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**CANCELED**

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**FEBRUARY 2015**

(01-27-15)

- City Council Chamber (Conf. Rm.) – 1827 N. Squirrel Road
- Administrative Conference Room – 1827 N. Squirrel Road
- Public Safety Building – 1899 N. Squirrel Road
- Community Center – 1827 N. Squirrel Road
- Department of Public Services (DPS) – 1500 Brown Road
- Fieldstone Golf Course - 1984 Taylor Road
- Library - 3400 Seyburn Drive
- Downtown City Offices – 3395 Auburn Road, Suite A
- University Center, 3350 Auburn Road, Main Floor, Classroom AHUC-02
*Workshop – Speed Limit Analysis & Speeding Complaints (Council Chamber)

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 26, 2015
5. APPOINTMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS
6. PUBLIC COMMENT
7. CONSENT AGENDA

All items listed are considered to be routine by the City council and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Council Member so requests, in which event the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered in its normal sequence on the agenda.

7a. Board and Commission Minutes
7b. Motion – Accept Traffic Control Order SS-15 Updates Stop Sign TCO; Revise Yield Sign TCO
7c. Motion – Accept Traffic Control Order Private Property SS-2015, Oakland Estates Stop Signs
7d. Motion – Approve Purchase of Eight New Mobile Computers
7e. Motion – Approve Purchase of 27 New Taser Weapons

8. OLD BUSINESS
8a. Motion – Approve CKC Agency Agreement for Public and Media Relations
8b. Motion – Approve 2015 Bloomfield Orchards Water Main Replacement Scope of Engineering Services

9. NEW BUSINESS
9a. Motion – Approve Purchase of Upgrade to Forensic Video Equipment
9b. Motion – Approve Resolution Accepting Rabeeh Drive, Zaher Drive, and Ramzi Lane as Public Roads

10. COMMENTS AND MOTIONS FROM COUNCIL

11. CITY ATTORNEY’S REPORT

12. CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION – Labor Negotiations IAFF

14. ADJOURNMENT

City Council meeting minutes are on file in the City Clerk’s office. NOTE: Anyone planning to attend the meeting who has need of special assistance under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is asked to contact the City Clerk’s Office at 370-9402 or the City Manager’s Office at 370-9440 48 hours prior to the meeting. Staff will be pleased to make the necessary arrangements.
CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Pro Tem Kittle at 7:00 p.m.
LOCATION: City Council Chamber, 1827 N. Squirrel Road, Auburn Hills, MI 48326
Present: Mayor Pro Tem Kittle, Council Members Burmeister, Knight, Mitchell, Verbeke
Absent: Mayor McDaniel; Council Member Hammond
Also Present: City Manager Tanghe, Assistant City Manager Grice, Police Chief Olko, Deputy Fire
Chief Macias, City Clerk Kowal, DPW Director Melchert, Manager of Fleets & Roads
Brisson, Community Development Director Cohen, Business Development Manager
Carroll, City Attorney Beckerleg, City Engineer Stevens
14 Guests

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Moved by Mitchell; Seconded by Verbeke.
RESOLVED: To approve the January 12, 2015 City Council regular meeting minutes.
VOTE: Yes: Burmeister, Kittle, Knight, Mitchell, Verbeke
No: None
Motion Carried (5–0)
Resolution No. 15.01.011

Moved by Knight; Seconded by Mitchell.
RESOLVED: To approve the January 12, 2015 Council Workshop minutes.
VOTE: Yes: Burmeister, Kittle, Knight, Mitchell, Verbeke
No: None
Motion Carried (5–0)
Resolution No. 15.01.012

5. APPOINTMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS
5a. Motion – Extending Terms of Members to the Development Area Citizens Council
Ms. Carroll explained the timeline has been extended, so the term for the Citizens Council must also be extended.
Mr. Beckerleg confirmed the term extensions are permissible.
Moved by Burmeister; Seconded by Verbeke.
RESOLVED: To confirm the extended terms of the Development Area Citizens Council Members to
July, 2015.
VOTE: Yes: Burmeister, Kittle, Knight, Mitchell, Verbeke
No: None
Motion Carried (5-0)
Resolution No. 15.01.013

6. PUBLIC COMMENT
Annette McAvoy, 3841 N. Briarvale, has an Avondale School – 'What’s Cool with School' update. Recently the U.S. Department of Education has projected that in the fall of 2015, that minority students will be the majority, in kindergarten classes across the country for the first time in U.S. history. Cultural and other diversities are nothing new in the Avondale School District. There are more than 3,500 Avondale students, cultural diversity accounts for approximately 1,500 students; 360 students receive English as a second language services, with the primary language spoken in the home is one of 45 different languages. One third of the students receive free or reduced price lunches, and 17% of the students receive some type of special education services.

Avondale schools will continue to look at each student’s uniqueness and help the students celebrate and appreciate all the differences. This month was geared towards learning about Martin Luther King, Jr. and the civil rights movement. A disabilities workshop will be presented in February at Deerfield Elementary. Each school level has a student driven diversity club designed to promote acceptance.

Mr. Knight noted Auburn Hills has 1,600 to 1,700 students in the Avondale school district.

Mr. Kittle asked about future enrollment stabilization.

Ms. McAvoy noted she doesn’t have much data, but enrollment across the Country and Michigan is down. The School Board has just approved 60 seats be opened for School of Choice; 20 seats in each of kindergarten, first grade and second grade. The new school superintendent has a lot of ideas to raise student enrollment.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

7a. Board and Commission Minutes
   7a.2. Special Pension/Retiree Board – December 17, 2014

Moved by Verbeke; Seconded by Knight.
RESOLVED: To approve the Consent Agenda.
VOTE: Yes: Burmeister, Kittle, Knight, Mitchell, Verbeke
No: None
Motion Carried (5-0)

Resolution No. 15.01.014

8. OLD BUSINESS

8a. Public Hearing / Motion – Adoption of Resolution to Vacate a Portion of an Alley and Lackawana Right-of-Way in the Lake Angelus Subdivision

Mr. Cohen explained this is a request from Great Lakes Landing LLC to vacate a portion of an alley; the road right-of-way vacation would allow three parcels to be consolidated into one useable site. The right-of-way is approximately one-half acre; the roads were never built as originally platted in 1927. The vacation would be a positive move for the area, since the road right-of-way serves no functional purpose. The City would never build these roads today because they would extend much too close to the intersection of Collier and Baldwin Roads for current traffic safety standards.

City Council scheduled this public hearing at the December 15, 2014 Council meeting; a notice was published in the Oakland Press as well as being mailed to property owners within 1,000 feet of the site.

Mayor Pro Tem Kittle opened the public hearing at 7:18 p.m.

Arnold Finkelstein, representing Great Lakes Landing, agrees with the staff recommendation of vacating a portion of the alley and Lackawana Road right-of-way. If the vacations are approved, it will remove the boundaries of the parcels, enabling development of the property for single family residential, in-turn, increasing the tax base.

Ms. Verbeke questioned where the access for this property will go, onto Baldwin or Collier Road.

Mr. Cohen explained access would be safer off of Collier as opposed to Baldwin Road; however, it will be encouraged to have access off the new Baldwin Forest development.

Ms. Verbeke stated she would prefer the traffic access Collier Road. She suggested the new road be located in another location, being less offensive to the current property owner.

Mr. Cohen explained the access locations are logical locations, but all must be reviewed. He also noted the only comments came from the Road Commission, with no objection and a resident who owns property nearby, but made no comment.

Steven Fern, 3571 St. Mary’s Street, lives in the house just north of where the proposed road may be constructed. He asked what type of development is being considered; single family or multi-family.

Mr. Finkelstein stated the hopes are single family residences.
Mr. Fern stated his concern is changing the character of the neighborhood with the possible construction of multiple story, multi-family residences.

Mayor Pro Tem Kittle noted the zoning for that area is R-1, which is single family residences.

Ms. Verbeke asked if there were wetlands on the north end of the parcel.

Mr. Cohen stated there are wetlands on the property, but there would be no construction within the wetlands.

