

OAKLAND DIGEST

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

BIRMINGHAM
Finances investigated: The city of Birmingham is launching a financial investigation into the operation of the Birmingham Racquet Club to determine whether there has been a shortfall of revenue given to the city as called for in the lease. The city has hired a forensic accountant to study the club's books. Those who use the Birmingham Racquet Club are concerned the issue could delay the October



Richard Thompson
 OCC Chancellor

Chancellor gets pay increase

By TIM RICHARD
 STAFF WRITER

Richard Thompson got a 3 percent pay hike after his first year as chancellor of Oakland County Community College.

After evaluating him in a closed session, the OCC board voted him a salary of \$123,600 retroactive to March 19, the anniversary of his first year at the helm of the five-campus college.

In 1996, his third year, Thompson will receive any salary increase as part of his annuity, a college spokesman reported.

Trustees said they would meet with the chancellor as a committee-of-the-whole during their June 16 session to work on joint board-chancellor objectives for the next six months.

The first "internal" chancellor in OCC's 33-year history, Thompson, a Millford resident, had been president of two campuses, a vice-chancellor and a counselor when he was voted the

reopening of the tennis bubbles at Fenwick Park on the city's east side. William Saunders, facility founder and operator, and his attorney Monday offered \$25,000 to settle and to grant a new contract for the tennis operation.

Board approves bond amount: Voters in the Birmingham School District will be asked to approve a \$98.6 million bond for technology and remodeling Oct. 6. A finance plan is expected to be approved at a June 3 meeting.

CLARKSTON
Bond question coming: A \$52.5 million bond failed by 165 votes in December, but Clarkston School District officials are hoping they can pass a \$67.6 million school bond issue June 9. The money would fund a new elementary school and renovations to older facilities. The increase in the bond is due to construction inflation.

New homes denied: Fifty-nine homes are just too many for a 35-acre slice of land near Pine Knob, members of the Independence Township Board decided May 20. The board voted 6-1 to deny a rezoning request from Silverman Development Co. that would change the parcel's zoning from rural residential to single family residential. The land is located at I-76 and Waldon Road.

FARMINGTON HILLS
Computers to curb staff growth: The City of Farmington Hills took the plunge for a new \$1.3 million citywide computer system May 19. The system aims to slow staff growth, link city departments and cut paperwork.

LAKE ORION
Policy gives truants an out: While not everyone is satisfied, the revised Lake Orion Community Schools attendance policy has been deemed workable by parents and staffers alike. The policy still limits both excused and unexcused absences to five per term, but allows high school students to make up for a total of three per term by attending scheduled Saturday study sessions. It also broadens the scope of absences that do not count toward the "cap" of five absences and requires parents to notify the school of their child's absence before 3 p.m. the day it occurs.

Playground built: Despite the rain, volunteers finished the construction of a new playground at Lake Orion Friendship Park in five days and children were let loose on the wooden structure May 18.

NOVI
Middle school on hold: Construction of a \$26 million middle school, approved and funded by

voters in 1995, is on hold as negotiations between the landowner of the Eleven Mile Road property and the City of Novi continue. The 50-acre site, belonging to Harvest Land Company, is part of a 900-acre parcel Harvest wants to develop as single family and cluster homes around a lake. Talks began two years ago about dividing up the land.

OXFORD
Ordinance officer assigned: A new code enforcement officer has been assigned to clean up the streets of Oxford. Earlier this month, Robert Alonzi was appointed to replace officer Ron Crick and for several months, Oxford Village council members complained about Crickton's work. Some complaints that Alonzi will be watching out for include junk vehicles, unlicensed vehicles, cars parked up in back yards and general debris. Alonzi was encouraged to first ask residents to correct the violation before issuing a ticket. Village Manager Ben Guida said.

ROCHESTER
Waters rise: Rochester Hills homeowners in Avon Lakes are looking for a life raft. A private lake behind their subdivision off Dequindre Road is overflowing because of ground water being pumped into it. The flooding

started in early May when the developer of Avon Woods, directly north of Avon Lakes, began pumping ground water into the lake for the installation of sanitary sewers. Mayor Ken Snell said the flooding is a result of rising ground water from a wet spring, not from the developer pumping water into the lake.

