

ROAD WATCH

Road improvements could cause delays on the following Oakland County Roads this week. Roads are open unless noted. Alternative routes are advised in all instances.

M-496
From: Franklin to Inkster
Community: Southfield
Details: Shoulders will be closed along westbound I-696 through Sept. 20.

ADAMS ROAD
At: Square Lake Road
Communities: Bloomfield Township and Troy
Details: The center turn lane and will be widened and the road will be resurfaced through Sept. 30.

BALDWIN ROAD
From: I-76 to Delevan
Communities: Auburn Hills and Lake Angelus
Details: The road is being widened from two lanes to a six lane boulevard. The project is expected to be completed by Oct. 31.

BRIDGE LAKE
From: Rattles Lake Road to Davisburg Road
Community: Springfield Township
Details: A road paving project is being conducted through the end of August.

COMMERCE ROAD
From: From 1,000 feet west of South Commerce to Union Lake Road
Community: Commerce Township
Details: The stretch of road is being resurfaced.

DEQUINDRE ROAD
From: Big Beaver to Wattles
Community: Troy
Details: Dequindre is being widened from two to five lanes. The project is expected to be completed by Oct. 31.

DIXIE HIGHWAY
From: Davisburg Road to the county line
Communities: Springfield, Graveland and Holly townships
Details: The road is being resurfaced through July.

FLEMINGS LAKE
From: Clarkston Road to Waters Road
Community: Independence Township
Details: The gravel road will be paved by Oct. 31.

FOURTEEN MILE
From: Welch to Haggerty
Community: Commerce Township
Details: The road will be closed through Oct. 6.

GRAND RIVER
At: Farmington Road
Community: Farmington
Details: Grand River will be

reduced to one lane in each direction through Sept. 15.

LONG LAKE ROAD
From: Fairbough to Grandy, east and west of Rochester Road
Community: Troy
Details: The road is being reconstructed and resurfaced.
From: Lahser to Woodward
Community: Bloomfield Hills
Details: The stretch of road is being resurfaced.

NORTHWESTERN HIGHWAY
At: Telegraph Road
Community: Southfield
Details: Two left lanes are closed. The ramp from northbound Northwestern to southbound Telegraph will be closed intermittently during non-rush hour periods through July 31. The ramp from northbound Telegraph to I-696 and northbound Northwestern Highway will be closed until Oct. 30.

NINE MILE
From: Northbound Northwestern Highway and southbound Southfield Road
Community: Southfield
Details: One lane will be closed through Oct. 1.

OPDYKE ROAD
From: Square Lake Road to South Boulevard
Communities: Bloomfield Township and Pontiac
Details: The stretch of road is being resurfaced.

ORCHARD LAKE ROAD
At: Grand River
Community: Farmington
Details: There will be alternating lane closures through Aug. 13.

From: Long Lake Road to Commerce Road
Communities: West Bloomfield and Orchard Lake Village
Details: The stretch of road is being resurfaced.

PONTIAC TRAIL
At: Green Lake Road
Community: West Bloomfield
Details: The road is being widened to include a center turn lane through Aug. 24.

TELEGRAPH ROAD
At: 14 Mile Road
Communities: Bingham Farms and Franklin Village
Details: There will be lane closings for road work through the end of July.

WALTON BOULEVARD
From: West of Sasabaw to Clintonville
Community: Waterford
Details: Walton is being widened from three to five lanes. It is limited to one lane each way during construction. It is expected to be completed by July 31.



Hey, puppy: Michigan Humane Society trainer Kathryn Bovee holds a dog like those available for adoption at MHS shelters, including the one on Auburn Road in Rochester Hills. Though people often purchase or adopt pets as a spur-of-the-moment decision, animal care professionals remind the public that having a pet means making a lifetime commitment. Some organizations even offer counseling for prospective pet owners.

Walk with the animals

Pros have tips for potential pet owners

Judy Mosner has been known, on occasion, to take home and bottle-feed a stray kitten.

Though not part of her job as an animal welfare officer at Bloomfield Township Animal Welfare, she gives special care to the stray dogs and cats she finds.

As the owner of a cat, dog and iguana, Mosner admits she adopted her pets from the shelter where she works.

"My little dog was running around Square Lake and Telegraph," she said. Though she tried to find the dog's owner, she was unsuccessful and the animal was then available for adoption.

"Pets bring out the best in people," Mosner said. "They give you something to care about."

She named additional benefits to owning a pet. Animals provide a calming effect for older people and help children learn responsibility. When searching for a pet, area shelters have many available for

adoption.

With three locations - in Rochester Hills, Detroit and Westland - the Michigan Humane Society has more than 100 pets available for adoption at any given time. While that primarily includes dogs and cats, the animal shelter also carries guinea pigs, rabbits and the occasional pot-bellied pig.

"There just aren't enough homes," said Michele Mitchell, the community relations director. "The whole country is battling a pet overpopulation crisis. Up to 15 million animals are euthanized in shelters across the U.S. every year."

Sandra Gay sees the effects of pet overpopulation daily. As manager of the Oakland County Animal Care Center in Auburn Hills, Gay takes in stray, lost or injured animals and helps them find suitable owners.

"All they're looking for is a new chance," she said. "It's not their fault they're here. There are lots of loving and wonderful animals at shelters."

Animals taken to the center are held for four days without identification. If owners do not claim them, they may be adopted. In 1997, the center counted 2,200 adopted animals and returned 1,400 to their original owners.

Mitchell said most animals taken to shelters are in good health and about 50 percent are surrendered for behavioral problems which can be corrected with training.

Adopting a pet, said shelter employees, is a lifelong commitment.

"You get out of the animal what you put in," said Mosner. "(Pets) are expendable to a lot of people. Don't make rash decisions."

At the Humane Society, adoption counselors are available to help place pets with the appropriate owners. Counselors ask about the individual's past pet-owning history, medical history, and lifestyle. For example, Mitchell said, a family with small children may not want to choose a 150-pound dog.

"It's a big responsibility," said Mitchell. "People need to be prepared to invest time. Animals need a lot of attention."

If you are thinking about pet adoption, consider the following issues:

■ Check to see if you are allergic to any animals before adopting one.

■ Be sure you can afford the medical costs and food expenses you will incur as a pet owner.

■ Be sure to choose an animal that suits your lifestyle.

■ Be sure to place a license or other form of identification on your animal at all times.

■ Train your pets to avoid behavioral problems.

■ Have your pet spayed or neutered.

■ Consider adopting more than one pet so the animal will not feel lonely.

■ Call your local animal shelter.

■ If your pet is lost, contact the local police station to find out where to look and who can help in your area.

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