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— 6A

Police work to reduce crashes at 23 Mile and Schoenherr

BY SARAH WOJCIK
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SHELBY TOWNSHIP — A study released in late September by the Traffic Improvement Association of Michigan, an Auburn Hills-based nonprofit organization, listed the intersection of 23 Mile and Schoenherr roads as having the highest fre-

quency of accidents in Macomb County so far this year.

In response, Shelby Township Police Chief Robert Shelide tasked traffic commander Lt. Jeff Daniel with cleaning up the intersection.

On Oct. 23, the Shelby Township Police Department and the Macomb County

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Board approves tree removal at future site of fifth fire station

BY SARAH WOJCIK
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SHELBY TOWNSHIP — On Oct. 20, the Board of Trustees unanimously approved the removal of some dead and dying trees, as well as underbrush, at the future site of the Shelby Township Fire Department's fifth station.

The 4-acre parcel is located on the east

side of Schoenherr Road, north of 21 Mile Road. Fire Chief Jim Swinkowski said the Fire Department has been looking to build a new station in the southeastern portion of the township since approximately 2004.

He said the department purchased the land in 2012.

"We've been slowly putting away money for the eventual building," Swinkowski

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NATURE CENTER SERVES UP SCARES

ABOVE: The Grim Reaper stands in wait amid grave markers on a haunted trail during the Burgess-Shadbrush Nature Center's haunted nature center event Oct. 24.

LEFT: Dan Farmer, a Burgess-Shadbrush Nature Center naturalist, shows off "cooked rat" at a display during the haunted nature center event. The haunted restaurant also offered "rat tails" and "chicken beaks."

Photos by Patricia O'Brien



Trees

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said. “The structure itself is the easy part. (The hard part is financing) the personnel to man the station.”

He said the department has been able to get its expenses in line by lowering its operating expenses each year and cutting unnecessary costs.

After recent budget sessions, he said the department is now in a place where it can start discussing the logistics of the new station at the board level this fall.

While no site plans have been prepared or approved, Planner Glenn Wynn said the Fire Department wishes to establish landscaping along the southern property line, which adjoins single-family homes in the Pheasant Run subdivision.

Planting the trees soon, Wynn said, will allow the landscaping to mature to provide effective screening between the subdivision and the future fire station when it is developed at some future date.

“I think this represents a very well-thought-out plan by the Fire Department that will benefit the neighbors to the south,” he said.

The first move was to obtain a



Photo by Sarah Wojcik

On Oct. 20, the Shelby Township Board of Trustees approved a tree removal permit for a parcel of land owned by the Fire Department. The department plans to construct a fifth fire station on the property, located on the east side of Schoenherr Road, north of 21 Mile Road.

tree removal permit for the parcel.

“There are some dead trees, some eroding trees that are very large that need to be cleaned up first to provide — obviously — safety, and some other things along the site,” Swinkowski said. “We want to take care of our property so it does match the neighborhood and is well-kept.”

The underbrush, he said, was starting to grow up and choke out the mature trees.

“With the development and growth of the area, (it will be better to already be down there than) hav-

ing to travel a long distance to get there,” Swinkowski said. “There is only one fire station east of M-53. With fire situations and heart attacks, time is of the essence.”

He said the new station would be similar in size to the station currently located at 25 Mile and Shelby roads. The existing station, he said, is sandwiched between two residential areas.

“We’re good neighbors,” Swinkowski said. “We try to respect people, which is why we got a larger parcel — to keep it away from residents and have a nice

greenbelt.”

For more information, call the Planning and Zoning Department at (586) 726-7243 or the Shelby

Township Fire Station Headquarters at (586) 731-3476.

Call Staff Writer Sarah Wojcik at (586) 498-1029.

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