

OAKLAND DIGEST

Oakland Digest provides a summary of headline stories from around the county during the past week.

BIRMINGHAM
Sherman Shoes to close: Sherman Shoes, founded 72 years ago by Fred Sherman, will be closed by the end of March. Owner D. Larry Sherman of Franklin, son of the founder, announced the downtown Birmingham store closure, ending pursuit of other interests. The company grew to 14 shoe stores and, over the years, dwindled to four stores, all of which will be closed by the end of March. Stores at Laurel Park and Twelve Oaks malls will close this week to be followed by the Birmingham store, at Maple and Pierce in

Birmingham, and the Somerset North store in Troy.

CLARKSTON
M-15 widening pursued: The Independence Township Board passed a resolution that could lead to the widening of M-15 in the northern portion of the township. What is proposed is a parkway or boulevard concept that would widen M-15 to three or four lanes as far north as I-69 near Davison. "It's a shot in the dark, but we may get something," McCrary said, adding there would be no cost to the township. The cost of widening from Independence to Brandon would be about \$3.5 million.

FARMINGTON
Hills seek control over

EMS: Farmington Hills officials want more control over the city's emergency medical service and they want better service, but it would be a costly move. In the past few years, EMS service has increased faster than the increase of all fire runs, accounting for 55-60 percent of all runs. Revenues are projected to increase from \$648,000 in the first year of implementation to \$721,224 in the third year when there would be three paramedic units. But under the plan, the net cost would increase from \$164,712 in the first year to \$691,450.

LAKE ORION
Road payment disputed: The Baldwin Road widening and bridge project is complete, except

for a final layer of asphalt, which will be laid this spring. However, a bill of \$177,000 for the work is in dispute. The Road Commission for Oakland County asked Orion Township to pay the bill, which as first proposed by the road commission, was 80 percent financed federally with the remaining 20 percent to be paid locally. Road commission engineer Walt Schell said traditionally project costs are split 50-50 between the RCOC and local community. "No one wants to pay \$177,000 we didn't expect, but the work has been done," said Orion Township Supervisor Colette Dywasuk. No action was taken on the disputed payment.

NOVI
Mandatory hookup

reviewed: A Novi ordinance requiring 600 new homeowners to tap into the municipal water system will be reevaluated, according to city manager Ed Kriewall. Some 48 homeowners who want to keep their wells, mainly in the Walden Woods subdivision, have contacted the city regarding the ordinance adopted in response to the 1990 water moratorium. With the moratorium lifted, the deadline to hook up is being extended from 120 days to 6 months. By March 1, officials will determine if the ordinance will make hookup optional.

Walsh to build in Novi: Walsh College of Troy is planning the construction of a 34,000-square-foot facility at Meadowbrook Road near I-96. The college, which has leased space for instruction at a Novi office park since 1993, plans to build a new structure in the same park. Planned to be opened in the fall of 1998, the building will include 14 classrooms, a library, technology lab, bookstore and administrative offices.

OXFORD
Farmer Jack may come to Oxford: When the site plan arrives, Oxford Village officials will be reviewing a proposal to build a Farmer Jack supermarket on the defunct Church's Lumber Yard property on M-24. "We expect to see them later this month," said village manager Ben Guida.

Church's Lumber Yard closed four years ago and the property has remained vacant ever since. Guida called the site an "eyesore marking the village's entrance," and said he is looking forward to the development.

ROCHESTER
Bond buys defined: On March 18, residents living in the Rochester school district will be asked to vote on a \$112.5 million bond, which, if passed, will provide district students with more computers, printers, video and audio equipment districtwide. Technology upgrades would include installation of a Wide Area Network that would allow every computer access to the Internet, district resources and CD-ROM software. The total

bond will hike the millage by \$2.40 per \$1,000 of equalized valuation, or \$240 a year increase in taxes for a house with a state equalized value of \$100,000.

SOUTHFIELD
Talley up for mayor: Former Southfield council member Barbara Talley thinks her chances of being elected Southfield's next mayor are "very, very good." Talley announced she will challenge long-time mayor Donald Frutkai, who has been in office since 1972. "People are saying nothing but, 'It's about time,'" she said, when asked why she thought Frutkai could be beaten.

Talley served on council from 1983 to 1989. Four years ago, she challenged Mary Bonner for city clerk and lost.

TROY
Cable programming criticized: A report by The Busko Group found fault with items ranging from first-run programming to the quantity and quality of equipment provided to those who use the public access facilities of TCI Cablevision of Oakland County. But, according to Michael Cleland, general manager of TCI, "The whole report is flawed. We have a lot of people who work really hard at public access."

Troy and 10 other communities are preparing to renegotiate their franchise agreement with TCI.

WEST BLOOMFIELD
Bike path on track: Construction of a 3.6 mile bike path connecting Wixom, Wolverine Lake and Walled Lake will likely start in April. Originally estimated at \$360,000, the project is expected to cost around \$460,000. The three communities have a \$260,000 Michigan Department of Transportation grant, but must pay the difference.

