

District acts

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The policy was adopted by the board last August after the mention of Jesus Christ in both the benediction and invocation at Andover High School's June 11 commencement drew complaints from some members of the audience.

Administrator June Hamilton, who drafted the new rules with a committee's assistance, said the Bloomfield Hills School District is becoming an "international community."

"More and more people are moving in of different religions," she said, including persons of the Jewish, Moslem, Hindu, Chaldean and Greek Orthodox faiths.

THE FIRST of the five rules prohibits what occurred last spring. Ceremonies, prayer or references of a religious nature — including benedictions and invocations — are prohibited at school-sponsored events such as banquets, commencements, assemblies and programs.

The second rule is a modification of one the district already had in place: music, art, literature and drama activities with a religious theme are permitted in classrooms and public performances when they have instructional value, don't conflict with the policy's intent and are approved in advance by the building principal.

Rules three and four are new. Teachers may explain the meaning of religious holidays, but they are responsible for presenting their meanings accurately. Teachers may also display religious symbols in their classrooms — such as the Nativity scene and menorah — only when they're presenting an overview of many religions.

The fifth rule is a more detailed version of one the district has previously followed: Teachers and administrators may not schedule tests, reviews, field trips, after-school activities, board of education meetings, or similar events on major religious holidays.

HAMILTON WILL meet with religious leaders in the community so they may identify when those major holidays occur. A list of those dates will be presented to all principals.

School, for example, is normally in session the first day of Hanukkah, a major Jewish holiday. Until the protest in June over the mention of Jesus Christ's name, the Bloomfield Hills School District had no policy mandating respect for religious preferences.

It had some rules, which a few of the new ones resemble, but those rules were violated by the protesters of the Andover commencement.

Supt. Fred Thorin, who investigated the incident at the time, said the violation was unintentional.

Road is beautified

Continued from Page 1

would be assessed \$2 a front foot, Costick said. Most parcels range from a minimum of 20 feet to 790 feet, with most averaging 120 to 150 feet.

ALTHOUGH a tree will not be placed on each owner's property, "we felt everyone would benefit overall," Costick said. That's why all property owners along the two-mile stretch will be assessed.

Some property owners, however, are not pleased with that plan.

Sam Hayman, a Hunter's Grove condominium owner, for instance, believes the condominiums should be exempt from the assessment district.

"In my estimation, it is the most beautiful 400 feet along Orchard Lake," Hayman said, referring

to the landscaped lawn and trees facing the thoroughfare.

Hunter's Grove resident, Vicki Barnett, said, "We should talk first about improving safety on the road." She referred to the volume of traffic as well as the inside lanes often putting motorists in a head-on type of traffic pattern.

"I THINK you are right," Costick replied. "Orchard Lake Road is becoming a concern to us."

Oakland County will be improving the traffic signals at the 12 Mile and Orchard Lake Road intersection as a step toward improving the traffic problem, Costick said. The timing of the lights will be one of the major improvements, he added.

He said also that care will be taken to plant the trees in places that will not obstruct a motorist's view.

Intersection resurfaced

By next summer, motorists won't have to drive to the roadside to avoid bumps and potholes near the Orchard Lake Road and 11 Mile intersection.

Farmington Hills officials recently received word that the Oakland County Road Commission will get to work in the spring resurfacing Orchard Lake Road at 11 Mile. Resurfacing will extend 600

feet both north and south of 11 Mile. The intersection also will be resurfaced.

Federal money will pay 75 percent of the \$40,000 road improvement. The county road commission will pick up the remainder.

Because Orchard Lake Road is under the county's jurisdiction, Farmington Hills does not have to share in the project's cost.

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