

## OAKLAND DIGEST

Oakland Digest provides a summary of headline stories from around the county during the week leading up to April 26.

## ADDITION TOWNSHIP

No pipeline: Addition Township won't have to go to court to block a gas pipeline planned for the northeast Oakland County community after Lakeville Gas Associates withdrew its pipeline plans. Township officials filed suit in Oakland County Circuit Court claiming the pipeline didn't comply with a township special land use agreement.

## BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP

Big show: Showcase Cinemas plans to tear down its two Telegraph Road theaters and replace them with a 20-screen entertainment complex. Construction is expected this summer on the new mega-theater, planned for the east side of Telegraph, north of Square Lake Road.

## CLARKSTON

Growing on: It's 20 years and three generations for Bordino's Better Blooms, a Clarkston nursery since 1978. Calvin Bordino, 28, oversees perennial plants and is one of three third-generation family members now active in the business, which began almost 60 years ago in Rochester.

## FARMINGTON

Perfect replacement: Farmington schoolteacher Molly Gray found the perfect person to take over her elementary school classroom when she goes on maternity leave this month — her father, former 35-year education veteran Lincoln Avery Gray, who teaches fourth and fifth graders at Gill Elementary, is expecting her second child any day now. Her father taught and was a principal in the Southfield Public Schools before retiring in 1990.

## LAKE ORION

Safety play: Orion Township is patching up its diamonds in anticipation of this year's youth baseball and softball seasons. More than \$14,000 was approved to repair backstops at five local fields.

## ROCHESTER HILLS

On track: So far, so good is the word on Rochester Road repairs. Rochester Road is being repaired and repaved from M-59 to Avon Road. Work began April 15 and is expected to continue through July 1. The Michigan Department of Transportation, which is overseeing the project, says repairs are progressing nicely.

## SOUTHFIELD

He's honored: It could have been called the Kennedy honors — students at John F. Kennedy Elementary School dedicated a tree to late Southfield community activist Greg Kennedy at their recent Earth Day celebration. Kennedy, who had been a volunteer at the Southfield school, died earlier this year at 81.

## TROY

Getting wider: Dequindre Road, on the city's east side, is being expanded from two to five lanes between Wattles and Big Beaver. A section of Dequindre, between Wattles and Big Beaver, will be closed from Saturday through May 5 as part of the project.

## WEST BLOOMFIELD

Full-time firefighters: Officials at the Tri-City Fire Department are considering whether to hire full-time fire fighters to ease calls about response times. The department, which serves Keeto Harbor, Orchard Lake Village and Sylvan Lake, is organizing a subcommittee to discuss the matter further.

## Water park plans make waves

Hoping to win favor with Springfield Township planning commissioners, the Huron Clinton Metropark Authority downsized plans for a controversial family water park recently, but to no avail.

The HCMA had hoped the planning commission would agree to a joint meeting of HCMA representatives and a few commission members to iron out details for the aquatic center, but the subcommittee idea was rejected by the commission. As a result, the downsized HCMA plans will be abandoned and the full-scale, original plans will now be taken to the township board as part of a request for Planned Unit Development rezoning.

Designers from the HCMA — which hopes to construct a family aquatic center at the 2,500-acre Indian Springs Metro Park off White Lake Road — suggested pulling water slides, a lazy river ride and over-flow parking spaces from their aquatic plans in an effort to compromise with township planning requirements and to speed up the development process.

HCMA developers had hoped the planning commission would work with them on the downsized plans, said Dave Moilanen, a public relations spokesperson for the HCMA.

"We're not very optimistic," Moilanen said about the chances that a subcommittee agreement could still be reached. "I know they're (HCMA executives) disappointed that there wasn't more support for this modification."

The plans offered as a compromise to the commission would allow for 1,400 bathers, down from 2,500 bathers the facility was originally geared for.

The commissioners, however, contended that the revised plans, like the original plans, don't meet the township's criteria for a PUD and said they could see no benefit in conducting a subcommittee meeting. There was no official vote on the matter.

PUD rezoning requires that a developer prove recognizable and material benefits to the community, among other criteria. The

site is currently zoned resource conservation.

"I personally think that this is still above and beyond," said commission Chairman Dave Hopper. "I currently think this proposal is not compatible."

"What could we accomplish?" he asked. "I don't think anything. I apologize for dragging this out."

"We've tried to comply with your request," responded HCMA

Director Frank Sudek.

The HCMA is attempting to establish a water park because there is no swimming area available. Sudek conceded at the meeting that in a different setting, the water park would be considered a commercial venture.

The HCMA is made up of representatives from five counties and governs several metropolitan parks.

## INFORMATION SESSION

Tuesday, May 5, 7-8:30 p.m.,

Castle Walnut Room

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## OCC Youth Band to perform

The Oakland Community College Youth Band will present its spring concert 8 p.m. Friday at the Student Center Concert Arena on OCC's Highland Lakes campus.

The concert will feature the piece, "The Drums of Africa" by Jerry Bilik. The piece was written to have a symphonic band perform West African rhythms and features eight percussionists

as soloists.

Senior oboist Kristen Forsley of Troy will also be featured. Forsley will perform "Variations on a Theme of Glinka" by Rimsky-Korsakov.

The concert is free. The Highland Lakes campus is at 7350 Cooley Lake Road, Waterford.

For additional information, call (248) 879-6346.

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