Commerce Township Supervisor Thomas Zoner did not expect the increase to present a problem. "We're hoping they will agree to some increases," he said of the other communities. Commerce officials have agreed to pay up to \$112,000.

— Compiled by staff writer Jennifer Placinto



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M-CARE
SENIOR PLAN

M-CARE SENIOR PLAN INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS:

Location: Bill Knapp's Restaurant 36650 Grand River Ave. Farmington Hills	Location: Bill Knapp's Restaurant 2078 E. Big Beaver Rd. Troy	Location: Bakers Square Restaurant 26660 Greenfield Rd. Oak Park
Times: February 6 - 9:30 AM February 20 - 9:30 AM	Times: February 7 - 9:30 AM February 14 - 9:30 AM February 21 - 9:30 AM February 28 - 9:30 AM	Times: February 5 - 9:30 AM February 11 - 9:30 AM February 18 - 9:30 AM February 25 - 9:30 AM
Location: Bakers Square Restaurant 825 Bowers St. Birmingham	Location: Bill Knapp's Restaurant 27925 Orchard Lake Rd. Farmington Hills	Location: Bob Evan's Restaurant 26245 Telegraph Rd. Southfield
Times: February 5 - 9:00 AM February 12 - 9:00 AM February 19 - 9:00 AM February 26 - 9:00 AM	Times: February 13 - 9:30 AM February 27 - 9:30 AM	Times: February 4 - 2:00 PM February 11 - 2:00 PM February 18 - 2:00 PM February 25 - 2:00 PM

Refreshments will be served at the informational meetings. Reservations are recommended. Call (800) 810-1699 for reservations or to schedule a home appointment. No cost or obligation.

The M-CARE Senior Plan is a product of M-CARE, a Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) with a Medicare contract. Anyone with Medicare may apply,* including those under age 65 entitled to Medicare on the basis of Social Security Disability Benefits. Members must continue paying Medicare premiums. Senior Plan members must use M-CARE Plan Providers and contracted pharmacies. An M-CARE Sales Representative will be present at the informational meetings and provide more information and application forms. *Persons receiving Medicare benefits for End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) or Hospice Care are not eligible for the M-CARE Senior Plan.

97-025-SM



Full swing into the pothole season, Oakland County communities continue to plan for spring and summer road projects now. The following is a list of projects:

◆ **Beverly Hills** — The deteriorating intersection of 13 Mile and Evergreen is expected to be reconstructed during the summer months. The project will be shared with Southfield, but the northeast, northwest and southwest quadrants will be completed by Beverly Hills road workers. No detours are expected. Resurfacing is also planned for Evergreen Road between 13 Mile and 14 Mile roads in the summer. There may be detours with this project for two or three days.

◆ **Bingham Farms** — Due to deteriorating roads, all of the 5 miles of local roadways will be repaved with a layer of chip seal in the spring. Thirteen Mile and 14 Mile roads will not be repaved since they are not local roads. A more definite time period will be determined once a contract for the services is awarded.

◆ **Farmington** — Deteriorated concrete in Elizabeth Court, Mary Court, Twin Valley Court and the east intersection of Farmington and Shawwassee roads will be removed and replaced during the spring or early summer. The entire project is expected to be completed in two months and no detours are planned. Residents living in the court areas will have access to their homes during the road work.

◆ **Farmington Hills** — Three subdivision paving projects are planned for early May. Rhonswood off of Gill Road and south of 9 Mile is a gravel road which is planned to be paved. A new layer of asphalt is planned for all the streets in the Meadowbrook subdivision near 8 Mile and Halsted as well as drainage improvements. The gravel roads of Forestbrook and Grand Duke, located off of Inkster Road west of I-696, will also be paved. Detours may be used within the subdivisions.

◆ **Oxford** — The continuation of the 1996 paving project this spring will culminate with the final layer of roadway to be laid on the following residential roads in April or early May: Maple, Dayton, First, Willow, Depot, Church, Powell, Mill, East, Hovey and Louck. No detours are expected and a completion date has not been set.

◆ **Rochester** — The Sheldon Road Extension is currently under construction and expected to be completed in late summer. The first phase of the three-phase project to create a bypass through the City of Rochester, is a half-mile stretch of two-lane roadway from east Second Street to Parkdale. The roadway will be located east of Miller and is expected to be open for traffic in July.

◆ **Troy** — Expansion of Square Lake Road between Crooks and Livermores. The road will be expanded to a four-lane boulevard 3,200 feet from Crooks and taper into a 5-lane roadway through the Livemore intersection. The project is expected to start sometime in July and to be completed by November, weather permitting. One-lane temporary traffic roads on both sides of the roadway will be established to maintain traffic flow during construction.

◆ **Walled Lake** — Extending Maple Road west past Pontiac Trail to Ladd Road. If land acquisition occurs in time, the project is expected to begin this summer and could last up to two years. No detours are expected until the latter phases of the project.

Source: County, city and village road officials.
Compiled by staff writer Jennifer Placinto