

Free county health clinics aid children

Oakland County Health Division's Child Health Clinics offer free well-care services for children birth through school entry. Children enrolled in the program receive the following from Public Health Nurses:

- Immunizations.
- Height/weight.
- Physical examinations.
- Hearing/vision screening.
- Lab testing.
- Growth and development testing.
- Information on health and safety issues.
- Guidance/referrals on behavioral, learning, and health problems.

For more information call (248) 926-3341.

Blood drives slated Aug. 19-20

The American Red Cross of Southeast Michigan hopes that people will be willing to part with a pint of blood next week.

Two blood drives are planned from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday, Aug. 19 and Tuesday, Aug. 20 at the Costick Activities Center, 2600 W. 11 Mile.

Diane Ward, director of donor services, said that the grass is not the only thing that dries up in the summer.

"The biggest challenge we have in the summer is, even if we have groups willing to do blood drives, we continue to struggle in meeting the local needs," Ward said.

In the five-county southeast Michigan region, 900 pints of blood are needed per day. The most needy include trauma and accident victims, but cancer patients, people receiving hip surgery and birthing mothers may also need donated blood. Unlike a can of soup, which

can be stored away in a food pantry, blood is perishable and supplies must be continually replenished. Red blood cells have an estimated "shelf life" of 42 days, but platelets, the blood component responsible for clotting, are only good for five days, according to Ward.

Other upcoming blood drives in the area:

Monday, Aug. 12:

■ 2 p.m. to 7:45 p.m., St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, 17810 Farmington Road, Livonia, and 2 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 33112 Grand River, Farmington Hills.

Thursday, Aug. 15

■ 1 p.m. to 6:45 p.m., Amvets Hall 171, 1217 Merriman, Westland
■ 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Mary Wood Center, 16975

Five Mile, Livonia

Friday, Aug. 16

■ 7 a.m. to 6:45 p.m. at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 W. Five Mile, Livonia

Sunday, Aug. 18

■ Noon to 5:45 p.m. at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia

■ 9 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. at St. Damian Catholic Church, 28825 Joy, Westland.

Monday, Aug. 19

■ 1 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. at St. Mathew Lutheran Church, 5886 Venoy, Westland

Sunday, Aug. 25

■ 8 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. at St. Simon and Jude Catholic Church, 32500 Palmer, Westland

by Heather Needham

Road commission budget hearing Aug. 22

The Road Commission for Oakland County will conduct a public hearing on its proposed fiscal year 2003 budget on Thursday, Aug. 22, at 7:30 p.m. at the Oakland County Board of Commissioners Auditorium, 1200 N. Telegraph in Pontiac.

The proposed 2003 budget, at nearly \$130 million, includes plans for nearly \$50 million worth of road improvement projects.

This represents a decrease of almost \$14 million compared to the \$144 million 2002 budget adopted in September of 2001.

Much of that difference is the result of the \$63 million in road improvements included in the 2002 budget. That represented the largest road improvement budget in the history of the Road Commission and was significantly above average.

The road improvement budget for 2002 was larger than normal because a number of projects had been delayed the previous year and were carried over to 2002.

The RCOB fiscal year runs from Oct. 1 to Sept. 30. Final approval of the 2003 budget will take place in late September.

RCOB Board Chairman Larry Crane will pre-

side over the budget hearing. During the hearing, RCOB Managing Director Brent Blair will review the financial state of the Road Commission and Deputy Managing Director/County Highway Engineer Gerry Holmberg will review the 2003 road improvement program.

The Board of Road Commissioners will then receive questions or comments from those in attendance.

Among the major construction projects proposed in the 2003 budget are:

■ Widen Sashabaw from two lanes to a four-lane boulevard from Maybee to I-75 in Independence Township.

■ Widen Dequindre Road from two lanes to five, Wattles to Long Lake in Troy/Sterling Heights.

■ Reconstruct and resurface Rochester Road from Orion to north of Gunn Road in Rochester Hills and Oakland Township.

■ Reconstruction of the Grand River Ave. bridge over the CSX railroad tracks in Nov. The complete proposed list of major construction projects will be reviewed at the hearing.

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