## With signals, timing is everything Survey from page A2

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A2(F)

Driving around Farmington Hills should be easify this sum-mer, once the city finishes retim-ing all the traffic signals in accordance with a traffic study that is still under way. The study, paid for with a \$285,000 state or federal grant, began in November and is two-thirds completed, said city traf-fic engineer Kevin McCarthy. This involves the use of auto-matic vahicle counters and observers who monitor traffic

Seuss from page A2

"We encourage the reading at home," Stieber said. "I like to read and the kids enjoy it." Asked about what makes Scuss so enjoyable, Stieber replied that it's the rhyming." nations are loved by everybody. Then lend to reading with expression and having a good time with it,"

Seuss so enjoyane, orcent replied that it's the rhyming." This is just a great way to get kids to enjoy reading, celebrate together and colebrate good lit-erature, asid Greon after her spirited rendition. "We look at Dr. Seuss so often as being for little kids. But the word combi-

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behavior at intersections. The data will be plugged into a computer program called Syn-chro by Trafficware. This soft-ware recommends optimal tim-ing for the 89 signals in the city, that are not part of the county's FAST-TRAC system. McCarthy estimates that county personnel will begin or early summer. That will take two months.

two months. Although the study and retim-ing was strictly a Farmington Hills idea, the Road Commission of Oakland County has begun a

The idea for this is to be perpetual.'

## Kevin McCarthy -City traffic engineer

similar program. The county will begin in Southfield and move counterclockwise, ending in Farmington Hills in five years. That works out well,

Farmington Hills in five years. That works out well, McCarthy said, as he believes these studies should be done periodically. "The idea is for this to be perpetual, as long as the funding is still there."

the gymnasium. "If you don't read that much, even 15 or 20 minutes every night would be wonderful."

minutes every night would be wonderful? Also in full swing at Flanders, and other elementary schools in the district, is the annual Book Farade reading incentive pro-gram. The program, sponsored by the instructional technology and media department, is open to fourth- and fifth-graders. There are 13 selected titles, which "represent a variety of genre, subjects and authors at

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looking at trends." When students graduate this year, they will be given exit sur-veys and also be informed about the one-year-out survey dis-tributed in 2002.

tributed in 2002. During the first aurvey, only 76 grads participated. The most-recent aurvey draw participation from 157 out of more than 800 grads, approximately 15 percent. School board Trustee Cathy Webb and euch low participation rates need to be takon into account when analyzing the sur-vey results.

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That (15 percent) is still not a good number to make a reaction to, Webb said. The best we can do is keep tracking it, and it we start to see a trand that the per-centages are still going down' then public concerns would be better justified. Because fewer alumni answord the first survey, per-centages were more skewed, Zurvalec explained. For example, the percentages of alumni reporting they liked high school dropped from 84 per-cent to 83 percent. Whereas 94

Elsewhere, too

Throughout the district during March are programs and activi-ties designed to spark interest in

different reading levels." Although students earn incen-tives for reading a particular number of titles, media special-ists emphasize "that its reading for pleasure and not a competi-tion," Kurzynies sold. For these reading six or more of the books, they will be invited to an April assembly to feature author Cynthia De Felice. "We haven't dropped reading for computers in this district," noted Kurzyniec. "They both have a place."

March are programs and activi-tics designed to spark interest in reading. For example, Fairview Early Childhood Center is hosting a variety of netivities with the theme 'Fig Out on Books!" Studouts began the month with a special visit from Mar-garet Schmidt, who brought real pigs to show them. Then, from March 5 through March 15, classes are visiting the media conter to participate in various pig-related literature activities -including listoning centers and acting out stories with uppels. From 6-8:30 p.m. Friday, March 16, is the 'Fig Out on Books and Ice Cream' families will be invited to journey through the building. The grm will be atocked with ice cream. There also will be a 'Figgy

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percent of 1998 grads said learn-ing in the district was wellecht percent of 1998 grads sud learn-ing in the district was valuable to them, only 83 percent of '99 grads reported the same. Meanwhile, the percentage who said the district "appropri-ately challenged" them in the classroom dipped from 71-to-60 percent

classroom unpresented. Brudent satisfaction with indi-vidual subject areas also could be cause for concern if trends continue over a several year period. In the survey from last year, 11 of 14 subjects saw a decrease in combined A and B grades over the previous year's survey.

grades over the particular survey. Following is how those subjects fared, comparing the sur-veys of 1998 and 1999 graduates, respectively: Math: 62 percent ('98 grad survey), 53 percent ('99 grad sur-

vey); Science: 61 percent, 51 per-

Computer education: 46 per

cent, 33 percent; ■ English: 66 percent, 57 per-

cent; Zurvalec said some categories with low percentages would probably see increases in future aurveys, because block schedul-ing is now at all three schools.



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his dad and learned ha's doing "The reason we were notified is the school made sure to put a consistent message out, that's understandable to kids of that age. Reid commented. 'I think the message is earfoully con-structed not to raise concerns, but to mitigate them." Bauman said several classes were making cards that Mre. Turner will take to the hespital Thursday.

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