

Owners from page A1

two lanes on the road between Nine Mile and Grand River.

Among the petitioners are Halamart, The Pasta Stop, Hershey's Ice Cream, Tina's Coney Island, Dollar Castle and Big Apple Bagels.

"We're trying to get help," Al-Hakim said. "I have a \$8,000-a-month mortgage to pay for this business."

Farmington City Manager Frank Lauhoff said he recognizes here are businesses at the border of where last year's construction ended and this year's started who have been doubly inconvenienced.

"We have competing interests," Lauhoff said. "Nobody said, 'Don't fix the road.' They asked, 'When will you fix the road?'"

Maintaining balance

The city has to balance the future good of the community with temporary inconvenience, Lauhoff said.

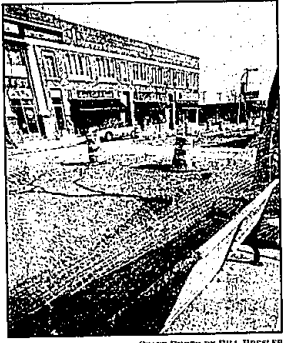
There's a commitment to keep one access point open to every business. That access point may change as construction progresses, he said.

For instance, a business at Nine Mile and Farmington Roads might have a Nine Mile entrance open at times and a Farmington Road entrance open at another time.

If, at any time, there's no access, business owners should call the Farmington DPW immediately at (248) 473-7250.

"I recognize business owners get frustrated," Lauhoff said. "There's not much of a solution."

Doing construction work 24 hours a day to



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL DRESLER
Slow business: The view from the bench on Farmington Road will be bleak for a while.

complete the project faster is unacceptable in an area from Freedom Road to downtown Farmington, which is 75 percent residential. It also drives up the cost, he said.

The city has allowed some late night construction work in the past, Lauhoff said. At a weekly construction progress meeting that

included representatives from the City of Farmington, the Road Commission and the contractor, Lanzo Construction of Roseville, the ideas of adding a work crew and working Saturdays were discussed.

According to Kevin Gushman, Farmington director of public services, while those ideas are possibilities, there's nothing concrete planned. Also, he stressed, this is a county project, not under city control.

The city's website (www.farmington.mi.us) includes links to construction updates. Additionally, the Downtown Development Authority has established an email construction update, which residents can sign up for on the website.

Craig Bryson, spokesman for the Road Commission for Oakland County, the entity overseeing the project, said there are not enough federal funds available to pay for night work to expedite the road's completion.

He said opening up traffic to two lanes is not possible considering how narrow the road is. Allowing only northbound traffic is the lesser of two evils, rather than completely shutting down the road, he said.

By mid-July, the section from Slocum to Grand River is still expected to be finished, he said.

Brook said Tuesday he can understand the financial hit businesses are taking, but said the city has never given tax breaks to businesses suffering from road construction.

Musicale benefit to feature jazz harpist

The Farmington Musicale will host a Jazz Cabaret Concert to benefit its annual scholarship competition.

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urday, May 11 at the Costick Center, 28600 West Eleven Mile Rd., Farmington, will feature harpist Christa Grix. She will perform a variety of music accompanied by drums and string bass.

Grix is at the vanguard of the concert harp, expanding the creative dimensions of this appealing instrument. "I draw upon all kinds of music," she says, "...from classical to jazz, and even some funk and blues, to make my harp sing."

A native of the Detroit area, Christa studied with Velma Froude, at Michigan State University, and Lucille Lawrence, at

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Boston University. Although she benefited from excellent, rigorous training in classical music, she always was drawn to the musical freedom that is the trademark of fine jazz playing.

Grix was a featured performer and lecturer on jazz improvisation on the harp at the Seventh World Harp Congress held in Prague, Czech Republic in July of 1999. In the summer of 2000, she gave a recital with her jazz trio at the national conference of the American Harp Society, to rave reviews.

She is married to graphic designer Mike Mullen. They reside in Northville, where they

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enjoy gardening, baseball, cooking, and playing with their young son and miniature harpist, Brendan James.

Grix's first recording as a solo jazz artist, "freefall", is frequently aired on CBC radio's DiscDrive, hosted by Jurgen Gothe out of Vancouver, B.C. In Windsor/Detroit, DiscDrive can be heard from 3:00-6:00 p.m. Monday-Friday at 89.9FM.