Ms. Verbeke stated she would like to discourage wetland mitigation; she doesn’t believe wetland mitigation works and it is not in the best interest of this property.

Mayor Pro Tem Kittle assured Mr. Fern he will be notified if and/or when any development of this property moves forward.

*Mayor Pro Tem Kittle closed the public hearing at 7:27 p.m.*

Moved by Knight; Seconded by Burmeister.

RESOLVED: To adopt the attached resolution (Attachment A) vacating a portion of an alley and Lackawana R.O.W. in the Lake Angelus Subdivision, as described in the resolution, and to authorize the City Clerk to record the resolution with the Oakland County Register of Deeds.

Mr. Knight noted many residents appreciate him asking questions, and he will undoubtedly will be asked why the City is giving up this right-of-way. He explained by the City giving up the right-of-way, it will allow the land to be developed, which in turn will be taxable property.

Mayor Pro Tem Kittle noted it also won’t require maintenance by the City any longer, another expense removed.

VOTE: Yes: Burmeister, Kittle, Knight, Mitchell, Verbeke    
No: None    
Motion Carried (5-0)

Resolution No. 15.01.015

8b. Public Hearing/Motion – Adoption of Fire Code Ordinance

Deputy Fire Chief Macias explained this is a second reading and adoption of an ordinance, combining fire prevention and hazardous materials that will bring the Fire Department in accordance with the current building codes.

*Mayor Pro Tem Kittle opened the public hearing at 7:29 p.m. and hearing no comment closed the public hearing at 7:30 p.m.*

Ms. Mitchell asked if the adoption of this ordinance will result in a three-year review cycle.

Deputy Fire Chief Macias stated that hasn’t yet been determined; this ordinance is meeting the current needs of the building code.

Moved by Verbeke; Seconded by Burmeister.


VOTE: Yes: Burmeister, Kittle, Knight, Mitchell, Verbeke    
No: None    
Motion Carried (5-0)

Resolution No. 15.01.016

8c. Motion – Approve DDA Development Plan

Ms. Carroll explained this action is to set a public hearing for the purpose of considering the adoption of the Development and Tax Increment Financing Plan for the Downtown Development Authority. The proposed public hearing date is April 27, 2015, at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Pro Tem Kittle asked if this was the public hearing that was to be held early in March.

Ms. Carroll stated it is, the meetings with the County have pushed the schedule back a little further. The wait now is for the Economic Development Team to present the plans to the Budget Task Force at the County. At this point, May 18th is the target date for adoption of the plan, when the City can start capturing the growth. The target date is contingent on the talks with the County.

Moved by Mitchell; Seconded by Verbeke.

RESOLVED: To set a public hearing for April 27, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of considering adoption of the Development and Tax Increment Financing Plan for the Downtown Development Authority.
9. NEW BUSINESS

9a. Motion – Approve Historical Marker for the Community Impact Church

Tyson Brown, President of the Historical Society, explained the Committee has worked over a year gathering the information to propose a historical marker for the Community Impact Church. The church is one of the oldest buildings in downtown Auburn Hills, built in 1880 and has continually operated as a church under various denominations.

Ms. Mitchell learned the marker will increase awareness of the historical importance of the building, and asked if restrictions will apply if remodeling the exterior or the interior of the building should take place.

Mr. Brown stated there aren’t restrictions for remodeling, however, any remodeling will likely require building permits from the City. He hopes any remodeling would be discussed with the Historical Society, and if the changes are quite significant and the building no longer qualifies as a historical site, the marker could be removed. The marker is the property of the City and not the building; in the past, DPW has constructed signs for the Historical Society.

Continuing, Mr. Brown explained the sign will be approximately the same size as a speed limit sign and will be mounted on the building, with permission from the building owner. In the event of new ownership of the building, the sign would remain with the new owner’s permission and the building continues to meet the criteria of the Historical Society.

Corey James, Pastor of Community Impact Church, explained the Historical Society approached him about a year ago asking to place a marker on the church. He stated he was not aware of everything that has been said this evening. His signature only referenced the sign verbiage and where it would be placed on the church. He was not aware of conditions of remodeling, though the historical look of the building will be preserved. He is in favor of the marker, providing it does not inhibit the future use of the building.

Mr. Knight asked if an agreement between the City and the church was necessary.

Mr. Beckerleg didn’t think it is necessary, there is a signed agreement between the Historical Society and the church. The downtown is not a historical district, so the church will be able to renovate, providing they meet the building and zoning requirements. The only item being approved by City Council is having the City pay for and create the sign; this will not have any impact on the property owner.

Mr. Knight asked if the sign will be updated in the event the church changes denomination; as of now the sign is very detailed. Also, will the City will construct the sign, maintain the sign and own the sign?

Mr. Brown stated it is possible to update the sign as the building ownership or use changes.

Mr. Beckerleg stated the City can have the sign updated.

Mayor Pro Tem Kittle noted the church may become something other than a church, such as the church in downtown Clarkston that is now a restaurant. The building will still be the second oldest building in downtown Auburn Hills, but may have another use.

Mr. Brown concurred, the sign will remain on the historic building, regardless of use.

Ms. Verbeke thanked Mr. Brown for the work that has been done, she enjoys reading and learning more of Auburn Hills’ history. She asked for confirmation that the proposed sign rendering is exactly what the sign will reflect.

Mr. Brown stated that is correct, unless Council wants to make a change. The building sign is for foot traffic, it is not intended to take over the front of the building; approximate size is 24 inches by 30 inches. All of the historical markers done thus far, have been white with black lettering.

Moved by Burmeister; Seconded by Verbeke.

RESOLVED: To approve the construction and installation of a historical marker as submitted by the Auburn Hills Historical Committee.

VOTE: Yes: Burmeister, Kittle, Knight, Mitchell, Verbeke

No: None

Motion Carried (5-0)

Resolution No. 15.01.018

9b. Motion – Approve Two Dodge Charger Pursuit Vehicles

Police Chief Olko explained this is a request to continue to participate, as has been done for the last 10 years, in Chrysler’s Evaluation Fleet of police vehicles. Chrysler has offered to the City two pursuit vehicles, at a cost of $1.00 each. In exchange for the $1.00 purchase, the City would agree that each of these vehicles be used only
as fully marked police pursuit vehicles and the vehicles be returned to Chrysler after approximately 2 years of use. The City must also agree to produce the vehicles upon Chrysler’s request to evaluate how the cars manage under police pursuit situations. Most of the maintenance for these two vehicles will be done by Chrysler. The equipment in the cars that are to be returned, will be reused in these new vehicles.

An additional cost of $1,900 for each vehicle will be necessary to tear-down and up fit the vehicles with necessary equipment such as new computer mounts and gun locks.

Mr. Knight noted the $1,900 for each vehicle is approximately $167 per month of fixed cost for each vehicle, which he’ll discuss with the next agenda item.

Mayor Pro Tem Kittle stated the Dodge Charger has been a pursuit vehicle for a number of years now, and asked why Chrysler is asking for an evaluation on the vehicle.

Police Chief Olko explained these vehicles are not typical production vehicles, there are additional components added, and this allows those new components, which are safe, to be tested. The current 2013 models have a different key fob that is being tested; those vehicles will be returned now that Chrysler has the needed data.

Responding to Mayor Pro Tem Kittle, Police Chief Olko stated the natural gas conversion was not a Chrysler project but was the City’s project.

Moved by Verbeke; Seconded by Mitchell.

RESOLVED: To approve the purchase of two Police Pursuit Dodge Charger Durability Vehicles for $1.00 each from FCA US LLC, “Chrysler” and authorize the City Manager and City Clerk to sign the purchase agreement on behalf of the City.

VOTE: Yes: Burmeister, Kittle, Knight, Mitchell, Verbeke
No: None

Resolution No. 15.01.019

9c. Motion – Approve the Purchase of New Chrysler Vehicles

Mr. Brisson noted the Fleet Replacement Schedule indicates two pursuit vehicles, however, with the approval of the two Chrysler $1.00 vehicles, there is not the need to replace the two currently on the replacement schedule. The Chevy Tahoe, on that same list, was already approved at the last City Council meeting.

