

OAKLAND DIGEST

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

BIRMINGHAM
Proficiency tests questioned: A High School Proficiency Test summit was held at Groves High School in an attempt to address issues about the test — namely, the high percentage of area parents who signed waivers allowing their kids to skip taking it, and problems with the test itself. State legislators and representatives from the Michigan Department of Education and Board of Education attended.

CLARKSTON
Representative moves for seat: State Rep. Tom Middleton moved from his Brandon Township farm to his Independence Township "cottage" of two years so he could pursue the 16th Senate district seat in the next election. While he has until May 1998 to formally file for the seat, new hold by Mat Dunaskies, Middleton took Dunaskies off guard with his announcement last week. Both are Republicans.

FARMINGTON
Teens vandalize golf courses: Three were arrested and six more suspected in the April 2-4 break-in and vandalism of the San Marino Golf Course in Farmington Hills. The damage has been estimated at over \$60,000, and includes the destruction of a sprinkler computer system, shed, golf carts, a salt truck and the course itself. The teens arrested are all Farmington Hills residents and will appear at a preliminary exam April 21 in 47th District Court.

LAKE ORION
Tax abatements considered: Orion Township officials are reconsidering the idea of offering tax abatements. Last Monday, officials reviewed past policies, the policies of other communities and abatement history. While no decision has been made, General Motors is planning an expansion of its plant and has loudly hinted it will seek an abatement.

Cellular tower up in the air: Sprint Cellular Phone users on the west side of Orion Township are going to have a hard time conversing since Orion Township board members split on granting the telecommunications firm permission to construct a 160-foot cellular phone tower on Baldwin Road, south of Judah. Attorney Gregory Need, who represents Sprint, said the company will have to consider the township's position and review options.

NOVI
Grand River among worst roads: Grand River Avenue, between Novi and Meadowbrook roads, was named one of the top 10 worst roads in Michigan by AAA last week. The rating was based on input from over 360 callers to the auto club's hotline.

OXFORD
New fire station studied: Resident opinion is being sought to help determine if a new fire station is needed in the community. "Our response time is still as it should be, but the southwest area of the township is expanding fast," said Fire Chief Jack LeRoy. LeRoy said call volume and housing distances will eventually demand more than the current department can provide. Help of local citizens is needed to study Oxford's fire department planning.

ROCHESTER
Bonnie Babes brouhaha: Residents jockeying for the Teenie Bonnie Babes being given away by McDonald's restaurants caused traffic to back up at two area locations. Police were eventually forced to direct cars after the drive-thru line at one restaurant snaked out onto Rochester Road and disrupted traffic.

Demolition approved: The Burlingame family received permission from the Historic District Commission to demolish their designated historic house on Rochester Road. The family plans to build administrative offices for its landscaping company on the property. The two-story home was built around the turn of the century.

SOUTHFIELD
Teacher contract proposal criticized: Larry Chunovich, executive director of the South Oakland County Michigan Education Association, criticized a two-tier salary structure, part of new teacher contract proposals

by Southfield Public Schools. He said that while Southfield is in competition with other districts to hire top-notch teachers, the proposed structure would pay them less than current teaching staff. However, school board trustees say the contract proposal is due to money constraints from the passage of Proposal A in 1994.

School secretary transferred: Peg Potosky, president of an educational secretaries union currently bargaining with Southfield Public Schools for a

new contract, has been involuntarily transferred from her job at MacArthur Elementary School. She was told to report to the personnel department last week for reassignment. Superintendent of Schools Marlene Davis said the transfer is unrelated to Potosky's union involvement.

TROY
Second golf course considered: A second municipal golf course could be the combined project of the city and school district. The property being consid-

ered abuts Flynn Park and is in the northeast corner of Troy behind Beaumont Hospital. The city of Troy owns 171 acres south of South Boulevard and west of Dequindre, while the schools own an abutting 96 acres north of Square Lake Road and east of John R. The two organizations will meet in May to discuss collaborating on the project.

