

OAKLAND DIGEST

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

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP
Teacher merit salary increases: Bloomfield Hills school teachers with at least 25 years of seniority will be entitled to a merit salary increase through a new program approved by the district's school board. "It's the first one of its kind in Oakland County, if not in the state," said district Superintendent Gary Doyle.

Daytime burglaries continue: Bloomfield Township Police Sgt. Kirt Bowden said a recent robbery, in which a burglar walked into a resident's home and stole jewelry from an upstairs bedroom, is linked to a new rash of daytime burglaries in the area. At least three other Bloomfield Township homes have been similarly robbed in recent weeks. Police believe the incidents mirror a series of robberies in the township two summers ago, when 35 homes were robbed of jewelry, money and silverware while homeowners were doing yard work. Police encourage area residents to lock doors and set alarms while doing yard work.

FARMINGTON
School bond issue reduced: The Farmington Public School District plans to reduce its building expansion bond issue package from \$95 million to \$93.1 million. According to district Superintendent Robert Maxfield, the school system had earmarked \$3 million of its budget to fund resolution of a county-wide dispute over special education center funds, but only used \$1.1 million. The state has to approve the reduction before the school board can set an election date for the bond issue.

New look: Modernization of the Downtown Farmington Center began last week. The first phase of the project, estimated to cost between \$700,000 and \$800,000, will update the roofs and facades of the center's three buildings and should reach completion by mid-October. The second phase is slated to begin in 1998 and will focus on rear portions of the buildings.

INDEPENDENCE TWP
Efforts to preserve historic

sites continues: Members of the Independence Township Board last week voted to allot \$9,830 in mid-census funds for the updating of the township's historic structures survey. About 200 historic sites are included on the current survey. More than 30 homes will be added.

ORION TOWNSHIP
High school attendance policy ready: Lake Orion's new attendance policy for high school students, which was adopted by the school board last spring and broadens reasons for absences, will be distributed to parents and students. Under the policy, students will be able to make up absences by attending Saturday Study sessions.

Council casino proposal issue continues: Auburn Hills city council passed a resolution opposing a Bay Mills Indian Tribe proposal to erect an entertainment center. But since the decision will be made by U. S. Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt, officials and residents continue planning ways to defeat the proposal.

NOVI
Middle school project postponed: The Novi Board of Education last week decided to delay construction on property designated for its new middle school. The board said it felt uncomfortable putting any more money into land it does not yet own. Ownership negotiations for the land are still under way. The district plans to open the \$25 million school in 1998.

Historic church restoration: Members of the Oakland Baptist Church are refurbishing a 121-year-old former Methodist church. The congregation, which has been meeting in the basement of a 1950s-era ranch house, paid \$80,000 to move the church from a development area at Grand River Avenue to Beck Road. Renovation costs are estimated at \$80,000 to \$100,000.

Donations can be sent to Oakland Baptist Church, 23593 Beck Road, Novi, MI, 48374. Volunteer workers can contact Preservation Novi president Jim Antosinski at (248) 380-1338.

OXFORD TOWNSHIP
Municipal staff underpaid: According to a Michigan Municipal League comparison study, which was sought by Oxford Township, municipal staff and

elected officials are underpaid. Township officials scheduled a special meeting on July 22 to discuss the wages and salaries. Township employees have worked for 18 months without a pay increase.

Polly Ann Trailway project ready: A two-year drive to transform the abandoned Grand Trunk Railway (GTR) railroad into a 32-mile-long linear park, the Polly Ann Trailway, appears to have been successful. The trail will be operated in a partnership between the Department of Natural Resources and the Trailway member communities of the townships of Orion, Oxford, Addison and the villages of Lake Orion, Oxford and Leonard.

The key obstacle to the project has been that a group of landowners with property adjacent to the former railway were protesting Grand Trunk Railway's ownership of the abandoned rail lines and surrounding property. Last month, the Michigan Supreme Court refused to hear the landowners' appeal of an Appeals Court ruling, which sided with GTR.

ROCHESTER
Outdoor entertainment starts: The Avon Players will present its act on an outside stage for the first time. Their current show, a compilation of songs and dances, represents the group's 50-year anniversary and will be performed tonight at 7:30 p.m. on the outdoor stage at Rochester Municipal Park as part of the Rochester Kiwanis Club's annual Music in the Park Series. The series, which features soloists and bands, runs through Aug. 8.

