

## OAKLAND DIGEST

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

## BIRMINGHAM

**Parking debit cards available:** A computerized debit card is now on sale for people who park downtown and don't always have change for the meters. For a \$5 deposit, cards can be used to pay for use in the central downtown area, where parking costs \$1 an hour. The cards, available at the city treasurer's office in Birmingham City Hall, range from \$5 to \$50.

**Parents' group protests health education:** A movement called "Stop Planned Parenthood" is hoping to reduce the amount of sex education offered in the district, aiming for the separation of male and female students when the subject is taught. A public hearing on the school's existing health education curriculum will be held at 7:30 p.m. June 3 at the administration building. A sex education advisory committee made up of district administrators, parents and a minister, will also present recommended changes.

## CLARKSTON

**City council debates proposed master plan:** The Clarkston planning commission has been working with architects to create a master plan that would maintain the residential and historic integrity of the city, decrease vehicle traffic, increase pedestrian traffic, and revitalize the downtown district. City council debated possible legal and zoning worries at a meeting May 27, including potential litigation for spot zoning and concerns about office buildings. The planning commission hopes to adopt the plan in August, and does not legally need the council's approval.

**Candidates debate the bond:** Four contenders for the Clarkston school board met for a public debate last week, sponsored by the Clarkston PTA District Council. The candidates, Waterford police Lt. Rick Crigger, GM Saturn engineer Charles Hensley, EDS database administrator Ron Sullivan and former school board member Barry Bomier, spent most of the debate discussing the \$57.65 million bond issue for building renovations and a new elementary school. Crigger and Sullivan gave it the strongest support, with Bomier expressing reservations. Hensley said he would vote a firm no.

## FARMINGTON

**Hills murder preceded robberies:** The thieves sought in a massive manhunt throughout West Bloomfield and Bloomfield Township last week have been linked to a murder in Farmington Hills last year. Shell casings recovered at a previous robbery at Tapper's Diamonds and Fine Jewelry in March matched those recovered last November at the Comerica Bank ATM robbery in Farmington Hills, at which a Guardian Armory technician was shot and killed. On June 21, the thieves hit Tapper's again and evaded nearly 150 pursuing police officers. Police have issued a warrant for Antonio McKelton of Southfield, whose prints matched those on a gun found near the most recent robbery. Several others are suspected in the recent spree of jewelry store robberies, and more warrants are pending.

**Swim club drowning in pool fees:** Parents of the young swimmers belonging to the Stingrays swim club are upset with the school district for what they believe are too-high pool rental fees. They believe the exorbitant costs are driving away potential members and caused the resignation of their head coach. According to Stingrays' figures, their club is charged 25 percent more than those in other districts. However, a representative from the Farmington school district said those figures are incorrect, and instead called the Stingrays' rates the second-lowest in neighboring districts. The Farmington administration is currently reviewing a proposal by the Stingrays containing several pricing demands for the next swim season.

## LAKE ORION

**Casino plan objected:** If plans by a northern Michigan Native American tribe to build a casino in Auburn Hills are sketchy, many residents from north Oakland County would prefer those plans stay on the drawing board. More than 150 residents from throughout northern Oakland County came out to a special public hearing in Orion

Township last week, but they didn't come to listen to the casino proposal as much to shoot it down in its infancy. **Wanda** was to be discussed Monday on Monday, June 2, it will be time to decide on Orion Township's water master plan. That's when the bids for two watermain projects are going to be discussed by the Orion Township board during the regular meeting which starts at 7 p.m.

**OXFORD**  
**Tax rate stays the same:** After five budget sessions, the Oxford Village Council approved a plan that maintains the current 7.335 millage rate and adds a few new programs to the list.

**School budget on agenda:** Voters in the Oxford Area Community Schools District will have a chance to speak up at the public hearing on the district's proposed 1997-98 budget. The hearing is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 24, at Oxford High School, 1420 Lakeside Road in Oxford Township for the proposed \$22.5 million budget.

**ROCHESTER**  
**Bail hearing for accused killer rescheduled:** A court hearing May 28 to determine if Hills resident Monica Nowos should remain free on bond has been reset for June 4, so her attorney can have more time to prepare. Nowos is charged with open murder in the Feb. 12 shooting slaying of her brother-in-law, Michael Hockenberry. "The emergency is an undisputed killer is free on bond," Oakland County Assistant Prosecutor Cheryl Matthews told Judge Joseph Cooper in Oakland County Circuit Court. Nowos' trial is set to begin July 14.