The list indicates replacing a lawn mower and a front end loader, but it has been determined neither of these vehicles need replacing this year.

Mr. Brisson noted a few suggested models were changed, which reduced the price, and also, because Milosch of Lake Orion came in lower on some of the vehicles, allowing the purchase be split between MI-Deal contractor Snethkamp and Milosch.

Mr. Brisson confirmed for Mr. Knight, five of the vehicles can be purchased cheaper through Milosch than through MI-Deal.

Mr. Knight stated he would like to know the fixed and variable cost per month for each vehicle, including fuel and insurance costs. He would like that information made available to Council next time vehicles are being considered for purchase. He believes there should be two electric vehicles in the City’s fleet. He currently drives a Volt and the Volt can be leased for $180 per month. Factoring in the cost of electricity and the cost of gas, the average price of gas for his Volt is about 5.7 cents per gallon.

Mr. Brisson clarified for Ms. Verbeke that each item was priced out independently and not as a whole; the prices are per vehicle prices.

Ms. Verbeke asked if there would be any additional charges for the vehicles once purchased; any modifications.

Mr. Brisson explained some of the vehicles will be up fitted by the individual department, such as the Fire Department installing lights and sirens.

Mr. Burmeister noted the two Durango’s are $31,000 each, and asked what significance of the Durango as opposed to the Cherokee; purchasing three Cherokee’s could save over $14,000.

Mr. Brisson explained the Durango has more cargo space for gear, as requested by the Fire Department.

Mayor Pro Tem Kittle explained the Grand Cherokee is built on the same chassis as the Durango, the Cherokee is quite a bit smaller. Continuing, he asked if Milosch had the chance to bid the Dart, Journey, 200 and Cherokee 4X4.

Mr. Brisson stated those specific models with the equipment required were not bid, but he can put those items out for bid.

Mayor Pro Tem Kittle is pleased with the work put into this proposal and agrees with Mr. Brisson the relationship with Milosch and their service department will be beneficial. Also, with these purchases, it may open up more opportunities to have future dealings with Milosch or other local dealerships.
Moved by Knight; Seconded by Mitchell.
RESOLVED: To approve the purchase of ten Chrysler Vehicles from Snethkamp Lansing Dodge, Inc., 6131 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing, Michigan 48911 in the amount of $247,236.00, and to approve the purchase of five Chrysler vehicles from Milosch’s Palace CJD Ram Truck, Inc., 3800 Lapeer Road, Lake Orion, MI. 48359, in the amount of $148,991.00 for a total cost of $396,227.00. Funding is provided from Fleet account 661-442-981.000.

VOTE:  Yes:  Burmeister, Kittle, Knight, Mitchell, Verbeke
No:  None
Motion Carried (5-0)

Resolution No. 15.01.020

9d. Motion – Approve the Purchase of Crane Body and Service Crane
Mr. Brisson explained this is part two of the purchase request for the crane service body, lift crane and installation on a provided cab/chassis. Research of crane service bodies and lift cranes indicates Cannon Truck Equipment, the City’s current vendor, has built crane trucks and aerial lift trucks for the City in the past. Service support from Cannon has been excellent. Cannon Truck Equipment provided pricing utilizing the State of Michigan MI-DEAL purchasing program; the cost is $36,789.

Moved by Knight; Seconded by Verbeke.
RESOLVED: To approve the purchase of one Crane Service Body, Lift Crane and installation from Cannon Truck Equipment, 51761 Danview Technology Court, Shelby Twp., MI 48315, in the amount of $36,789.00. Funding is provided from Fleet Machinery & Equipment account 661-442-977.000.

VOTE:  Yes:  Burmeister, Kittle, Knight, Mitchell, Verbeke
No:  None
Motion Carried (5-0)

Resolution No. 15.01.021

10. COMMENTS AND MOTIONS FROM COUNCIL
Ms. Verbeke:
• Asked for an update on the Community Center. (In City Manager’s Report)
• Thanked the Fire Department for their professionalism in taking care of the emergency at her house this past weekend.

Mr. Burmeister:
• Asked Police Chief Olko if Auburn Hills has anything similar or is working to get 911 texting ability as reported by Oakland County’s dispatch services.

Police Chief Olko explained the Department has looked into it; Oakland County decided to take texting for communities in the County. Oakland County was the first to have their dispatch services use wireless technology and did so for all County communities, routing calls to the independent agencies. The texting abilities to 911 is in the infant stage, texting doesn’t run on the same system as phone calls. The texting is directed by the FCC and is intended to assist the hard of hearing community. In an emergency situation, it is advisable to call 911; it is the most efficient, suggested and preferred way of getting a response, without fail.

• Enjoyed the State of the Community and hoped others did as well.

Mr. Knight:
• He very much appreciates the Christmas lights staying on downtown.
• Would like an explanation of the $120,000 expenditure mentioned in the TIFA minutes.
• Introduced Nick Thomas, Chase Bank manager, on Auburn Road. Mr. Thomas is an advocate of energy conservation and going green. Mr. Knight suggested using landfills as a place to construct solar panels.

Nick Thomas stated he lives in Oxford but has worked in Auburn Hills for a long time and has loved this City and views Auburn Hills as being very progressive and innovative. He asked if there has been any discussion in the City about all the energy saving innovations. He is also the CEO of Clear Path Michigan, whose focus is creating efficient energy solutions for commercial properties. On average a commercial business has over 30% utility waste; he would like to see a program in the City that pushes energy efficiency for commercial businesses. He looks forward to the opportunity of having a discussion with the City.

Ms. Verbeke suggested Mr. Thomas contact Community Development Director Steve Cohen, who has advocated LEED buildings and green initiatives. The City has asked developers to include some LEED suggested items, but developers find it cost prohibitive.
Mr. Thomas explained Pace Financial is the answer to the cost concerns, which is available to everyone.

Mayor Pro Tem Kittle noted the City has changed over to LED lighting in all the municipal buildings, as well as the street lighting on the major streets. He suggested Mr. Thomas get in touch and discuss his concerns and ideas with the Auburn Hills Chamber of Commerce.

- He will attend the Michigan Municipal League conference, March 23 & 24, unless another Council person wishes to attend.
- Next Tuesday night is the Avondale Youth Assistance Volunteer Appreciation dinner.

Mayor Pro Tem Kittle:

- He was honored today with MDOT Director Kirk Steudle and the CFO, who visited his office, and they were very excited about the diverging diamond interchange project.
- Sea Life grand opening and ribbon cutting is taking place Thursday, January 29, 2015 at 11:00 a.m.

11. CITY ATTORNEY’S REPORT - none

12. CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

- Noted the purchase of new vehicles is not taken lightly, and the replacement vehicles approved this evening have mileages ranging from 80,000+ up to over 115,000 miles. Many of these vehicles experience a great amount of wear and tear, much more than a family vehicle.
- The contractors are wrapping up the work at the Community Center, and staff is getting ready to move back in. The Community Center will be opened and up for business, Monday, February 2nd. About one-third of the gym floor will need to be replaced; but will not be done for another few months.
- The search for the new Human Resource Generalist has concluded and they will begin working February 23rd.
- Attended the Keeper of the Dream event at Oakland University, with the keynote address given by actress Jurnee Smollett-Bell, to a packed house. Ms. Mitchell and Ms. Carroll also attended.
- First round of mediation talks was completed with three bargaining groups and a tentative agreement has been reached with two of the three.
- Got a preview of the Sea Life Aquarium, a 35,000 square foot attraction from Merlin Entertainments and it is spectacular. More can be learned at [www.visitsealife.com/michigan](http://www.visitsealife.com/michigan)
- Mayor Pro Tem Kittle asked about the retired vehicles and if they have been made available to the citizens for purchase.

  Mr. Tanghe explained the vehicles are placed on MITN for bidding, but there is no general announcement made to residents. Anyone is able to bid on the vehicles.