Subway case ends: The final sentences of the men who helped with the murder of a 19-year-old Subway shop employee took place last week in Oakland

County Circuit Court. Carlton Banks of Detroit, who had been found guilty of first-degree murder, received mandatory life without parole. Troy teen Eric Whisenant, who pleaded guilty to second-degree murder, received 10 to 26 years. Convicted Troy resident Ming Ho, who killed employee Angela Garcia in October 1995, convicted accomplice Darrian Hall and Whisenant all testified against Banks at his trial.

WEST BLOOMFIELD

Walled Lake assembles photo collection: The Walled Lake Downtown Development Authority has plans to assemble a collection of photos of local buildings in hopes of encouraging the renovation of some older buildings and stimulating the interest of retailers to move to the area. The collection is part of the township's ongoing efforts to create a downtown retail district.

— Compiled by staff writers Jennifer Placinto and Todd Wicks

BLOOMFIELD HILLS
ALAN FORD
 3333 E. 12 Mile Road
 (248) 352-3000

CENTURINE
BOB THIBODEAU
 4333 E. 12 Mile Road
 (810) 792-2100

DEARBORN
FAIRLANE FORD SALES
 1455 Middlebelt Avenue
 (313) 845-5000

DEARBORN
VILLAGE FORD
 2333 Middlebelt Avenue
 (313) 562-3900

DETROIT
JORGENSEN FORD
 1333 Middlebelt Avenue
 (313) 584-2230

DETROIT
STARK HICKEY WEST
 2700 E. 12 Mile Road
 (313) 539-6600

DETROIT
RIVERSIDE FORD SALES
 1633 East Jefferson Avenue
 (313) 567-0250

FARMINGTON HILLS
TOM HOLZER FORD
 3700 W. 12 Mile Road
 (248) 474-1234

FERRISDALE
ED SCHMID FORD
 2100 Woodward Avenue
 (248) 399-1000

FLAT ROCK
SUPERIOR FORD
 1333 E. 12 Mile Road
 (734) 782-2400

LYONIA
BILL BROWN FORD
 1222 E. 12 Mile Road
 (734) 421-7000

MCCLENNIS
MIKE DORIAN FORD
 1800 E. 12 Mile Road
 (810) 792-4100

MCCLENNIS
RUSS MILNE FORD
 4300 E. 12 Mile Road
 (810) 293-7000

NORTHVILLE
MCDONALD FORD SALES
 250 W. Seven Mile Road
 (248) 349-1400

OAK PARK
MEL FARR FORD
 2400 Greenfield
 (248) 907-3700

PLYMOUTH
BLACKWELL FORD
 4100 Plymouth Road
 (734) 453-1100

REDFORD
PAT MILKUNEN FORD
 9600 Telegraph Road
 (313) 252-3100

ROCHESTER
HUNTINGTON FORD
 2890 S. Rochester Road
 (248) 852-0400

ROYAL OAK
ROYAL OAK FORD
 2750 N. Woodward Avenue
 (248) 848-4100

SOUTHFIELD
AVIS FORD
 29200 Telegraph Road
 (248) 335-7500

SOUTHGATE
SOUTHGATE FORD
 16501 Fort Street
 (734) 282-3636

ST. CLAIR SHORES
ROY O'BRIEN
 2201 Nine Mile Road
 (810) 776-7000

STERLING HEIGHTS
JEROME-DUNNAN
 Van Dyke at 17-1/2 Mile
 (810) 268-7500

TAYLOR
RAY WHITFIELD FORD
 10725 S. Telegraph Road
 (313) 291-8300

TROY
TROY FORD, INC.
 777 John R.
 (248) 585-4000

TROY
DEAN SELLERS FORD
 2400 W. Maple Road
 (248) 643-7500

WARREN
AL LONG FORD
 1371 E. 12 Mile Road
 (810) 777-3700

WATERBURY
FLANNERY FORD, INC.
 5900 Highland Road
 (248) 336-1260

WAYNE
JACK DEMIER FORD
 37300 Michigan Avenue
 (313) 721-3000

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