

# Muddy Roads Play Havoc With Mail, School Bus Service

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**REDFORD** — A proposed Redford Township zoning amendment to create a high rise classification (R4) will go to a public hearing April 18. The amendment provides for apartment, retail and service uses, and bonuses are offered if the development maintains more than a minimum of open land on the site.

**REDFORD** — Wayne County 19th District Republicans will hold their convention at Thurston High School Wednesday at 8 p.m. The 92 precincts in Redford, Livonia and Northville will meet there, separate from Oakland County 19th District Republicans. Purpose is to elect delegates to the GOP state convention.

**PLYMOUTH** — DPW employees unanimously ratified a new three-year agreement between the City of Plymouth and the Teamsters Union calling for an average increase of 25 cents an hour for first year men.

**PLYMOUTH** — Assessed valuation of the Plymouth area — city and township — jumped more than \$9 million during the past year, according to the assessment rolls filed with the Bureau of Taxation.

**PLYMOUTH** — Because of the mushrooming of apartment houses during the past year, Plymouth officials have agreed to slow down the building and take "a second look" before any further approvals are voted.

**LIVONIA** — The proposed new city charter, to go on the ballot for the second time on April 1 after defeat last November, is still opposed by the Civil Service Commission, which contends that revisions made by the Charter Commission leave the merit provisions undesirable. Mayoral Candidate Peter A. Ventura, however, approves the revised form, while Mayor Harvey W. Moelke, supporting it last fall, now opposes its adoption as not meeting the city's needs.

**LIVONIA** — The City Council approved a liquor license by the narrowest of margins, 4 to 3, for the new Holiday Inn being built on Plymouth Rd. and to be opened in July. Opposing councilmen contended that 160 other applicants, some on file for years, should have been considered ahead of the Holiday Inn application. One unused license issued in the area in 1961 will be invalidated by the action.

By FRED DELANO  
Mud proved its mastery over machines in greater Farmington this week as an early spring thaw brought an unprecedented breakup of unpaved roads, causing a disruption of mail deliveries, school bus schedules and even the closing of one school for three days.

Automobiles, trucks and buses were trapped in the mire at the rate of more than 100 a day, according to C.A. Spencer, manager of the Farmington office of the Automobile Club.

## Zoning Hearings Are Set

Two of five rezoning requests submitted to the Farmington Township Planning Commission Thursday night were advanced to public hearings on April 25, as two others were denied and the fifth was delayed for further study.

The latter, provoking an hour's discussion by the board, asked reclassification from RA-1 (single family) to RC-2 (multiple dwellings) of a 43-acre parcel to permit construction of the Hunter's Ridge subdivision at 14 Mile and Orchard Lake Rds.

Currently 17 acres, including 158 living units, are under development, and the ultimate project calls for final expansion of Hunter's Ridge to 100 acres.

One proposal scheduled for public hearing asks rezoning of 10 lots at the southwest corner of Shawassaw and Middle Belt Rds. from RA-4 (one family residential) to B-3 (general business) for construction of an automatic car wash.

The other which gained public hearing sanction proposes professional offices to be built on the east side of Orchard Lake between Bond and Fairfield. The zoning change requested is from RA-1 to O-1 (office district).

The board rejected a suggested business development for the area at 13 Mile Rd. and Middle Belt as well as another on Middle Belt between Woodward and 10 Mile Rd.

On Wednesday afternoon, a bus loaded with homeward bound kindergarten pupils from Fairview school had to be pulled by a wrecker from a mudhole on Firwood, east of Orchard Lake Rd. and north of 13 Mile Rd.

MAURICE DEVER, superintendent of mails at the U.S. Post Office here, said "we are having to get five to seven mail trucks towed from the mud every day."

As a result, some areas have been getting mail deliveries only every three days, and then from carriers who have been willing to walk through the mire to make their deliveries.

Westbrook Elementary School on Osamus Ave., north of Eight Mile Rd., between Orchard Lake and Farmington Rds., was closed Wednesday because of the impassability of roads leading to the facility. It will reopen Monday only if the roads are in good enough condition for the buses to get through.

Westbrook is part of the Clarenceville School District and an outpouring of more than 50 parents in protest against the horrible road conditions were pacified only when Clarenceville Superintendent David McDowell personally salvaged their tempers.

Pupils from kindergarten through the second grade were transferred the last three days of the week to available classrooms in Grandview School. Those of the third through sixth grades were shifted to Clarenceville Junior High School rooms.

"The protest was against the roads, not the schools or our effort to continue classes in face of the problem," commented McDowell, of the parental blockade which had prevented buses from leaving the intersection of Eight Mile and Parker for an hour Wednesday morning.

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"The mud is worse than in either of the last two years," said Greshover.

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