  Mr. Brisson explained the vehicles are on the MITN site and generally wholesalers purchase the cars, but they are available to individuals as well.

  Mr. Kittle thought maybe a low Kelly Blue Book amount may entice citizens to bid on the vehicles.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

______________________________  ________________________________
Kevin R. McDaniel, Mayor          Terri Kowal, City Clerk
CITY OF AUBURN HILLS  
RESOLUTION 15.01.015  
VACATING A PORTION OF AN ALLEY AND LACKAWANA  
LOCATED IN THE PLAT OF LAKE ANGELUS SUBDIVISION  
IN THE CITY OF AUBURN HILLS  

At a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Auburn Hills, Oakland County, Michigan, held in the Council Chamber at 1827 N. Squirrel Road, Auburn Hills MI 48326 at 7:00 p.m., on the 26th day of January, 2015.

The following resolution was offered by Council Member Knight and supported by Council Member Burmeister:

WHEREAS, Section 62-14 of the Auburn Hills City Code, as amended, provides that whenever the Auburn Hills City Council shall deem it advisable, it may vacate any road or street, or any part thereof, and that it shall hold a public hearing for the purpose of hearing objections thereto; and

WHEREAS, the Auburn Hills City Council has on the 26th day of January, 2015 considered and held a public hearing on the proposed vacation of a certain portion of a portion of Lackawana and an alley in the Plat of Lake Angelus Subdivision, in the City of Auburn Hills, Oakland County, Michigan; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has jurisdiction in the instant case to vacate the street in question, as such street has been dedicated for public use, and no part of said street is within twenty-five (25) meters of a lake or the general course of a stream; and

WHEREAS, no objections to the vacation were presented to the City Council, either in writing or otherwise, at the public hearing; and

WHEREAS, no facts were disclosed to the City Council which would present a material question as to whether the aforementioned portion of Lackawana and alley that is sought to be vacated is necessary for the promotion of the protection of public health, safety and general welfare.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby resolved by the Auburn Hills City Council that:

1. The portion of Lackawana and alley located in the Plat of Lake Angelus Subdivision, City of Auburn Hills, Oakland County, Michigan, which is legally described in Attachment A, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference, shall be and is vacated.

2. The above-described vacation is granted subject to the reservation by the City of an easement for public utility purposes.

3. Within thirty (30) days after the City Council’s approval of this Resolution, the City Clerk shall record a certified copy of this Resolution with the Oakland County Register of Deeds, and shall file a copy of this Resolution with the Office of the Michigan State Treasurer.

4. The vacation of the above-described portion of Lackawana and alley shall be effective on the date this Resolution is recorded with the Oakland County Register of Deeds, and upon the vacation of said portion of Lackawana and alley becoming effective, said portion of Lackawana and alley shall be removed from the street plan map.

AYES: Mayor Pro Tem Kittle, Council Members Burmeister, Knight, Mitchell, Verbeke

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mayor McDaniel, Council Member Hammond

ABSTENTIONS: None

RESOLUTION 15.01.015 ADOPTED (5-0)
I, the undersigned, the duly appointed City Clerk for the City of Auburn Hills, Oakland County, Michigan do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted at a regular meeting of the Auburn Hills City Council held on the 26th day of January, 2015.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto affixed my official signature on this 27th day of January, 2015.

_______________________________
Terri Kowal, City Clerk
CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Coolman called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Present: Boelter, Coolman, Hammond, Taylor
Absent: Petras
Also Present: Police Chief Olko, Fire Chief Manning, Lt. Gagnon, Lt. Miarka

LOCATION: Grusnick Public Safety Building, 1899 N. Squirrel Road, Auburn Hills MI 48326

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – July 22, 2014 and September 16, 2014
Moved by Taylor to approve the July 22, 2014 minutes.
Seconded by Boelter.
VOTE: Yes: Boelter, Coolman, Hammond, Taylor
No: None
Motion Carried (4-0)

Moved by Taylor to approve the September 16, 2014 minutes.
Seconded by Mr. Boelter.
VOTE: Yes: Boelter, Coolman, Hammond, Taylor
No: None
Motion Carried (4-0)

4. PUBLIC COMMENT – none

5. NEW BUSINESS
5a. Election of Officers
Ms. Hammond nominated Mr. Coolman for Chairman; Seconded by Mr. Boelter.
There were no more nominations.
VOTE: Yes: Boelter, Coolman, Hammond, Taylor
No: None
Motion Carried (4-0)

Mr. Coolman nominated Mr. Boelter as Vice-Chairman; Seconded by Mr. Taylor.
There were no more nominations.
VOTE: Yes: Boelter, Coolman, Hammond, Taylor
No: None
Motion Carried (4-0)

5b. Ocean System AVID Forensic Video Equipment
Police Chief Olko requested this item be moved to the end of the agenda for a demonstration.

5c. Purchase of 27 Taser Electronic Control Devices
Lt. Gagnon explained the deployment of Tasers in the field has demonstrated a true value by protecting police officers and the citizens encountered. Since implementation of a Use of Force review process in 2007, the Department now reviews and tracks all use of force incidents. Since 2007, the Department has experienced 199 use of force incidents of which 59 (29.6%) involved the deployment of a Taser. In 2014 the Police Department handled 25,546 calls for service, wrote 5,240 citations and made 2,789 arrests, and out of all of these encounters there were 26 use of force incidents with nine of them involving Taser use. Since 2007 there have been 11 injuries to officers and 16 injuries to suspects in Taser incidents, most of which are minor scrapes, bumps and bruising. There have been no significant injuries as the result of Taser use.
Lt. Gagnon noted the Department uses yellow Tasers, but black is also available.

The Police Department began purchasing Tasers in 2004 and currently has 64 Taser X26 Electronic Control Devices. These devices are currently assigned to all sworn Department members. Taser International no longer produces the X26 model and no longer services them for repairs. The Tasers have a recommended five year useful life; 61 of the 64 Tasers are now at least seven years old. When the seven year old Tasers break, there is no repairing, they are discarded. These devices may be prone to mechanical failure in a time of need due to their recommended life expectancy.

The new Taser X26P was selected as a replacement of the old Tasers because:

- Operates the same as the X26 (trigger configuration, same cartridges, etc.).
- Similar in size to the X26.
- The new X26P now regulates the amount of electricity delivered so it is consistent at all times.
- Longer battery life (300 more firings than the X26).
- Monitors the device by showing turned on-off, trigger pull, voltage output, temperature etc., which are added features not currently on the X26.

Lt. Gagnon noted the new model is similar in size and the training will be relatively easy because there isn't much of a difference between the old and the new models. The plan is to purchase 27 new Tasers for all Officers working on the road, the retail district and school officer, in 2015. In 2016, replacement Tasers will be purchased for Command staff and Detectives.

The 2015 budget includes $20,000 for the purchase of the new Tasers and the remaining funding, $8,000, will come from drunk driving forfeitures.

Lt. Gagnon confirmed a new holster is needed for the new Taser. He also explained each week, each Taser is tested; a spark test, to make sure it is in working order. Taser International is the only manufacturer who makes these devices.

Responding to a question of what becomes of the old Tasers, Lt. Gagnon explained the past three years there has been a buy-back program, which ended last year. The plan is to store the Tasers and if a buy-back program begins again, then the Tasers will be used for the program. If there is no such program, then likely the old Tasers will be destroyed.

It was questioned if the old Tasers can be donated to another community. Lt. Gagnon stated prior to the destruction and disposal of the old Tasers, all options will be investigated.

Each year, each officer must get recertified to use the Tasers.

Moved by Taylor; Seconded by Boelter.
RESOLVED: To recommend to City Council the purchase of 27 Taser X26P’s and associated equipment by the Auburn Hills Police Department.
VOTE: Yes: Boelter, Coolman, Hammond, Taylor
No: None
Motion Carried (4-0)

5d. In-Car Computer Purchase

Lt. Gagnon explained there are 135 agencies throughout SE Michigan that are CLEMIS (Courts and Law Enforcement Management Information System) participants which allows CLEMIS cooperative bidding to secure excellent pricing. The County of Oakland conducted a bidding process in 2012 for Dell computer equipment. This contract is extended to all local units of government and was utilized by CLEMIS.