SOUTHFIELD
School test scores criticized: Southfield's Total Living Commission, an agency of local residents and business people that advises the city council about quality-of-life issues, is upset about district scores on state high school proficiency tests. There were some dramatic drop-offs in reading and writing in the district's "proficient" scores from last year. Overall, Southfield High School and Southfield-Lathrup High School ranked 90th and 91st in the metropolitan area. The school board has asked the commission to help them raise academic benchmarks in the district.

Local police officer cleared: Two separate investigations recently exonerated Southfield Police Sgt. John Connors in the shooting of a Bloomfield Township officer in May while they and other officers pursued car-jacking suspects.

TROY
Annual benefit: The annual Somerset Classic, races and a fun run/walk benefiting the kids of the Boys & Girls Club of Troy, will be held Sunday, Aug. 17, at Somerset Collection North at Big Beaver and Coolidge in Troy. For race information and applica-

tions, call the Boys & Girls Club of Troy at (248) 689-1687.

WEST BLOOMFIELD:
Homeowners eye road repair: The Council of Homeowner Associations of West Bloomfield, a newly formed group comprised of 45 homeowners associations, discussed a millage proposal to fund local road repair. Bloomfield Township treasurer David Payne, who attended the first of the group's first meeting, talked about his community's special millage for road maintenance. Road maintenance in most other townships is

handled by the county road commission.

Cass Lake marina proposal discussed: The Sylvan Lake Condominium Association in Keego Harbor has asked the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to grant them a permit to build a marina on Cass Lake. At a recent public hearing with the DEQ present, many residents opposed the idea. Discussion gave way to the larger issue of use conditions on Cass Lake.

—Compiled by staff writer Nicole Stafford

Beautiful Outdoor Fixtures & Lanterns

sale

All Solid Brass

Beautiful selection of solid brass fixtures and lanterns in all sizes. Finishes available in polished brass, pewter, verd and verd bronze.

Starting at \$43²⁰

Sale Lasts 10 Days Only

QUOTZEL

See These And More All On Sale Right Now!

Lighting Fixtures, Ceiling Fans & Clocks for Every Decor • Wiring Supplies & Light Bulbs

BROSE Mon., Tues., Wed., Sat. 9:30-6:00
THURS., Fri. 9:30-8:00

ELECTRICAL

CONSTRUCTION, INC. 37400 W. Seven Mile Road • Livonia, MI 48152 • (313) 464-2211

Take a BREAK!

Free Installation

On Storm Doors, Shower Door & Mirror Doors

Most recent product at time of purchase. Previous orders excluded. *Additional charges may apply on custom installations. Offer expires 8/31/97

Henderson GLASS

Your Glass Store. And More!

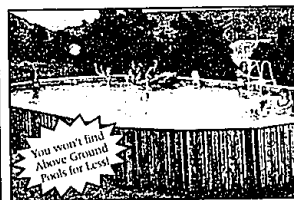
Call 1-800-622-6854 for One of Our 33 Michigan Locations Near You!

Auburn Hills 248-377-4044 2100 Watson Blvd. Between Opdyke & Perry	Canton 313-459-6440 6190 Crown Center Road North of Ford Road	Farmington 248-476-0730 31203 Grand River At Orchard Lake Road	Southfield 248-353-1500 24255 W. 16 Mile Road East of Telegraph	Waterford 248-666-1690 6215 Highland Road Across from Pioneer Airport
Berkley 248-543-4046 2100 N. Woodward Between I-16 & I-75	Detroit 313-535-3600 15511 Grand River East of Ecorse	Livonia 313-261-9050 1 Black West of Henrietta	Troy 248-528-0900 9901 Rochester Road South of Warren	West Bloomfield 248-855-3400 5731 W. Maple Road West of Orchard Lake Road

The Heat Is On

HOT SUMMER SALE

Sizzling Specials Store-Wide Until August 15th



Complete Above Ground Packages

Starting At \$988⁰⁰

FREE SOLAR Cover w/pool pkg. purchase up to \$140 Value

CHECK OUT THESE SPECIALS

NO Payments
NO Interest
NO Money Down
Until 1998

—offer ends August 15th—

FREE Hard Cover & Cover Lift w/purchase \$600 Value

with approved credit — Coleman Spas only



Big Savings throughout the Store — Sale Ends August 15th, 1997

BERKLEY
2750 W. 12 Mile Road
2122 Woodward
(248) 398-4577

UTICA
48270 Van Dyke Road
(810) 739-5333

ROCHESTER HILLS
3100 S. Rochester Rd.
(248) 852-8900

SINCE 1965

POOLS
9-96-90

BERKLEY • UTICA
ROCHESTER HILLS
"Ask Your Neighbors About Us"

FINANCING AVAILABLE

Daily 10-8
Saturday 10-4
Sunday 12-3