

OAKLAND DIGEST

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

BIRMINGHAM

Forum looks at seniors: The state House Republican Senior Citizens Task Force met with area seniors Aug. 19 to talk about Medicare, fraud and home health care. The hearing was the first in a series. For information about upcoming hearings in other communities, call State Rep. Patricia Godchaux's office at (517) 373-0924.

CLARKSTON

Averting future disasters: Trustees in Independence Township are considering the purchase of additional emergency alert sirens to warn residents of tornadoes like the one that struck neighboring Springfield Township in July.

FARMINGTON

Police seize marijuana: While investigating a home burglary, Farmington Hills police discovered 94 marijuana plants growing in the basement. The plants have a potential street worth of more than \$100,000.

LAKE ORION

Tax abatements rejected: Officials in Orion Township Aug. 18 voted against offering tax abatements as a way to attract more business to the community. Currently, General Motors Corp. is the only company with a tax abatement in Orion Township.

NOVI

Ten Mile issues resurface: Members of the Novi City Council on Aug. 25 will consider four potential road designs for Ten Mile Road between Novi and Haggerty roads. They also will consider doing nothing at the location.

OXFORD

Muscular Dystrophy fundraiser: The family of 6-year-old Devon Borghese of Lake Orion, who has Duchenne Disease, is sponsoring a fund-raiser from noon to 6 p.m. Aug. 24 in Centennial Park to benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

ROCHESTER

Fiieger kicks off campaign: Southfield-based attorney Geoffrey Fiieger, lawyer for assisted-suicide proponent Jack Kevorkian, Aug. 21 kicked off his campaign for Michigan governor at Rochester Municipal Park. U.S. Rep. Dale E. Kildee, Democratic Party Chairman Mark Brewer, Fiieger and other Democratic candidates appeared for the family picnic.

SOUTHFIELD

Local DARE donation: Kmart Corp. gave \$5,200 to the Southfield Police Drug Awareness Resistance Program.

Police investigate robbery, blaze: Police are still seeking answers in a bizarre Aug. 18 robbery of an Oak Park gas station in which the attendant was set afire. Oak Park police said that a masked man with a gun demanded that an attendant at a Total Gas Station, 28700 Greenfield, open a safe that cannot be opened by employees. Unable to open the safe, the attendant was doused with gasoline and ignited by the man.

TROY

Massage therapy issues: A therapeutic massage company hopes that Troy will reconsider a local restrictive ordinance that prohibits cross-gender massages and requires a \$5,000 license for massage businesses. Some Troy officials say the ordinance prevents prostitution.

MADD marches: About 2,500 persons from throughout Oakland County came out Aug. 17 to walk in memory of four Troy teenagers that were recently killed by drunken drivers. The event, held on the grounds of the Kmart Corp. in Troy, raised \$11,000 for MADD's county chapter.

WEST BLOOMFIELD

Resident seeks marrow match: Hoping to save the life of West Bloomfield resident Chuck Marotta, who was recently diagnosed with Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma, a bone marrow drive is being held from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 24, at Orchard Lake St. Mary's Preparatory School. Blood donations will be tested for a match, which Marotta needs to beat the illness. His relatives failed to turn up a match. Call (248) 683-0531 or (513) 761-5315.

—Compiled by staff writer Nicole Stafford

MADD honors area police officers for road safety

In appreciation for all that local police departments contribute to make Oakland County roads safe, Mothers Against Drunk Driving Oakland County Chapter is honoring representatives from 39-county departments.

The officers and their families will be MADD's guests of honor at the Ninth Annual Lifesaver Awards Picnic Aug. 24 at Waterford Oaks County Park, Waterford.

In addition to presentations to each of the 40 officers, who were selected by their chiefs of police for their outstanding work in removing intoxicated drivers from area roads, a special presentation will take place. MADD Oakland County is honoring the Walled Lake Police Department for their "Community High Student Police Academy" program, which works with young people in their community. Each year this award honors a department, which has programs designed to

reach people before they make the choice to drink and drive.

A new award has been added this year. The first recipient of our "MADD Gratitude Award" is Officer Jerrod Hart of the Novi Police Department for his assistance with MADD's Victim Impact Panel Program and his strong belief in MADD's mission. Oakland County Lifesaver awards go to Patrolman Craig Medon, Auburn Hills; Sgt. David Dinkins, Beverly Hills Public Safety; Officer Timothy Exelby,

Birmingham; Officer Stephen Alexander, Bloomfield Hills; Officers Phil Langmeyer and Sean Kelley, Bloomfield Township; Officer Michael Boynton, Clarkston; Officer Terrance Purves, Farmington; Officer John Markey, Farmington Hills; Officer James Sherrard, Keego Harbor; and Officer Carrie Rudski, Lake Angelus; Lt. Jerry Nara, Lake Orion.

Other are Sgt. Daniel Broschay, Lathrup Village; Trooper Ronni Rochell, Michi-

gan State Police; Officer Craig Chismar, Novi; Deputy Steve Powell, Oakland County Sheriff's Office; Officer Timothy Stratton, Oxford; Officer Paul Kahrs, Rochester; Officer Don Hask, Southfield; Officer Scott Smith, Troy; Officer Anthony L. Nobis, Walled Lake; Officer Curt Lawson, West Bloomfield; Patrolman Chuck Brandt, White Lake Township; Officer Linda Fultz, Wixom; and K-9 Officer Brian Odett, Wolverine Lake Village.

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