SOUTHFIELD
Theater opening postponed: It should have opened Friday, but now the 20-screen Star Southfield Theatre is expected to open June 20, in time for the release of "Batman and Robin." The theater, expected to be Michigan's largest, will be located at 12 Mile and Northwestern Highway in Southfield. Some 50 people have already been hired with another 100 hirings planned.

TROY
Arena opening delayed: The planned June 1 opening for Troy Sports Complex has been moved back to July 1 with a grand opening planned for July 11. The private sports complex and associated retail businesses are under construction in the northwest corner of Big Beaver and John R. The 20-acre site development includes a Farmer Jack supermarket, Walgreens drug store, a retail shopping plaza and restaurant.

Bond issue sought: If the \$71.5 million bond issue passes on June 9, the average Troy

School District taxpayer — with a \$200,000 home — will be billed \$89 next year to help pay off the loan and interest. But because of an upcoming rollback in the district's debt retirement millage, the amount will be just \$39 more than the average taxpayer is currently paying. If the voters turn down the bond issue, the debt retirement millage of 3.26 (\$3.26 per \$1,000 of an owner's taxable property value) will be lowered to 2.75 mills. If the bond issue is approved, the total debt millage will increase to 3.64.

WEST BLOOMFIELD
Manhunt on: West Bloomfield Township police were joined by more than 100 heavily armed police officers May 21 following the armed robbery of Tappan's Diamonds and Fine Jewelry at about 11 a.m. It was the second time the store had been robbed in the past two months and the robbery is believed to be connected with five others throughout the county.

Tower approved: AirTouch Cellular will finally be able to erect a cellular tower on Orchard Lake St. Mary's Campus. The Orchard Lake Village city council voted 6-1 May 19 to approve the zoning board of appeals' recommendations on the proposed site, giving the company final approval to build.

— Compiled by staff writer Jennifer Placinto

Time for pet license, census

Time is running out to purchase 1997 Oakland County dog licenses.

Since the deadline falls on Saturday, May 31, pet owners are being given until the close of business Monday, June 2 to make sure their dogs are properly licensed.

The cost of a new license is \$15, but there is a \$7.50 discount for pet owners whose pets are spayed or neutered. Owners who fail to purchase a license by the deadline date will find the cost of a new dog license escalating to \$30.

Licenses are available at local municipal offices, veterinary clinics and the Oakland County Animal Care Center, 1700 Brown Road in Auburn Hills.

All dogs over six months of age are required by law to be vaccinated against rabies and wear a valid dog license at all times.

"Residents can help protect their pets and their community by vaccinating all dogs and cats against rabies virus," said Sandy Gay, animal control manager. "There were eight confirmed cases of rabid bats in Oakland County last year and while none of these animals were dogs or cats, rabies is a potential threat to our community. Please vaccinate your pets and keep them away from all wildlife."

The Tenth Annual Dog Census will begin June 3 and be con-

ducted from Monday to Saturday of each week through the end of August 1997. During this period, representatives will canvass door-to-door to verify rabies vaccinations and licensing as well as

obtain information on cats. For more information, call the Animal Control Division at (248) 391-4102.

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Area physicians honored

Physicians recently honored by the Michigan State Medical Society for 50 years of service to patients and their profession are Robert N. Elliott, M.D., Birmingham, J. Frederic Johnson, M.D., Birmingham, Edward Miszavage, M.D., Birmingham, Gerald G. Durak, M.D., Bloomfield Township, Edwin J. Westfall, M.D., West Birmingham, Eugene J. Nalepa, M.D., Clarkston, Margaret A. Baima, M.D., Farmington and Edwin L. Berger, M.D., Farmington Hills.

Ninety-six physicians were honored for their outstanding contributions during a special reception and ceremonies before the 300 physician-delegates attending the 132nd annual meeting of the MSMS House of Delegates at the Grand Traverse Resort in Acme on May 3.

The honored physicians represent 4,800 years of medical service to their patients. Beginning their medical careers shortly after the end of World War II, these physicians assumed important roles in a medical generation distinguished for its unprecedented achievements in advancing and promoting human health care.

The Michigan State Medical Society in the statewide professional association of medical doctors in Michigan and is affiliated with the American Medical Association. Physician policies on various issues involving public health, health care delivery and medical ethics are set at the annual MSMS House of Delegates meeting.

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