

## OAKLAND DIGEST

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

**BIRMINGHAM**  
Contract extended: John Hoefler, superintendent of the Birmingham school district, was granted a 5-year contract renewal with a 2-percent salary hike increasing his annual pay to \$133,438. The contract also includes a car allowance of \$5,208; a \$7,500 tax shelter annuity; and a \$5,204 retirement plan.

**CLARKSTON**  
Board reverses vote: In a move that created some controversy, even as the votes were cast, the Independence Township board reversed itself July 1 and voted 4-3 not to extend the Downtown Development Authority tax capturing for another three years, although the DDA itself will not be terminated. When the board originally approved the measure June 17, Rudy Lozano, vice chair of the Road Commission for Oakland County, told them that the county would chip in some \$200,000 toward improvements on White Lake Road.

**FARMINGTON**  
Founders Fest coming: Downtown Farmington will be host to the Founder's Festival July 6-13. One of the new features of this year's event will be the revival of Gala Parties at the Farmington American Legion hall. In the 1940s, the Legion held Gala Days to raise funds for construction of its current building. Other events include Kids Day on Tuesday, July 8 in Shiawassee Park, Miss Farmington will be crowned July 9, and arts, crafts, food, sidewalk sales, performers and rides will be featured July 10-12, and the parade is scheduled for July 12.

Grand River set for road work: Motorists on Grand River can expect to feel squeezed with traffic intermittently narrowed to one lane each way between Gill and Shiawassee. Road construction starts on the state road later this month. Grand River is set to be widened to accommodate a left-hand turn lane and traffic signal at the Shiawassee intersection. Through Shiawassee from Grand River to Farmington Road is expected to be closed for up to 45 days, that portion of Shiawassee will still be open to residents. The project is expected to start July 16 and be completed by the end of September.

**LAKE ORION**  
Casino foes plan petition drive: A core group of north Oakland residents is preparing for the fight of their lives — and they may just be knocking on your door soon to ask you to help. Citizens Against the Auburn Hills Casino met in an organizational meeting June 30. Although the group is being formed in Lake Orion, it is not exclusively made up of residents from that community. Several members are from Independence Township and Auburn Hills and organizers hope to draw additional members throughout Oakland County.

**NOVI**  
Post office becomes store: The Novi Post Office has a new look. A \$400,000 renovation includes a postal store which permits customers to pick up and purchase postal items such as stamps, stationary, cards and packing supplies.

**OXFORD**  
Additional parking?: While Oxford Village officials struggle over the "troubled" northeast quadrant parking project, one council member has another idea. Why not build a two- or three-level parking structure in another section of the downtown area, council member Richard DiCen suggested at a recent village council meeting. Village officials have been haggling with property owners for at least two years over the planned northeast parking district and continue to hit a series of stumbling blocks.

**ROCHESTER**  
Trees or traffic: Brewster Road is being widened, but residents of a nine-home subdivision along the thoroughfare are not pleased about it. A left-turn lane is planned to be added in front of a church and the homes which are being constructed on the east side of Brewster. The new turn lane and a pedestrian pathway will force the city to remove 14 pine trees. Some council members say the turn lane is necessary to keep traffic from backing up on Brewster and the pathway is needed for Brewster Elementary School students.

Chief grieved with pay: John Schultz will earn \$111,760

this year and Rochester School Board members say he's worth every dollar. On June 30, the board approved the superintendent's annual evaluation, extended his contract three years and hiked his salary by 2 percent.

**SOUTHFIELD**  
Golf course plans debated: The proposed expansion of Southfield's Evergreen Hills Golf Course has some golfers and environmentalists at odds over where the two offs should be located. Councilwoman Joan Seymour wants the city to alter

its plan to expand the course into the adjacent Civic Center Nature Preserve. The issue came to the fore about two weeks ago when a resident showed Seymour the proposed \$2 million course expansion would extend into two acres of the nature preserve.

**TROY**  
Bus trips to DIA: Hop a bus at Somerset's Nordstrom department store in Troy and be among the first to tour the new exhibit on ancient Egypt at the Detroit Institute of Arts. That's what Carol Sugrue, chairperson of the

Troy Arts Council, hopes people will do on the morning of Wednesday, July 16. The council has been taking people to the DIA for the last two Wednesdays, thanks to free bus transportation provided by Nordstrom. But the opportunity to see the "Splendors of Ancient Egypt" exhibit will be a special one. The first four tours (including Wednesday, July 9) are just general tours of the museum," she said. "This show (Ancient Egypt) doesn't open to the public until July 16. The tour will be led by a docent."

**Celebrities featured at fund raiser:** The Troy Community Coalition for the Prevention of Drug and Alcohol Abuse will host its second annual Celebrity Dinner Night Tuesday, Oct. 7 at the Troy Marriott Hotel. Bo Schembechler, former University of Michigan coach, sports advisor and former top executive with the Detroit Tigers. The evening will also include a package raffle with merchant donated items and dinner.

**WEST BLOOMFIELD**  
Chamber president resigns: In an unexpected move, West

Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce director Jill Jablonski has resigned. Jablonski cited "family obligations" for the abrupt announcement July 1 that she will leave, effective next week. Jablonski said her commute from Oakland Township took time away from her family. "It's just too hard to do both (working and raising a family)," she said. Jablonski and husband Gary have two children ages 10 and 13. "They're at that in-between age," she said. "Too old for a babysitter and too young to be left alone."

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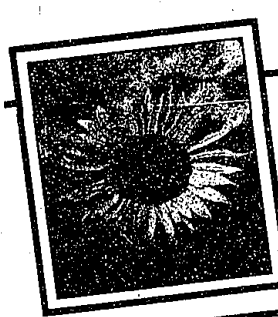
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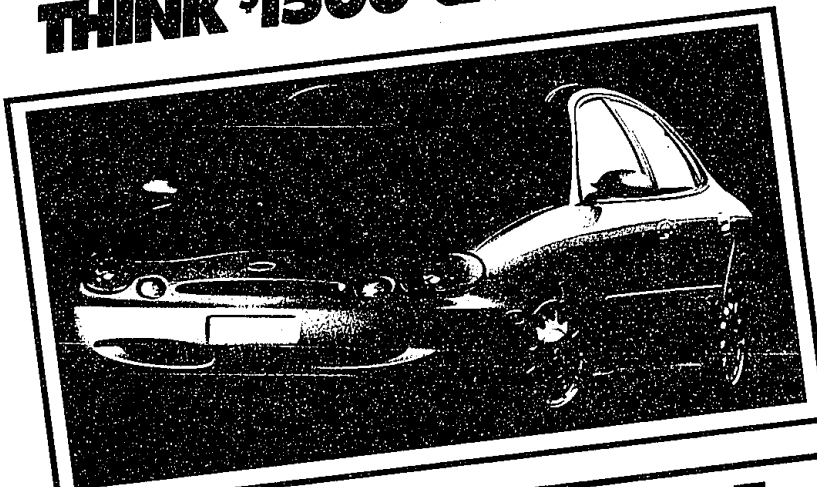
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