The Oakland County Community Jazz Band, scholarship winners, vocalist Catherine Randall and alto saxophonist Drew DeOrio, and other talented members of the Farmington Musicale will also perform, accompanied by the OCC Jazz Band.

Tickets are \$20 and will include coffee, snacks and dessert. A cash bar will be available. There will be a silent auction and door prizes. Call (248) 471-6017 for tickets.

OBITUARIES

FLORA E. BEARDSLEY
Services for Flora E. Beardsley, 98, of Farmington Hills, were held May 3 at Salem United Church of Christ in Farmington with the Rev. John Maki officiating.

Mrs. Beardsley was born Aug. 18, 1903 in Fair Haven, Vt. and died April 29, 2002 in Farmington Hills. She was a member of the Eastern Star Tyrian Chapter #469, Kings Daughters, the YWCA Board of Directors and the Cancer Society. She also did volunteer work for the United Way.

She is survived by her son, Harold Jr. (Virginia); daughter, Ruth Vandoeuvre; six grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

She is preceded in death by her husband Harold and son David. Memorial contributions may be made to the Salem Church Memorial Fund.

Arrangements made by Thayer-Rock Funeral Home in Farmington.

CLARA L. DUFFY
A memorial service for Clara L. Duffy, 89, formerly of Farmington Hills, will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, May 9, at First Presbyterian Church in Farmington with the Rev. Sue Ellis Melrose officiating.

Mrs. Duffy was born March 26, 1913, in New York, NY and died April 24, 2002 at Crittenton Hospital in Rochester.

She is survived by her son, James (Alice); and grandchildren, Janice, Christopher and Steven. She is preceded in death by her husband, Andrew.

Arrangements made by Thayer-Rock Funeral Home in Farmington.

BRUNO J. RYBINSKI
Services for Bruno Joseph Rybinski, 78, of Farmington Hills, will be held at 10 a.m. today, May 2, at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Farmington with the Rev. Robert LaCroix officiating. Burial will take place at Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Detroit.

Mr. Rybinski was born March 30, 1924 in Detroit and died April 28, 2002 at Botsford Hospital in Farmington Hills.

He is survived by his wife, Delphine Hejka; sons, Thomas (Lynne), Robert (Leslie), Joseph Hejka, Daniel (Mary) Hejka and Thomas (Karen) Hejka; sisters, Mary Suszek and Rita Obidzinski; brother, Richard; and 10 grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his first wife, Wanda Rybinski.

Arrangements made by Heeney-Sundquist Funeral Home in Farmington.

EMMA DEPOTTEY
Services for Emma DePottey, 84, of Farmington were Monday, April 22 from Lola Park Lutheran Church in Redford.

Mrs. DePottey died April 19. Survivors include son Ronald Keith (Carol) Sr., sister Martha Ward and brother Bruce Takala; three grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren and one great-great grandchild.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Renzo.

Harry J. Will Funeral Home handled the arrangements.

ALPHONSE J. DEMERS
A memorial mass for Alphonse Joseph Demers, 77, of Farmington Hills, will be held at 11:30 a.m. Friday, May 3, at St. Colette Church in Livonia with the Rev. Henry Rodheben officiating.

Mr. Demers was born March 5, 1925 in Canada and died April 29, 2002 in Farmington Hills. He was self-employed as an electrical contractor.

He is survived by his wife, Marie; son, Phillip; daughter, Nathalie Demers; and brother, Michel.

Memorial contributions may be made to Angela Hospice.

Arrangements made by Heeney-Sundquist Funeral Home in Farmington.

MARY DOLENCE
Services for Mary "Mitzi" Dolence, 87, of Novi, were held May 1 at Thayer-Rock Funeral Home in Farmington with the Rev. Leonard Partensky officiating.

Mrs. Dolence was born May 30, 1914 in Pittsburg, Kan. and died April 30, 2002 in Novi. She worked as a supervisor for Awrey Bakeries and was a member of the Slovenian National Benefit Society.

She is survived by her nephew, Michael (Maribel) Adams; nieces Patricia (William) Smith and Rose Marie (Donald) Fritz; and several great-nieces and nephews. She is preceded in death by her first husband Andrew Werholtz and second husband John Dolence.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Diabetes Association P.O. Box 2680 North Canton, Ohio 44720 or the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, 29350 Southfield Road, Ste. 42, Southfield, MI 48076.

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