Currently, there are eight Motorola computers in the Police fleet; the computer is located in the trunk of the car with a cable extending to the key board and monitor. The other Police vehicles have the Dell laptop computer. This bid includes eight Dell laptop computers and power supplies. Mounting supplies and installation are handled on a separate purchase through vehicle upfitters. There is $29,000 budgeted for this purchase; the cost of the Mobile Workstations are approximately $17,000 and the installation is about $9,000.

The company doing the installation is an automotive company that installs after-market equipment to emergency vehicles. The old computers are sold to an area company, who resells the computers. The hard drive is removed and destroyed by the Department, prior to selling.

Moved by Boelter; Seconded by Hammond.
RESOLVED: To recommend to City Council the Police Department purchase eight Dell 6430ATG Mobile Workstations, from Dell with the Oakland County bid in the amount of $17,042.32.
VOTE: Yes: Boelter, Coolman, Hammond, Taylor
No: None
Motion Carried (4-0)
6. OLD BUSINESS

6a. EMS Update

Fire Chief Manning explained the Calls for Service are pretty consistent every month. There was a slight increase in calls handled by STAR in December; one of the City’s vehicles was out of commission for a week. The billing for December was $80,000, but Medicare and Medicaid only allow a specific amount, so all of the $80,000 will not be collected.

It should be noted the billing procedure irregularities have been addressed, so the amounts being paid should become more consistent and in line with the service calls. For the eight months of in-house service, $246,000 has been collected by the Department. From that amount, the billing company charges 5.5%, $13,533; net to the City is $232,000, averaging $30,000 a month.

Fire Chief Manning explained the 2015 budget combined EMS and Fire Suppression into one budget. There is a new ambulance budgeted for in 2016.

Mr. Coolman asked if the budgets are on track as anticipated when first moving forward with in-house EMS services.

Fire Chief Manning explained there is a two to three month lag time with the collections, noting the services are running a little behind the projection. He believes this is a good endeavor; the costs are being covered and there is additional personnel on duty during the busiest hours resulting in quicker response times.

Responding to Mr. Coolman, Fire Chief Manning explained combining the Police and Fire Departments into one was not for the purposes of having in-house EMS services; the original purpose was to balance the budget of the Fire Department.

Police Chief Olko explained the problems in the Fire Department were both financial and operational and Fire Chief Manning worked very hard at turning things around. The in-house EMS operations was not originally intended, but after a study it was determined that it may help off-set some of the costs.

Mr. Coolman asked if there are still struggles in the Fire Department.

Fire Chief Manning explained operations are being run on a milage rate far less than 15 years ago, though the operations have increased; the demands and personnel have increased. Overall, there has been progress made in the Fire Department during the last three years, all through a team effort. There is always room for improvement, which will continue.

Fire Chief Manning stated all the full time positions are complete and as always hunting for paid-on-call personnel.

Ms. Hammond asked about response times and how the new Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) was going.

Fire Chief Manning explained the response time is 5.93 minutes, for emergency response times. When the Department switched over to the EMD, it helped to differentiate a real emergency that required lights and sirens and not a life threatening emergency. An agreement was signed with the County as an EMS provider that the response time will be under 7 minutes.

Fire Chief Manning stated he doesn’t have the response time for Fire, just the EMT runs, but will find the information for Ms. Hammond. He also noted there hasn’t been any difficulties getting into the gated communities.

7. REPORT FROM THE DEPARTMENTS

7a. Fire Department

Fire Chief Manning:

- 2012 and 2013 were learning experiences for him, and understanding how the Fire Department worked. 2013 and 2014 was preparing for the in-house EMS operations and launching the project. 2014 also included learning and purchasing fire apparatus. There are no capital purchases for 2015, the new fire apparatus should be delivered in March or April. In 2015 the Department will be focusing on updating the policy and procedures as well as a training model.

Training days have always been the first and third Wednesday’s of the month for paid on-call personnel; three hours sessions in the morning and evening. All personnel has to have continuous training, including paid on-call, full time, and part time. This has become difficult in trying to keep overtime to a minimum, so options are currently being investigated. Some options discussed are...
a competency based program and a quarterly super Saturday session, for those that don’t attend
the Wednesday classes.

- The Fire Union, IAFF, contract expired January 1, 2015; a completed successful mediation has
been reached with an agreeable contract. The new contract agreement reflects an increase in
benefits of $200,000, by the end of the four year contract.

Mr. Taylor stated there must be a milage increase for the Fire Department, the general fund cannot
continually be dipped into to subsidize the Department. The Fire Department is growing and the
demands are greater than they have ever been.

*Police Chief Olko stated Lt. Gagnon has the EMD Status and Update*

6b. EMD Status and Update

Lt. Gagnon explained the system is up and running and 25 recordings from the Dispatch each week, both
fire and medical calls, have been sent to a national quality assurance person who is listening and grading
how each call was handled. The categories being graded are: Case Entry – address, phone number, age
and vitals; Chief Complaint – what is wrong; Key questions – related to the condition; PAI’s – pre-arrival
instructions; PDI’s – post dispatch instructions; Final Coding – final determinant code; Custer Service –
communication skills. The basis for the grading is if the questions are being asked as written, giving
instructions the way dispatch has been trained and picking the correct chain of events software - all very
specific. Dispatch is continually improving with the new system.

Fire Chief Manning confirmed for Mr. Coolman, the power lift cots are working very well, and are appreciated
by staff.

Ms. Hammond asked if it is more difficult with the disappearing phone land lines when dispatch receives
calls and not being able to have the street address pop-up.

Lt. Gagnon explained cell phone numbers automatically appear as does the basic location of the caller,
giving longitude and latitude of the cell tower. With cell phone calls, the exact location is needed from the
caller.

Police Chief Olko explained the 911 texting through the County is intended for the hard of hearing at this
time. Oakland County is moving forward with the texting just as they did when wireless phones first used
for 911, with working out the kinks before each community moves forward. Oakland County receives all
the texts and then forwards those messages on to the appropriate community for action.

5b. Ocean System AVID Forensic Video Equipment

Lt. Miarka explained in 2008 the Police Department purchased Ocean Systems to enable the enhancement
of video recordings from various businesses in the City. In 2012, a partial upgrade was done of the AVID
system knowing the hardware was warranted for three more years. The system is getting old and not able
to keep up with the new technology. In an effort to keep costs down there are updates to this system that
are a fraction of the cost as opposed to purchasing a new system. In addition to the software, the new
system will include a new Safe AV RAID with an eight terabyte storage capacity which doubles the existing
capacity. The technological upgrades to the computer will maintain its effectiveness through 2018 - 2019.
Staying with this system will not require all new training that can take from months to years to learn.

Sgt. Eftink gave a demonstration.

Lt. Miarka confirmed this will be purchased with drug forfeiture money.

Moved by Hammond; Seconded by Taylor.

RESOLVED: To recommend purchase of the Ocean System AVID Forensic Video Equipment upgrade
and authorize the City Manager to convey acceptance by purchase order in the amount not to exceed
$12,994.00.

VOTE: Yes: Boelter, Coolman, Hammond, Taylor
No: None

Motion Carried (4-0)

7b. Police Department

Police Chief Olko:

- Noted there has been a lot of movement with the personnel; all the lieutenants changed rolls in
November. Two sergeants and one detective retired in October; there have promotions to fill those
vacancies as well as the hiring of new officers. Two detectives are yet to be promoted and the
hiring process will continue to fill the vacancies created by promotions.
City Council approved the contract with Chrysler for two, $1.00 vehicles, which means the Department participates in the evaluation of the vehicles. These vehicles can only be used as marked, patrol cars which will be returned to Chrysler at the end of the two year contract. The new cars will be equipped with the equipment from two of the vehicles that are being returned to Chrysler.

