenneth and Marion Wallace

■ Consideration of request for a partial sanitary sewer and watermain easement vacation for Busch's Grocer Store site.

■ Consideration of adoption of economic development plan for the city of Farmington Hills.
■ Consideration of exemption to cellular tower ordinance to permit AT&T Wireless Communications to locate an antenna on existing Detroit Edison high-voltage transmission tower located adjacent to I-275, east of Haggerty Road.



Punch up the color.

You'll be shining bright in this ensemble from C.C. Outlaw. Made in the USA.

Orange cap-sleeved tank in rayon/spandex. Sizes S, M, L, \$50.

Sheer magenta paisley skirt with ruffled zebra-print hem. Silk chiffon. Lined. Sizes XS-L. \$120.

Both in Advanced Sportswear.

Jacobson's

Birmingham • (205) 988-0000 Livonia • (734) 591-7696 Rochester • (248) 651-6000

SHOPPING HOURS: MON-SAT 10-9 • OPEN SUN AT NOON

www.jacobsonsa.com