

**OAKLAND DIGEST**

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

**BIRMINGHAM**  
**Cruise prompts postal response:** Woodward Avenue Post Office visitors can take home more than memories from the third annual event on Aug. 16. The Birmingham Post Office is providing special stamp cancellations for collectors. But the cancellation isn't for Birmingham alone, the post office has come up with a different cancellation for each of the seven cities participating in the Dream Cruise.

**Crime rate steady:** Birmingham crime rates remained steady from a year ago, although there were noticeable increases in the number of moving car violations and parking tickets during 1996.

**CLARKSTON**  
**Buggy pulled from lake:** A piece of history was pulled from Parke Lake recently. The Clarkston Community Historical Society and scuba diver Richard Niethammer found a small buggy that had been buried deep

in the muck for many years. Yet hospital in vision: A veterinary hospital would be keeping with the Vision 2020 goals for the Sashabaw corridor so Independence Township planning commissioners have given their stamp of approval for rezoning that will facilitate such a development. Recently, the commission unanimously agreed to recommend rezoning 1.3 acres that adjoin the Larson Co. on Sashabaw Road just south of Walden Road from industrial office park to office service. The council must now vote on to approve the recommendation before any rezoning takes place.

**FARMINGTON**  
**Photographer of the year:** Farmington Hills resident Joe Derecher, 39, was named "Photographer of the Year" by the Detroit Professional Photographers Association for several black-and-white photographs he entered in this year's competition.

**LAKE ORION**  
**Speakers aide learning:** Don't worry, the speakers that may hang in your child's classroom next fall won't be used to

pipe in loud rock'n'roll music. They'll be there to improve the hearing quality for all students. Lake Orion school officials are spending an estimated \$260,000 to install a sound system consisting of four speakers and accompanying microphone system in two classrooms in each of its six elementary this fall. The idea, according to William O'Neill, director of special education, is to provide a clear hearing environment for all students.

**NOVI**  
**Survey says schools are tops:** Novi Community School District meets the needs and expectations of parents. In fact, the district was recently honored with the "What Parents Want" award, placing the district in the top ten percent of the nation's 15,893 public school systems.

**OXFORD**  
**Pash report:** The long-awaited "Pash Report" is due to be released at the July 16 Oxford Emergency Safety Authority meeting, but it may not be as revealing as was expected. Compiled by former Warren police commissioner turned private investigator Paul Pash, the

report was expected to explain a series of wrongdoings by the Oxford Police Department and Chief Gary Ford. But since it was ordered more than a year ago, the majority of the issues to be investigated have been resolved.

**New cruisers:** Oxford Police officers will soon be cruising the streets in new vehicles — well, almost. For about half the cost of a fresh-from-the-showroom model, police cars can be rebuilt from the bottom up under a program now run by local car dealerships. "The only thing that's really the same is the outside," said Police Chief Gary Ford, adding that the program will save up to \$10,000 on the vehicles.

**ROCHESTER**  
**Sorry, streets closed:** Five streets in Walnut Brook Estates Condominiums were turned over to the association by Rochester Hills City Council, despite objection from Mayor Ken Snell, who vetoed the decision. Residents say closing their streets will protect their children from cut-through traffic and keep up property values, at the 74-unit complex located between South Boulevard and Auburn, just west of Crooks. On July 2, council overturned the mayor's veto by a 6-1 vote.

**City won't appeal:** Rochester Hills will not fight a Michigan Court of Appeals ruling which struck down a city ordinance prohibiting residents from putting up yard signs advertising their home businesses. On July 2, the city voted 5-2 against appealing that ruling to the Michigan Supreme Court.

**SOUTHFIELD**  
**Vacant offices may be rezoned:** The Southfield Planning Commission will recommend to Southfield City Council favorable rezoning of two long-vacant office properties on Eight Mile Road, west of Greenfield. Southfield city council members are expected to vote in a few weeks on whether to approve the rezoning from education-research-office to planned business district. Detroit-based Peter D. Cummings & Associates hopes to acquire One Northland Drive (the former Specs Howard property). The rezoning also would include Southfield Office Plaza, recently acquired from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

**\$1 million road project awarded:** Six-S, Inc. was awarded the contract for spot concrete repair at a low bid of \$1.26 million. The four concrete paving and repair projects are: spot repairs on Evergreen, Eleven Mile and portions of Northwestern Service Drive; reconstruction of Pierce Street between Ten Mile Road and Mt. Vernon; pavement replacement on Pierce, north of 12 Mile; concrete driveway replacement at fire department headquarters, located at 24477 Lahser and minor spot repairs at fire stations number one, 18400 Nine Mile and number four, 25120 12 Mile Road.

**TROY**  
**Indecision stalls appointments:** After new Troy school board members Ida Edmunds and Mary Kerwin were sworn-in to begin their terms June 30 and trustee Sandra Chapp officially

resigned, the board was unable to decide on 1997 office holders or whom to appoint as a new trustee. They also failed to establish a procedure for naming the replacement. They will give it another try during today's board meeting. The board has until July 21 to appoint Chapp's replacement or the Oakland County Intermediate School District will appoint someone to serve the one-year term until the next election.

**Library serves as storm shelter:** Some 65 people, including staff, sought shelter in the Troy Library from tornadoes which devastated areas of Michigan July 2. After taking shelter in the basement Friends of the Library bookstore, water began to gush through the air vent in the ceiling and everyone was routed upstairs where they remained under tables until it was safe to come out. The bookstore was partially flooded.

**WEST BLOOMFIELD**  
**Four seek appointment:** Four "community-minded" people are vying for an appointment to the Walled Lake Board of Education. The school board will make a decision at its 7:30 p.m. Monday, July 14, meeting, according to Superintendent James Geisler. Barbara Garbutt, Kathy Guntzville, Judy Johnson and Randolph Ston applied for the open board position vacated by Joseph Miller. Miller recently resigned because he is moving out of the district. Whoever is selected will serve the final year of Miller's term.

— Compiled by staff writer Jennifer Placinto

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