There are 22 vehicles in the patrol fleet. This year two vehicles are being replaced, but next year it will be necessary to replace nine vehicles.

She hasn't forgotten about the building project and has been debating if the plan can be scaled down. It is still on the back burner; increased security in the lobby is needed and dispatch is in the need of more space.

In the 2015 budget, the City is projecting the ad valorem taxes will be $8.7 million, the lowest in many years. The discussion of milages may include the Police Department as well as the Fire Department.

Asked if there are any questions regarding the Citizens Complaint Report or Use of Force Report, she forwarded to Board members. In 2014, there were only four complaints against officers, the highest number was in 1997 with 19 complaints. The national average of use of force is just over 1% of all police encounters.

Mr. Coolman asked if there are any statistics that show what percentage of City crime is related to Great Lakes Crossing.

Police Chief Olko stated it is known geographically where crimes are committed, how many arrests are made and how many crimes are reported. The City has very low violent crime, but the mall does produce quite a bit of retail fraud, as does any major shopping center.

Mr. Taylor stated he observed a young woman coming to the station to get court ordered fingerprints, who had multiple body piercings. He asked why the woman was not informed at the court of the necessity of removing the piercing prior to getting finger printed. Ultimately she was turned away because not all the piercings could be removed.

It was explained the court covers many municipalities and each municipality has their own rules. This Department is waiting to see the outcome of the woman wearing a hijab who is suing another community.

Mr. Taylor asked if there has been any discussion regarding body cameras.

Police Chief Olko stated she isn’t sure they are the solution; she is concerned with what will become of all the data and the storage capabilities would be tremendous. It may also have an impact on the FOIA laws.

Lt. Miarka noted one agency had so many requests for the video that full time staff had to be hired to fulfill all the requests.

Police Chief Olko stated there is the in-car videos and the officers have microphones. She prefers to wait and see how it plays out in other communities.

8. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD - none

9. ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no objection, the meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen Novak
Deputy City Clerk
DATE: FEBRUARY 9, 2015

To: Mayor and City Council
From: Thomas A. Tanghe, City Manager; Doreen E. Olko, Chief of Police
Submitted: February 4, 2015
Subject: Motion: Accept Traffic Control Order SS-15 Updates Stop Sign TCO; Revise Yield Sign TCO

INTRODUCTION AND HISTORY
On September 23, 2014 the Directed Patrol Unit received a traffic complaint from a resident near the intersection of Alberta and Quebec. The complaint was regarding vehicles disregarding the Yield signs on Quebec at Alberta. To investigate the Directed Patrol Unit placed counters on Alberta near Quebec on October 1 through October 8. There were a total of 3188 vehicles that traveled on Alberta during that time. The Directed Patrol Unit placed counters on Quebec on October 20 through 28. There were 687 vehicles that traveled on Quebec during that period. A research of the crashes at that intersection over the last 3 years showed only a rollover crash on September 21, 2014. The responsible driver disregarded the Yield sign causing the injury crash.

Mr. Cawley of TIA advised the Alberta and Quebec intersection has sight restrictions on the northeast corner that cannot be mitigated. Mr. Cawley stated per the Michigan Manual on Traffic Control Devices (MMUTCD) less restrictive traffic control (yield signs) should not be utilized and stop signs placed to remediate the situation.

Chief Olko signed a temporary TCO on November 19th, 2014 valid for 90 days so the Yield signs on Quebec at Alberta were replaced with Stop signs. There have been no crashes at the intersection since the stop signs were posted.

Section 257.1 of the MMUTCD Traffic Control Order states that a Traffic Control Order means an order officially establishing the location of traffic control devices and traffic control signals on the highways of this state by the authority having jurisdiction over such highway.
STAFF RECOMMENDATION
Staff recommends approval of Traffic Control Order SS-15 which replaces the Yield signs with Stop signs on Quebec at Alberta.

MOTION
Move to adopt Traffic Control Order SS-15 making it permanent and approve revised YS-15 to remove the Yield signs on Quebec at Alberta and replace them with Stop signs.

I CONCUR: 

[Signature]

Thomas A. Tanghe, City Manager
City of Auburn Hills
Traffic Control Order

STOP SIGNS

Order No.: ___SS-15_________ Date of Filing: ____________________

IN ACCORDANCE WITH ORDINANCE 678 AS AMENDED, WE HAVE MADE AN INVESTIGATION INTO
TRAFFIC CONDITIONS ON:

Alberta At Ontario (4 way stop)
Alberta At Manitoba
Alpeana At Waller
Alpeana At Ontario
Amberwood At Quebec
Ashburnham At Hempstead
Bald Mountain Road At Phillips Road
Boylston At Juniper
Boylston At Cherryland
Chaseway Blvd At Hathaway Drive
Continental At N Atlantic Blvd (3 way stop)
Dexter Road At Shimmons Road
Eaton Gate Lane At Chase Way Blvd
Edna Jane At Walnut
Galloway Court At Commonwealth Road
Genes At Phillips Road
Genes (East of Walnut) At Walnut
Glenrose (N/B) At Hatton
Grey Road At Primary
Hathaway Drive At Ridge Blvd (W/B)
Hatton At Glenrose
Hatton At Zelma
Hawthorne Drive At Castlewood Court and Castlewood Drive
Hamlet At Hempstead
Hempstead (E/B) At Provincetown
Hunt Club Blvd At Bloomfield Village Blvd.
James At Phillips Road
Jamestown At Old Salem
Joswick At Five Points Drive
Lincolnview At entrance to Avondale Elementary School
N. Atlantic Blvd At Continental (3 way stop)
Ontario At Amberwood
Pacific Drive At Taylor Road
Phillips Road At Bald Mountain Road
Phillips Road At Shimmons Road
Primary At Juniper

Revision Date

Last Revised 2/2/2015
Page 1 of 2
City of Auburn Hills
Traffic Control Order

STOP SIGNS

Provincetown At Southampton
Quebec At Alberta
Quebec At Alpeana
Richwood At Pontiac Court
Ridge Blvd At Chase Way Blvd
Schoolcraft At Waukegon
Shimmons Road At Phillips Road
Shimmons Court At Hill Road
Squirrel Court (S/B) At Squirrel Court
West Entrance At Hamlin Road

AND AS A RESULT OF SAID INVESTIGATION, DO HEREBY DIRECT THAT:

In the interest of public safety, it is deemed necessary to place and maintain traffic control devices and traffic control signals on streets and highways under its jurisdiction for the purpose of regulating, warning, or guiding traffic. Therefore, all traffic on the first listed street will yield the right of way prior to entering the intersection with the second listed street.

THE FOLLOWING TRAFFIC CONTROL ORDER IS HEREBY RESCINDED __SS-02____.

THIS ORDER SHALL EXPIRE 90 DAYS FROM THE DATE OF FILING, EXCEPT THAT UPON ITS APPROVAL BY CITY COUNCIL, IT SHALL NOT EXPIRE.

_____________________________  ___________________ __________
Doreen E. Olko, Chief of Police   Thomas A. Tanghe, City Manager

Approved by City Council on _________________________.

___________________________
Terri Kowal, City Clerk

Revision Date
02/09/2015
IN ACCORDANCE WITH ORDINANCE 678 AS AMENDED, WE HAVE MADE AN INVESTIGATION INTO
TRAFFIC CONDITIONS ON:

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<td>Binghampton</td>
<td>Provincetown</td>
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<td>Nichols</td>
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<td>Crofthill</td>
<td>Binghampton</td>
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<td>Genes (west of Walnut)</td>
<td>Walnut</td>
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<td>Ridge Boulevard (E/B)</td>
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<td>Jamestown</td>
<td>Provincetown</td>
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<td>Knollwood</td>
<td>Oaknoll</td>
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<td>James</td>
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AND AS A RESULT OF SAID INVESTIGATION, DO HEREBY DIRECT THAT:

In the interest of public safety, it is deemed necessary to place and maintain traffic control devices
and traffic control signals on streets and highways under its jurisdiction for the purpose of regulating,
warning, or guiding traffic. Therefore, all traffic on the first listed street will yield the right of way
prior to entering the intersection with the second listed street.

