

Fewer postal windows at low-use times

By Janice Brunson
staff writer

Area postmasters who are anticipating closing postal windows half a day each week in compliance with federal budget cutbacks say the move probably will have no adverse effect on consumers or post office employees.

Postal windows in Wayne and Oakland counties are expected to close on alternating half-days when consumer use at individual offices is

lowest. Automated services now available in most post offices and contract stations now operating in grocery and drug stores throughout the two counties should provide adequate alternative service.

HOME and business mail delivery will remain unchanged and Saturday service will probably remain the same.

No specific action, however, has been approved at this time, according to Postmaster John Horne, who

serves as division manager for the two counties.

Nor does Horne know when the cutbacks might be implemented. Other than an announcement by the U.S. Postmaster earlier this month that cutbacks are coming, Horne has received no formal directives.

"IT'S BUSINESS as usual for us. The only information we have is what we read in the newspapers," said Livonia postal superintendent Michael Gresock, who oversees the main post office on Merriman Road, a branch office on Middlebelt Road and three contract stations in Farmer Jack supermarkets.

"Nothing has filtered down to us as yet, no request to survey or to make any kinds of judgments (on the cutbacks) at all," Gresock said, add-

ing closed windows means "more hands sorting and moving the mail faster to carriers."

Postmaster Ron Harris of Farmington Hills also has not received formal word on the closings but "we're sure it's coming down the road."

In the meantime, Harris has ordered surveys to ascertain when consumer use is lowest at the two post offices under his jurisdiction, the main office on 12 Mile Road in Farmington Hills and the main on Slocum Road in Farmington. "It's a preliminary study at this time."

Harris, who has been a postal employee 26 years, is also "watching our current expenditures. We have

cutbacks every year, but usually toward the end of the fiscal year. This is the earliest (cutback) I can recall and half-day cutbacks haven't happened in a very, very long time."

The cutback is required under an appropriations bill for fiscal 1988 that President Reagan signed after weeks of wrangling with congressional leaders over a budget to comply with the Gramm-Rudman deficit reduction law. Postal cutbacks will total an estimated \$1.8 billion for fiscal year 1988 which began Oct. 1.

"We are currently reviewing operations in various cities and analyzing what day of the week is potentially best (to close), considering the dollar amount of sales and patterns of consumer use in each area. An important factor in our final decision will be what (other postal services) are available to the public," Johnson said.

Closing windows will have no adverse effect on career employees, Johnson added, explaining career employees are guaranteed 40 hours work in a six-day work week. Part-time and casual employees, people hired for 90-day intervals, supplement the career employee's six-day week.

Wheelchair-bound volunteers needed

More wheelchair-using volunteers still are needed for a research study at William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak.

Volunteers receive fitness tests free. "These tests would normally

OCC class aids small businesses

Oakland Community College's Highland Lakes Campus will present a special program for small business people, "Your Rights and Obligations as an Employer," beginning Tuesday, Feb. 9.

Dr. James Davis, president of Royal Oak and Southfield campuses, will cover issues such as hiring, recruiting, terminating and employee contracts.

Advance registration is required. Fee is \$10. It runs 7:30-10 p.m. For registration information, call OCC at 350-3011.

The Highland Lakes campus is at 7350 Cooley Lake Road, Union Lake.

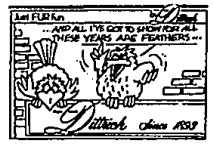
cost more than \$300," said Dr. Barry Franklin, director of cardiac rehabilitation and exercise laboratories.

"I am in desperate need of additional subjects. We are seeking healthy male wheelchair users, ages 20 to 50, classes II-IV paraplegics, amputees and those with selected lower extremity disabilities," said Franklin, who is also the Observer & Eccentric's fitness columnist.

To inquire about participating, call Karen Johnstone at Beaumont, 288-8148.

"This study is designed to develop a field test — that is, wheelchair ambulation distance in a given time period — of heart-lung fitness," Franklin said.

"Wheelchair users of varied fitness levels are encouraged to participate. You need not be a 'wheelchair athlete' or 'marathoner.'"



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Henry Ford Hospital's Heart and Vascular Institute will offer a community cholesterol screening program for adults 18 years of age and older. Donations of \$4.00 will be requested.

JR. ACHIEVEMENT SALES FAIR
February 6, Center Wide
Junior Achievement companies will have their products on sale. Trophies will be awarded to the best displays.

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY
February 13, JCPenney Court
Surprise your Valentine with a special photo-card -- Yours FREE with receipts totaling \$25 or more from any Northland store or restaurant. Receipts must be dated February 13.

SENIORS VALENTINE'S DAY DANCE
February 14, 1 pm to 3:30 pm, JCPenney Court
All senior citizens are invited to dance and/or enjoy live music by The Golden Sounds. Complimentary refreshments will be served.

ESSENCE ON THE MALL
February 20, JCPenney Court
Meet Essence Magazine editors as they showcase the latest trends in fashion, beauty, fitness and contemporary living. Plus exciting door prizes and giveaways from advertisers.

HERSHEY "BARNONE" CHOCLOATHON
February 26 - 28, JCPenney South Court
Athletic skills will be tested while helping to raise money for charity, as part of The Hershey Chocolate Company's "BarNone" candy bar celebration.

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