



## Spring road work is under way in many Oakland County communities and many more projects are expected to begin soon, including those listed below:

**Bloomfield Township** — Resurfacing work is scheduled to begin this month on **Sequoia Lake Road**, between Bloomfield Crossing and Adams Road. The project is set to be completed by mid-summer.

**Farmington** — Deteriorated concrete in Elizabeth Court, Mary Court, Twin Valley Court and the east intersection of Farmington and Lake are in a worse state than they appear. Repairs on these roads is being removed and replaced. Work is in progress in Twin Valley Court, which is expected to be completed May 30, and in St. Mary's Court, which should be completed June 12. Road work is scheduled to begin April 28 in Elizabeth Court with a June 13 completion. The intersection project will start April 28 and be completed May 7.

**Farmington Hills** — The 1996 widening project along Eight Mile, between Halsted and Farmington roads, to five lanes, is continuing. The remaining one mile a quarter through the Farmington Road intersection is expected to be completed Aug. 22. Intermittent lane closures are possible. Expansion of the Haggerty Connector (M-5) has closed 13 Mile Road, between Haggerty and Meadowbrook, until July. When that section of roadway reopens, 14 Mile, between Haggerty and Welch, will be closed until July 1998. Beam repair work has started on the 10 Mile bridge over I-96/275 with an expected completion of late October. There will be hourly closures on I-96/275 and a permanent lane closure on the east and westbound 10 Mile during construction. Three subdivision paving projects are planned to begin the month of May: The gravel roads of Forestbrook and Grand Duke, off of Inkster Road west of I-696, will be paved beginning May 5. Detours may be in place in subdivisions Rhoadwood, off of Oak Road and south of 9 Mile, is a gravel road which is planned to be paved starting May 16-20. A new layer of asphalt should be added by the end of May along with drainage improvements planned for all the streets in Meadowbrook subdivision near 8 Mile and Halsted.

**Independence Township** — White Lake Road near Andersonville Road is closed to through traffic for the realignment of the roadway with Nelsley Road and the widening to three lanes. Detours route White Lake Road through Dixie Highway to Andersonville until the expected completion in November when the southern portion of White Lake Road will be turned into a cul-de-sac instead of intersecting Andersonville.

**Novi** — Expansion of the Haggerty Connector

(M-6) has closed 13 Mile Road, between Haggerty and Meadowbrook, until July. When that section of roadway reopens, 14 Mile, between Haggerty and Welch, will be closed until July 1998. Beam repair work has started on the 10 Mile bridge over I-96/275 with an expected completion of late October. There will be hourly closures on I-96/275 and a permanent lane closure on the east and westbound 10 Mile during construction.

**Orion Township** — Resurfacing work has begun along the bridges on Baldwin Road, between Lake Angelus Road and Morgan north of I-76. The 2,000 feet of resurfacing is expected to be completed June 1.

**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: Maple, Dayton, First, Willow, Depot, Church, Powell, Mill, East, Hovey and Louck is expected to start this week and continue until June 15.

**Rochester** — The first phase of the Sheldon Road Extension is under construction to create a bypass around the city of Rochester. The half-mile stretch of two-lane roadway is being constructed from east Second Street to Parkdale. The roadway will be east of Miller and is expected to be open for traffic in July.

**Southfield** — Twelve Mile Road at Telegraph is being widened to include a right-turn lane from eastbound 12 Mile to southbound Telegraph. There will be intermittent lane closures, but during rush hour from 6-9 a.m. and 3-7 p.m. weekly, all lanes will remain open. Construction is set to be completed May 23 with final cleanup by June 15. Greenfield bridge over the Lodge Freeway (M-10) is under construction for deck replacement with an expected opening date of Oct. 30, 1997. Northbound Greenfield over the Lodge is closed with traffic being detoured along Farmington. Deteriorated residential roadways on the western border of Lathrup Village, east of Berkshire between Winchester and 11 Mile, are being replaced with an expected completion in mid-September. Concrete sawing has begun on residential roadways which will undergo spot concrete replacement east of Lathrup and west of Arlington between Winchester and 11 Mile. Removal and replacement of roadway is expected in late May.

**NOTE: Unless otherwise stated, detours are unknown or not planned.**  
Source: Local, county, city and village road officials.

## Group sets values award dinner

Clergy and Citizens United is holding its first American Values Awards Dinner at the Birmingham Temple in Farmington Hills on Sunday, May 4.

The dinner will honor one Michigan school administrator, faculty member and student who best exemplify "American Values for American Schools."

Bishop Kenneth Untener, Saginaw's Roman Catholic bishop, has been named guest speaker. His presence represents the universal concern to teach ethics, values and morals in a manner that breaks religious boundaries while keeping the separation of church and state intact.

CCU is a coalition of 200 prominent clergy and community

leaders who came together to defend the traditional separation of church and state in public schools. CCU encourages the teaching of patriotic citizenship values, rather than religious values, as part of all public, as well as private, school curricula. The stimulus for organizing CCU was the campaign by the Religious Right to introduce prayer in public school.