THE FOLLOWING TRAFFIC CONTROL ORDER IS HEREBY RESCINDED ___YS-04____.
YIELD SIGNS

THIS ORDER SHALL EXPIRE 90 DAYS FROM THE DATE OF FILING, EXCEPT THAT UPON ITS APPROVAL BY
CITY COUNCIL, IT SHALL NOT EXPIRE.

___________________________  ___________________________
Doreen E. Olko, Chief of Police   Thomas A. Tanghe, City Manager

Approved by City Council on: _________________________.

______________________________
Terri Kowal, City Clerk
INTRODUCTION AND HISTORY

On July 29, 2014 the Directed Patrol Unit received a traffic complaint from a resident at 351 North Squirrel Road, Oakland Estates. The complaint was regarding vehicles not stopping at the stop signs located within the manufactured home community at 351 North Squirrel Road.

The Directed Patrol Unit inspected the stop signs in Oakland Estates and determined they meet regulatory standards per the Michigan Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MMUTCD). The stop signs located within Oakland Estates are in the correct location to maintain proper traffic control. Although this is private property open to the public, police are authorized to issue traffic tickets with written authority from the owner’s representative if there is a Traffic Control Order established according to an opinion issued by the City Attorney’s Office.

The department has a letter on file from the Oakland Estates community manager authorizing stop sign enforcement. Oakland Estates management has agreed to maintain the stop signs to ensure they continue to meet the regulatory standards per the MMUTCD.

Chief Olko signed a temporary Traffic Control Order on November 20, 2014, good for 90 days which must be authorized by City Council to become permanent. The Directed Patrol Unit did community education through a flyer distributed through the community and some days of traffic stops with only warnings issued in the days immediately after the temporary order took effect. No negative effects have been reported.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends approval of Traffic Control Order Private Property SS-2015 which establishes a TCO for the stop signs located within the Oakland Estates community.

MOTION

Move to adopt Traffic Control Order Private Property SS-2015, Oakland Estates.
July 29, 2014

Auburn Hills Police Department
Attn: Office Christopher Mahon
1899 North Squirrel Road
Auburn Hills, MI 48326

Dear Officer Mahon:

In order to ensure the safety of our residents located in Oakland Estates and to ensure our residents and guests adhere to our speed limit and stop signs, we are authorizing the Auburn Hills Police Department to stop and ticket (if necessary) any vehicle for these traffic violations within Oakland Estates Manufactured Home Community located at 351 N. Squirrel Road.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this authorization, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at: 248-852-6612.

Thank you for your assistance with this request.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Dan Holland
Community Manager
Oakland Estates

Theoaklandestatesmhc@gmail.com
IN ACCORDANCE WITH ORDINANCE 678 AS AMENDED AND AT THE REQUEST OF THE PROPERTY
OWNER, WE HAVE MADE AN INVESTIGATION INTO TRAFFIC CONDITIONS AT 351 NORTH SQUIRREL
ROAD, OAKLAND ESTATES MOBILE HOME COMMUNITY:

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<th>Street 2</th>
<th>Revision Date</th>
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<td>11/20/2014</td>
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<td>At Woodside Drive</td>
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<td>11/20/2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pheasant Lane</td>
<td>At Orchard Drive</td>
<td>11/20/2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pheasant Lane</td>
<td>At Squirrel Road</td>
<td>11/20/2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shady Lane</td>
<td>At Woodside Circle</td>
<td>11/20/2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shoreview Drive</td>
<td>At Lakeview Drive</td>
<td>11/20/2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shoreview Drive</td>
<td>At Lakeshore Hollow</td>
<td>11/20/2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodside Drive</td>
<td>At Lakeview Drive</td>
<td>11/20/2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodside Drive</td>
<td>At Orchard Drive</td>
<td>11/20/2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodside Circle</td>
<td>At Woodside Drive</td>
<td>11/20/2014</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

AND AS A RESULT OF SAID INVESTIGATION, DO HEREBY DIRECT THAT:

In the interest of public safety, it is deemed necessary to place and maintain traffic control devices
and traffic control signals on streets that are private but open to the public, under its jurisdiction for
the purpose of regulating, warning, or guiding traffic at the written request of the property owner or
owner representative. Therefore, all traffic on the first listed street will yield the right of way prior to
entering the intersection with the second listed street.

THE FOLLOWING TRAFFIC CONTROL ORDER IS HEREBY RESCINDED ___None____.

THIS ORDER SHALL EXPIRE 90 DAYS FROM THE DATE OF FILING, EXCEPT THAT UPON ITS APPROVAL BY
CITY COUNCIL, IT SHALL NOT EXPIRE.

__________________________________________  ______________________________________
Doreen E. Otko, Chief of Police               Thomas A. Tanghe, City Manager
Approved by City Council on ________________________.

___________________________
Terri Kowal, City Clerk
INTRODUCTION AND HISTORY

As members of CLEMIS (Courts and Law Enforcement Management Information System) the Police Department participates in the system-wide mobile data computer system which allows officers to access the state, regional and national criminal justice information systems from their patrol cars. Officers also write police incident reports, electronic crash reports and electronic citations in the cars, keeping officers out of the station and in the community. Another benefit of this system is that we can take advantage of the group purchasing of computers to reduce costs. There are now 135 agencies throughout SE Michigan that are CLEMIS participants which allows CLEMIS cooperative bidding to secure excellent pricing. The County of Oakland conducted a bidding process in 2012 for Dell computer equipment. This contract is extended to all local units of government and was utilized by CLEMIS. Dell was awarded the bid for the 6430ATG laptop mobile computers at a cost of $2,009.26 each and power supplies for $121.03 each. CLEMIS will not support or allow connectivity of any computer to the system unless approved by them thus maintaining system integrity and security.

The Police Department 2015 Approved Budget includes $29,000 to purchase 8 computers to replace outdated models that are being phased out by CLEMIS and labor and parts to install the equipment. The proposed new Dell Mobile Workstations will provide significantly improved connectivity to the CLEMIS programs such as electronic citation, electronic crash reporting and the automobile impound module. The purchase of the 8 Dell 6430ATG Laptops will complete the replacement of the 8 oldest Motorola computers that we have in our patrol fleet.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the purchase of 8 Dell 6430ATG Mobile Workstations from Dell under the Oakland County Bid.

MOTION

Move to approve the purchase of eight (8) Dell 6430ATG Mobile Workstations from Dell under the Oakland County Bid at a cost of $17,042.32 and authorize the City Manager to convey acceptance by purchase order.

I CONCUR:

Thomas A. Tanghe, City Manager
To: Mayor and City Council
From: Thomas A. Tanghe, City Manager; Doreen E. Olko, Chief of Police
Submitted: January 30, 2015
Subject: Motion – Purchase of 27 New Taser Weapons

INTRODUCTION AND HISTORY

The Police Department began purchasing Tasers in 2004 and currently has 64 Taser X26 Electronic Control Devices. These devices are currently assigned to all sworn department members. Taser International no longer produces the X26 model and no longer services them for repairs. They have a recommended 5 year useful life. 61 of the 64 Tasers are now at least 7 years old and have been experiencing increased battery drain and some mechanical problems. These devices may be prone to mechanical failure in a time of need due to their recommended life expectancy.

The deployment of Tasers in the field has demonstrated a true value to our community by protecting police officers and the citizens they encounter. Since implementation of a Use of Force review process in 2007, the department now reviews and tracks all use of force incidents in order to ensure compliance of applicable laws, adherence to policy and that proper training is being conducted. Since 2007, the department has experienced 199 use of force incidents of which 59 (29.6%) involved the deployment of a Taser. In 2014 the Police Department handled 25,546 calls for service, wrote 5,240 citations and made 2,789 arrests. Out of all of these encounters with the public we experienced 26 use of force incidents where 9 of them involved the use of a Taser. The use of Tasers in the field reduces injuries to officers and suspects by 60%.1 Since 2007 there have been 11 injuries to officers and 16 injuries to suspects in Taser incidents. Most of these injuries involve minor scrapes, bumps and bruising. There have been no significant injuries as the result of Taser use.

