

OAKLAND DIGEST

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

BIRMINGHAM

School bond vote approaching: Birmingham school bond supporters are gearing up for an Oct. 6 vote on a \$98.6 million bond. Under the proposal, taxpayers will see a 1 mill increase, but the district will allocate 2 mills of the total 14.0108 millage rate toward debt repayment. The money is proposed for remodeling media centers, improving hallways, roofs and high school athletic fields.

Coffee shops arrive: Downtown Birmingham may soon have a Starbucks coffee shop, joining the ranks of the Coffee Beanery, Caribou Coffee, Lonsdale Coffee Co., Amer's Deli and Einstein Bros. Bagel shop. Indications are that Starbucks could move into 135 S. Woodward by the end of the month.

CLARKSTON

MEAP scores mixed: Clarkston students have improved in their writing skills, but still need to do better in science, according to their MEAP qualifying scores. Reflecting a state-wide trend, more of last year's fifth graders and eighth graders ranked proficient in writing, but low scores only improved slightly in science. Only 47.4 of the fifth graders and 36.8 of the eighth graders passed science.

Independence Planning Commission passes cell tower proposal: The Independence Township Planning Commission approved a special land-use permit for a new cellular tower and antennae for the southeast quadrant of the township. The 150-foot tower is proposed for east of the Mt. Zion Temple property, off Maybee Road, pending township approval.

FARMINGTON

Murderer gets maxi: The man who helped murder a mother and daughter in their Farmington Hills home two years ago got the maximum sentence Friday, Oakland County Circuit Judge Barry Howard sentenced George Tyrone Davis to 20-25 years for the two counts of second-degree murder and 10-20 for arson.

Fiber optic network holds promise: A state-of-the-art fiber optic network is one of the marquee components of the Sept. 16 bond issue, if voters approve the two-part \$93.1 million proposal. The schools also are hoping for more space in the lunchrooms.

LAKE ORION

Coffee Shop Opens: Hoping to brew up a success in the Orion communities, coffeehouse R-Place Coffee and All that Jazz opened their doors for business on Flint Street for trendy coffee service and live music.

NOVI

Council waves pool plan on to voters: The Novi City Council voted to place a community pool proposal on the Nov. 4 ballot. The plan would ask voters to fund a city pool for \$4.6 million via the sale of municipal bonds. The pool would be located at Power Park.

OXFORD

Oxford and Lake Orion schools may share computer resources: The two school districts are considering an agreement whereby Lake Orion would handle some of Oxford's data processing for accounting and student information tasks.

ROCHESTER

Historic site gets face-lift:

The Rochester Planning Commission Wednesday gave local builders the go-ahead to start demolition, restoration and renovation of the old downtown Western Knitting Mill. Builder Frank Rowold told the commission that the site will have more parking than originally planned.

Student wins Jazz award: Saxophone performer Bobby Emmett, 15, of Adams High School, won the Best Student Horn Player at Detroit Montreux over Labor Day. Emmett started playing the sax in sixth grade, is a member of the high school jazz ensemble and participates in Wayne State's summer jazz clinic.

SOUTHFIELD

City seeks Parks and Rec director: Although City Administrator Robert Block wants a headhunter to woo a top-notch parks and rec director for Southfield, city council instructed him to find candidates by using internal procedures. Failing that, the search could go outside, they said. Former director Jeff Farland left July 1 with an exit salary of \$72,288.

Southfield high schools ranks in UM admissions: In the eyes of the University of Michigan admissions officers, both Southfield and Southfield-Lathrup high schools rank with some of the best in the state. UM's rating system ranks the schools in the category with Bloomfield Hills Lusher, Grosse Pointe North, Rochester Adams, Detroit's Cass Tech and Bloomfield Hills private school The Sacred Heart Academy.

TROY

New Civic Center plans proposed: Troy City Council will

hear a formal proposal Oct. 6 for a new Master Plan, including an expanded city hall, library, police and court facilities. New additions could also include a 3,000-seat performing arts center, a parking deck and outdoor amphitheater.

City and schools discuss golf course development: In a combined discussion between the City of Troy and the Troy School District, plans are under consideration for a second city golf course. The course would be located in the north west sector of the city on property bordered by the city and district. A public meeting about the schools' property will be held Sept. 16 at Smith Middle School.

WEST BLOOMFIELD

Proposal to fix backyard erosion blocked: West Bloomfield resident Jay Siefman continues to lose ground in his battle to save his eroding property. For the past several years the resident has watched his property washing away near the Edwards Drain at 14 Mile and Inkster. He's lost about 20 feet of property changing his backyard into a 40-foot cliff that drops off to the street below. His appeal to the Oakland County Drain Commission has made little progress.

New Chamber chief on the job: Betsy Schneider will become the new West Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce director officially Sept. 15, but she is already making the rounds and getting acquainted with her new job. Schneider said building membership will be her first goal. The chamber has about 216 member businesses currently.

—compiled by staff writer Vivian DeGuis

U-M alumnae meet

The University of Michigan Alumni Association of Oakland County is welcoming recent U-M graduates to a kickoff potluck dinner for the association at 7 p.m. Thursday Sept. 18 at the Royal Oak Women's Club. Prospective members need not bring a dish to pass. Speaker will be Cynthia Wilbanks, an associate vice president for university relations, talking on her experiences with the university and the Legislature.

For more information, call Debbie Pevos, secretary, at (248) 737-9868 or Gloria Harper, president, at (248) 435-9114.

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