The statement "American Values for American Schools" was enthusiastically endorsed by the Michigan Association of School Boards, which recommended the statement be posted and addressed in all school districts. CCU is developing the American Values Institute, which would

offer training seminars for teachers in school districts where the boards and principals have expressed interest. To date, an experimental program discussion has been implemented in the West Bloomfield School District.

Earlier this year, Clergy and Citizens United wrote to each of the 520 public school district superintendents in Michigan and asked them to nominate an administrator, faculty member and student for the American Values for American Schools Awards. CCU and the American Values Institute will be selecting one award recipient in each of the administrator, faculty and student categories.

## OAKLAND DIGEST

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

### BIRMINGHAM

**Zoning okayed:** Keeping architectural character and encouraging downtown residential development is the purpose of a zoning ordinance passed April 28 by the Birmingham City Commission. Overlay zoning is an option for builders, which allows greater height and freedom from on-site parking requirements.

**Bond options studied:** Voters in the Birmingham school district likely will see their property taxes increase 1 to 2 mills if they approve an Oct. 6 bond issue. Officials are weighing three options, including one to raise \$196 million to do extensive remodeling at the two high schools and eight elementary schools and to finish details at Birmingham Covington school and both middle schools. A second, more likely and less ambitious proposal would raise \$111 million. And a third option, which would result in the village essentials, would raise \$82 million.

### BLOOMFIELD HILLS

**Cell tower approved:** Bloomfield Township and Bloomfield Hills officials have tabled ordinances that restrict cellular tower placements in their communities. In the township, towers will be allowed in commercial districts, at least 150 feet away from the nearest home, preferably on top of buildings. In the hills, favored locations include the top of Detroit Edison power poles that currently line railroad tracks running through the city, near Opdyke Road.

### CLARKSTON

**Seawall makes waves:** Independence Township wants to build four sea walls at Deer Lake beach so boats no longer get stuck in the sand, but Clarkston City officials have concerns about congestion and walls changing the character of the beach. No formal action was taken at a meeting April 28.

### FARMINGTON

**Store closing causes complaints:** More than 21 irate customers of a Farmington antique store that closed unexpectedly have contacted Farmington police. Many complaints are from people who had antique items on consignment at Hickory Hill Antiques on Grand River, including one case involving \$4,000 worth of heirlooms that are missing.

### LAKE ORION

**Attendance policy reviewed:** Some 80 residents attended a two-hour public hearing to discuss a Lake Orion schools attendance policy that denies class credit based on excessive absences. A high school student was denied class credit earlier this year when his parents allowed him to take a vacation with his cancer-stricken grandfather. The school board is expected to decide whether to consider amendments to the policy at its May 14 meeting.

### OXFORD

**Water woes continue:** Oxford township and village officials continue to discuss a plan that would result in the village supplying water to the middle school. They have not reached agreement on the four points necessary to establish the agreement.

### ROCHESTER

**Cleanup complete:** County and state environmental health officials say they're satisfied with the cleanup of medical waste uncovered at a closed landfill in Rochester Hills. William T. Carlson, a supervisor with the Oakland County Health Division, said the waste was buried at the site and covered with a new layer of topsoil. "The fact that it's not a public health threat is the important thing," Carlson said.

### SOUTHFIELD

**Shooting trial begins:** The murder trial for Edward Matthews, 16, of Highland Park, began April 28, one year to the day he is accused of slaying group home worker Calvin Johnson outside a home on Bonstelle, a residential neighborhood near Nine Mile and Southfield Road. Matthews faces charges of first-

degree murder, felony murder, felony firearms, and assault with intent of armed robbery in connection with the 46-year-old Detroit resident's death.

**Sound wall on the way:** Some Southfield residents will finally get a portion of their long-requested wall this summer, but they won't get all of it. The Michigan Department of Transportation will install a 3,350-foot sound deadening wall along the north side of I-696 between Southfield and Franklin roads. Southfield, however, will continue to lobby to get funding for 650 additional feet to extend the wall to Inkster Road.

### TROY

**Golf course settles suit:** Wheelchair users may no longer be turned away from Troy's Sylvan Glen Golf Course. That's the result of a settlement reached between the city of Troy and Dean White, a Rochester Hills resident with a disability. White sued Troy to gain access to the course after staff denied him access last year because he was in a wheelchair.

**Day-long kindergarten:** Troy School District administrators are recommending continuation of full-day kindergarten classes at select elementary schools in the fall after a successful one-year pilot program. Last year, 150 kindergarten parents submitted applications for the 94 spots available. The tuition cost per student was \$2,350 for the additional program at Bemis, Castello, Hamilton and Schroeder elementary schools.

### WEST BLOOMFIELD

**Boards work together:** The West Bloomfield Township Board and Parks and Recreation Commission met April 28, taking the first step in ushering in a new period of cooperation. They met to discuss the township master plan and while nothing concrete was decided, conversation strayed to topics of potential cooperation. "Two years ago this would not have been possible," said Supervisor Jeddy Hood, later adding, "We're always willing to work with you."

— Compiled by staff writer Jennifer Placinto

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