

# Public hearing planned for Lowe's development

BY TIM SMITH  
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Farmington Hills Planning Commissioner Glen Fleischacker apparently was hoping to see more detailed information about a planned urban development project proposed to be built near 14 Mile and Orchard Lake roads.

"There's no benefits that I've seen, no fancy architecture," Fleischacker said to representatives for Lowe's Home Improvement Centers, during last Thursday's planning commission meeting.

Lowe's wants to build a store to anchor a 20-acre planned unit development (PUD).

Fleischacker said he had concerns that the focal point of the project might just be "a big gray box with a blue stripe around it."

The commission scheduled a public hearing on the matter for 7:30 p.m. Thursday, June 21. But first, to address the need for more detailed information, a study session about the project will take place on June 7.

Aspects of the plan the commission wants to know more about include whether there will be adequate sidewalks, access

points for motorists on the Northwestern Highway side of the parcel, and sufficient landscaping.

The Lowe's PUD would be independent of a project previously proposed for 70 acres immediately to the south. Sited for the larger parcel is approximately 370,000 square feet of commercial development by Grand Sakwa Acquisitions.

Lowe's would be the major development on the 20-acre parcel, but other, smaller shops would also be incorporated into the PUD.

At one point during the discus-

sion, it was debated whether the public hearing should be pushed back to July to allow for the additional information to be received.

But, according to Lowe's Evan Vlaeminck, the sooner the project can get rolling the better. "June is of the essence with this development. We'd like to keep the June 21st public hearing."

Afterward, Lowe's representative Ted Simons said he foresaw no problem with bringing additional information to the commission on June 7.

"We're looking forward to satisfying all concerns of the plan-

ning commission," Simons said.

One issue the commission must decide is whether the Lowe's and Grand Sakwa PUDs can co-exist without overloading the city's northeast corner.

"Philosophically, I think this area begins to approach what they call chaos," said commissioner Paul Blizman. "Different proponents, different conceptions, different turfs, and different ideas about what people would like to see. We need to hear from the public, and ultimately, it's going to be the city council who decides this."

## SCHOOL AWARDS

The following Farmington School District employees were recently honored for 25 years of service:

Meredith Ayers - Transportation  
Ben Chin - William Miller/O'Connell  
Debra Ellis - Transportation  
Emma Foster - Visions Unlimited  
Joyce Herdell - Lanigan Elementary School  
Christine Hosman - North Farmington High School  
Sharon MacKay - Longacre Elementary School  
Marlan Maxwell - Maintenance  
Barb Mikel - Longacre Elementary School  
Kathy Nicholas - Alameda Early Childhood Center  
Matthew Nichols - Maintenance  
Laura Parriah - Farmington Community School  
Gail Poland - Transportation  
Dolly Porter - Special Education  
Gerald Ross - Power Middle School  
Lynne Schatzko - Wood Creek Elementary School  
Elizabeth Short - Farmington High School  
Karen Unruh - William Grace Elementary School  
Brenda Waldman - Farmington High School  
Barry Walsh - Farmington High School  
Karen Wichert - Visions Unlimited  
Carol Wyman - Visions Unlimited  
Lyla Young - William Miller  
Susan Zambelli - Warner Middle School

## Crews begin I-96, M-14, I-275 work Saturday

BY MATT JACHMAN  
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If regular travelers on Livonia's freeways haven't yet felt the effects of a massive construction effort, starting Saturday, they will.

That's when crews are scheduled to start rerouting traffic and shutting down lanes for the \$51 million project involving I-96, M-14 and I-275 in western Wayne County, according to the Department of Transportation.

The work includes rebuilding the east-west freeway, in both directions, between Newburgh and Haggerty roads and resurfacing it between Newburgh and Telegraph. Work, ranging from minimal structural repairs to deck replacement, will also be done on about 50 bridges over the freeway.

On Saturday - if this week's rains don't cause delays - westbound traffic between Newburgh and Haggerty will be rerouted to two lanes on the eastbound side, said Rob Morosi, an MDOT spokesman. Between Telegraph and Newburgh, in both directions, lanes will be closed, he said.

In early July, the traffic shift between Newburgh and Haggerty will be reversed, with eastbound traffic rerouted to two lanes on the westbound side, he said.

The lane closures between Telegraph and Newburgh will continue until October, Morosi said. During peak hours, weekdays between 6 a.m. and 8 p.m., traffic will be maintained on two lanes in each direction. During weekends and overnight hours, traffic could be reduced to one lane in each direction.

Bridge work will be done at the same time as the pavement work, Morosi said. The entire project should be wrapped up by late October.

In addition to the lane restrictions, the work will require five ramp closures, also scheduled to start Saturday, MDOT said:

■ The Newburgh entrance to westbound I-96 will be closed until October.

■ The ramp from westbound I-96 to northbound I-275 will be closed until at least late June.

■ The southbound I-275 ramp to eastbound I-96 will be closed until early August.

■ The ramp from westbound I-96 to southbound I-275 will close until at least late June.

■ The northbound I-275 ramp to westbound M-14 will close until early August.

In one piece of good news, the ramp from eastbound M-14 to northbound I-725 could be opened as early as today or Friday, Morosi said.

Construction updates are available through MDOT's toll-free hot line, (800) 641-MDOT or 641-6368.

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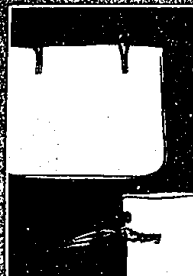
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