More families opting out of funeral processions

Funeral processions are accidents waiting to happen, says
Jonathan Dorfman, co-owner of
the Dorfman Chapel.

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The Jewish funeral home, located at 30440 W. 12 Mile in Farmington Hills, doesn't recommend processions for safety reasons and encourages people to drive on their own to the ceme-

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National statistics show one in
five processions result in an accident, Dorfman said.

To make it easier for visitors,
the chapel leaves direction slips
near the guest book. Funeral
directors also make an
announcement where the burial
will be and that the family has
requested no procession.

"About 70 percent of our
clients do not use a procession,"
Dorfman said. However, if the
family wants one, it will be provided.

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"In a busy city it's tough to do," he said.
While processions are a tradition, more families are opting out of them for safety reasons, say area funeral home owners.
"Anybody up in age has a story where an accident occurred during a procession," Derfman said. "Actually, there is a group of people who choose not to join it."
Kevin McCabe, owner of McCabe Funeral Home, 31950
W. 12 Mile in Farmington Hills, said he tries to discourage processions that go on for long distances.

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"The longer the procession the better the chance for a mishap," he said, adding that drivers out-side the procession are usually the ones who are inconsiderate

the ones who are inconsiderate or not paying attention.

Most processions are to cemeteries close by, he said.

A couple of miles doesn't concern us, 'no said. 'Ultimately, we do what the families want to do.' McCabe added interest in processions varies,' Some people are set in their ways in the things they want done - there is no science to it.'

Bob Rock, owner of 'Thayer Rock Funeral Home, 33603 Grand River in Farmington, has seen fewer and fewer families opt for a procession for safety rea-

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sons.
"Personally, I feel they are unsafe," he said. He can recall

TEEN STUFF

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attending. Câll 473-1800.
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This one-a-month book discussion is open to teens in sixth
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The Farmington YMCA offers a variety of programs for youth, ages 11-18, ranging from leadership development to recreation.
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ly two or three accidents volving a procession in the past

only two or three accidents involving a procession in the past 20 years.

"That's considerably small number, but there is a potential for danger."

He said with computers, a map to someone's final resting place can easily be printed and distributed.

Hills Police Chief William Dwyer said accidents during funeral processions aren't common in the Hills area.

"It's been years since I remember any problem," he said.
"It is after not to have them," he added, "but it's a tradition for many decades. We'll occasionally help out larger ones where there are 40 or more cars."

At the Heeney-Sundquist Funeral Home, 23720 Farmington Road in Farmington, coowner Mark Ziegler said there are dangers in hosting a procession to cemeteries located far away, but those within five miles usually do not pose a problem.

"We give them an option (not to use a procession), but rarely do they use it. Ziegler said.

As long as they are aliawed, it appears the tradition will likely never rest.

"They are a tribute," Ziegler said. "It makes it important the life they are celebrating. The length of the procession is, in some people's minds, the measure of the person's popularity."



Procession: Ivan Kinshella makes sure he's holding enough funeral procession flags for mourner's cars arriving at Dorfman Chapel.

Special supplement available at office

The Observer and Eccentric newspapers has published a special 24-page publication for the Oakland County Treasurer's Department, called "Notice of Forcelosure." This publication lists thousands of business and residen-

tial properties and the amount of back taxes owed on them.

Copies of the supplement will be available for purchase at a cost of 75 cents each, at the Farmington Observer office, 33411 Grand River.