**Candidates' forum becomes bond issue Q&A:** The Rochester school board candidates' forum May 27 became a mini-debate on the \$111 million bond that will also be decided by voters June 9. Candidates Tim Hughes and incumbent Theresa Munglioli oppose the bond, calling it too expensive. Incumbent Debra Hartman and challengers Leah Potere and Grace Preston oppose grade configuration but support the current bond proposal. There is no scheduled debate on the upcoming bond election.

**SOUTHFIELD**  
**Men charged in jewelry heists:** Derrick Davis, of Detroit, was charged May 28 in connection with a robbery at Darakjan Jewelers Jan. 20. The Oakland County Prosecutor's office also issued a warrant for Antonio McKelton, a Southfield man connected with the robbery of Tapper's Jewelry in West Bloomfield. West Bloomfield police believe McKelton may still be in the area. These robberies are two of several high-profile hits of area jewelry stores in Oakland County. Oakland County Prosecutor David Gorceyca said that others are involved and more warrants are pending.

**Volunteers needed to re-route Rouge:** The 27th annual Rouge River Cleanup is scheduled for 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, June 7. Volunteers are being sought to clear log jams, which impede the flow of water and accelerate erosion. The 126-mile river flows through 48 communities in Southeastern Michigan, including Southfield.

**TROY**  
**City questions Engler road plan:** City Manager James Bacon is still unsure how Gov. John Engler's plan for the state to assume responsibility for over 23,000 miles of city and county roads will affect Troy. According to estimates, Troy should receive an additional \$500,000 for road improvements. However, what kinds of improvements would be made and how many miles of roads were used to make that estimate are being questioned. Because of dwindling allocations of road money, Troy officials asked voters in April to approve an \$80 million bond proposal for road improvement. Almost three-fourths of the voters said no. Starting in July, Troy will cut its local major road construction budget by almost 30 percent.

**Communications tower in Troy?** The city is close to an agreement with the Michigan Department of Transportation and communications providers Nextel, AT&T and Sprint to locate and lease space on a 170-foot tower and two related 160-foot mono poles. City attorney Peter Letzmann hopes the tower issue will be on the June 2 city council agenda. Troy decided to

build its own tower to lease after residents, city officials and businesses objected last year to state plans to construct a traffic communications tower on state-owned land at the intersection of Big Beaver and I-75 in Troy.

**WEST BLOOMFIELD**  
**Library to seek bond proposal:** The West Bloomfield Library will pitch a \$10.8 bond proposal to renovate the main library and Westacres branch. The library board is citing increased demand and overcrowding, and plans to make a presentation to the township board on June 2. If the board approves, the measure will go before voters in the fall. Under the plan, the main library would be expanded from 26,000 to 50,000 square feet and West-

acres from 6,000 to 12,000 square feet.

**Parks and Rec consider cell towers:** A group of five wireless communication providers, including AirTouch Cellular, Ameritech and Sprint, have submitted a proposal to the parks and recreation commission, hoping to erect communication towers in the Drake Road Sports Park. In exchange for three cellular phone towers, the new sports complex would receive 14 free lighting poles from companies, as well as a yearly lease fee of \$10,000 per carrier. The commission advised that it is only exploring the plan at this point.

—Compiled by staff writers Todd Wicks and Jennifer Flacino

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#### M-CARE SENIOR PLAN INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS:

Location: Bill Knapp's Restaurant 36650 Grand River Farmington Hills	Location: Bill Knapp's Restaurant 2078 E. Big Beaver Rd. Troy	Location: Bakers Square Restaurant 26660 Greenfield Rd. Oak Park
Times: June 4 - 9:30 AM June 18 - 9:30 AM	Times: June 12 - 2:00 PM June 19 - 2:00 PM June 26 - 2:00 PM	Times: June 19 - 2:00 PM
Location: Bakers Square Restaurant 825 Bowers St. Birmingham	Location: Bill Knapp's Restaurant 27925 Orchard Lake Rd. Farmington Hills	Location: Bob Evan's Restaurant 26245 Telegraph Rd. Southfield
Times: June 5 - 9:30 AM June 19 - 9:30 AM June 26 - 9:30 AM	Times: June 11 - 9:30 AM June 25 - 2:00 PM	Times: June 12 - 2:00 PM June 26 - 2:00 PM

Refreshments will be served at the informational meetings. Reservations are recommended.  
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