

Southfield and Farmington are named in suit

By JACKIE KLEIN

The City of Southfield has been named in a lawsuit by a couple who charge their unborn child was killed in a car accident caused by dangerous road conditions.

The lawsuit, filed in Oakland County Circuit Court by Linda and Thomas Boone, asks a total of \$4 million in damages from the Oakland County Road Commission, the City of Farmington Hills, the City of Southfield and Gary Allen Shellabarger of Detroit whose car was involved in the accident.

Mrs. Boone, according to the lawsuit, was eight months pregnant with a baby girl when the July 26, 1976 collision occurred at the intersection of Ten Mile and Inkster at the border of Southfield and Farmington Hills.

Ms. Boone lost the baby as a result of the accident, the lawsuit asserts. Shellabarger, the suit alleges, failed to stop for a red flashing light while driving southbound on Inkster. His car collided with the Boone's westbound auto, according to the suit.

Claims against the county and two cities are for the improper design of the intersection and failure to erect appropriate signs and warning devices.

"PART OF the intersection is in Southfield's jurisdiction, but Oakland County has the authority over traffic controls," said Roger Smith, director of Southfield Department of Public Services. "Proper controls existed when the accident occurred. It was caused by human error, not road conditions."

Farmington Hills attorneys claim the city has no jurisdiction of the intersection because the county is responsible for the road. The legal

department in Farmington Hills is exploring the possibility of being dismissed from the lawsuit.

The Oakland County Road Commission, according to the lawsuit, is responsible for the maintenance and repair of roads and traffic control devices at the Ten Mile-Inkster intersection. But, the suit alleges, Southfield and Farmington Hills are also responsible for traffic controls at the intersection.

The lawsuit claims there had been many car accidents at Ten Mile and Inkster before the one involving the Boones and Shellabarger.

"Depressions in the road, blind turns because of hills and trees right up to the edge of the road and insufficient controls for the traffic volume caused the intersection to become dangerous," the lawsuit states.

Oakland County Road Commission, Southfield and Farmington Hills failed to change the design of the road or install signals to warn traffic of the "dangerous intersection," the suit charges.

BECAUSE OF the inadequate warning device, improper banking of the shoulder of the roads at the intersection and the elevations of both roads as they approach the intersection, motorists traveling east or west on Ten Mile are confused, the lawsuit charges.

As a result, the lawsuit asserts, the Boone's car was struck by Shellabarger. Mrs. Boone, the lawsuit says, was permanently injured and required hospitalization and medical care. Boone was also seriously injured in the accident, according to the lawsuit.

The couple is asking \$2 million in damages from each of the defendants.

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LIT engineers get ASME charter

Lawrence Institute of Technology's mechanical engineering student organization will receive its charter as an affiliate of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) on Friday.

The presentation will be at 8 p.m. in the Science Building auditorium on campus and is open to the public.

LIT's 35-member organization will join 4,000 other student members from colleges and universities throughout the United States. Membership reflects students' technical qualifications, a willingness to accept professional responsibility and the challenge of influencing future technology to serve the needs of people.

Three officers of Region 5, to which the LIT chapter will belong, have been invited as special guests and will participate in a panel discussion. They are Fred Nimmer, Akron, Ohio, vice-president; John Pope, also from Akron, secretary; and Raymond Page,

advisor, General Motors Institute, Flint.

LIT's president, Richard E. Marburger, and Stephen R. Davis, dean of the School of Engineering, will welcome chapter affiliates and guests to the campus.

The LIT chapter of ASME becomes the seventh student affiliate in Michigan. Others are at the University of Detroit, General Motors Institute, Michigan State University, Michigan Technological University, the University of Michigan and Wayne State University. Representatives of these chapters have been invited to the charter presentation.

LIT's School of Engineering, with over 1,700 students, is among the 10 largest in the United States in disciplines offered.

Other programs at LIT are offered in architecture, arts and science, business and industrial management and science and engineering. Total college enrollment is 4,754.

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