Training staff at the Police Department have researched and evaluated the current products available from Taser International. The new Taser X26P was selected as a replacement of the old Tasers for the following reasons:

- Operates the same as the X26 (trigger configuration, same cartridges, etc.).
- Similar in size to the X26.
- The new X26P now regulates the amount of electricity delivered so it is consistent at all times.
- Longer battery life (300 more firings than the X26).
- Monitors the device by showing turned on-off, trigger pull, voltage output, etc., which are added features not currently on the X26.

Taser International is a sole source provider of this type of electronic control device with Michigan Taser Distributing as its sole distributor in Michigan. The chart below depicts the equipment necessary to supply all officers within the patrol division, school resource officer, and retail district officers with...
Tasers. A budget proposal will be made to purchase the remaining Tasers to equip command staff and detectives in FY 2016, in order to spread the costs associated with purchasing this equipment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Equipment</th>
<th>Qty</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Taser X26P</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>$899.95</td>
<td>$24,298.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single Power Magazine (Battery)</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>$54.50</td>
<td>$763.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extended Power Magazine (Battery)</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>$63.50</td>
<td>$825.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X26P Blade-Tech holsters</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>$53.25</td>
<td>$1,437.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shipping</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>$273.24</td>
<td>$273.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$27,598.14</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$20,000 was approved in the 2015 Approved Budget to purchase Tasers. The remaining $7,598.14 will be expended using OWI (Operating While Impaired) forfeiture funds, which only may be used for law enforcement purposes.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends the purchase of twenty seven (27) Taser X26P’s and associated equipment from Michigan Taser Distributing.

**MOTION**

Move to approve the purchase of twenty seven (27) Taser X26P’s and associated equipment by the Auburn Hills Police Department and authorized the City Manager to convey acceptance by purchase order in the amount of $27,598.14.

I CONCUR:  

THOMAS A. TANGHE, CITY MANAGER
Meeting Date: February 9, 2015

To: Mayor and City Council
From: Thomas A. Tanghe, City Manager; Stephanie Carroll, Mgr. of Business Dev/Community Relations
Submitted: February 4, 2015
Subject: Approval of CKC Agency Agreement

Introduction and History
Several months ago, the City concluded services provided by its then, media relations consultant. In the fall of last year, staff was directed to begin a search for a replacement. After completing a RFQ process, five companies were interviewed and staff narrowed down the candidates to two consultants. On January 12, 2015, City Council received presentations by each of the two consultants about their respective companies and capabilities. City Council concluded that entering into negotiations with CKC Agency was in the City’s best interests and was the best fit for our community needs.

Staff Recommendation
Based on budgetary limitations, staff negotiated an Agreement to begin on March 1, 2015 and ending on December 31, 2015, at a monthly cost of $3,000. A copy of the negotiated Agreement is attached hereto and has been reviewed, adjusted, and accepted by the City’s legal counsel.

Motion
Move to approve the Public Relations and Media Service Agreement by and between the City of Auburn Hills and CKC Public Relations, LLC (dba CKC Agency) for the period of March 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015 in the amount of $3,000 monthly and authorize the City Manager to execute the Agreement on behalf of the City.

I Concur:

Thomas A. Tanghe, City Manager
CKC Agency
PUBLIC RELATIONS AND MEDIA SERVICE AGREEMENT
February 9, 2015

I.
PARTIES

The parties to this Agreement are CKC Public Relations, LLC (dba CKC Agency), 28580 Orchard Lake Road, Suite 210, Farmington Hills, MI 48344 (CKC Agency) and City of Auburn Hills, 1827 North Squirrel Road, Auburn Hills, MI 48326.

II.
PURPOSE OF AGREEMENT

CKC Agency and City of Auburn Hills desire to enter into a contractual relationship whereby CKC Agency acts as a public relations and media services agency for City of Auburn Hills upon the terms and conditions set forth below.

III.
TERMS AND CONDITIONS

(a) CKC Agency will undertake specific agreed upon tasks on behalf of City of Auburn Hills in the area of public relations and media services. These tasks will be performed to the fullest extent possible by CKC Agency. CKC Agency will maintain records of all activities performed on behalf of City of Auburn Hills.

(b) City of Auburn Hills grants CKC Agency full rights and authority to undertake public relations and media services activities on behalf of City of Auburn Hills throughout the United States. City of Auburn Hills provides CKC Agency with the right and authority to solicit introductions to City of Auburn Hills and its product(s) from any potential editor, industry analyst, broadcast producer, print or broadcast media, Internet web site or other editorial interested party.

(c) The terms of reference by CKC Agency to public relations targets shall be the terms established by City of Auburn Hills who shall provide CKC Agency with product/event specifications and marketing direction as may be modified from time to time.

(d) Payment for services is due on the 1st of each month. A payment will be deemed late if not received by CKC Agency by the 7th day of that month and a late fee shall be assessed.

Fees owed to CKC Agency are not conditioned upon the results of services provided by CKC Agency. The monthly fee does not include any media or collateral elements that we may purchase on your behalf. All additional media and collateral purchases will be presented to City of Auburn Hills for approval before purchase and will be paid separately and directly by City of Auburn Hills to the vendor or CKC Agency.

City of Auburn Hills agrees to pay CKC Agency a public relations and media services fee of $3,000 per month from March 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015 for the following services:

- Publicity services and media outreach

At the end of the contract, it may be renewed in writing, signed by both parties, after both parties negotiate a mutually agreeable fee structure and new contract dates.
(e) The effective date of this Agreement shall be March 1, 2015. The Agreement may be terminated by either party for any reason whatsoever, upon a 30 day notice in writing. The parties may mutually agree upon a shorter termination notice period if in writing and signed by all parties to the Agreement.

(f) CKC Agency is an independent contractor of City of Auburn Hills and not an employee of City of Auburn Hills.

(g) After obtaining prior verbal or written approval from City of Auburn Hills, CKC Agency has the right to share or publicize the work they perform on behalf of City of Auburn Hills. This work authorization includes, but is not limited to, inclusion on the CKC website, sharing with prospective clients, and airing on or publishing in the media.

IV. BILLING PROCEDURES

(a) Late payments, as defined in paragraph III (d) shall be assessed a late fee in addition to the outstanding balance. The late fee is 1.5% of the outstanding balance per month, compounded monthly. Any payments collected after the late payment shall be allocated first to the late fee, then to the late payment and then to the current balance. A partial payment will not stop the imposition of the late fee.

(b) Work on this account may be discontinued without notice if the account is overdue in excess of 30 days. CKC Agency has the option of resuming service or terminating the account after payment of the arrearage and late fees. If CKC Agency agrees to resume service, it may be at a higher rate than before they terminated the account.

V. INDEMNITY

City of Auburn Hills agrees to defend, indemnify and hold CKC Agency harmless against any loss, cost or expense CKC Agency may sustain or incur as the result of any claim, suit or proceeding made, brought or threatened against CKC Agency arising out of the Agreement herein against City of Auburn Hills or any assertions made on behalf of City of Auburn Hills by CKC Agency, except to the extent that said loss, cost or expense arises out of the negligence of CKC Agency, in which case the City of Auburn Hills shall not have an obligation to defend, indemnify and/or hold CKC Agency harmless. The expenses indemnified against include reasonable attorney's fees and costs incurred in any litigation identified above.

VI. DISPUTES BETWEEN THE PARTIES

(a) Attorney’s Fees and Litigation Costs: In the event of a disagreement between the parties to this Agreement, the prevailing party shall be entitled to recover attorney’s fees and costs from the non-prevailing party. Attorney’s fees shall be awarded whether the claim for relief is based on contract law, tort law, or both.

(b) Venue: The venue where any dispute shall be maintained is the City of Farmington Hills, and County of Oakland, State of Michigan.

VII. CONFIDENTIALITY

CKC Agency shall maintain the confidentiality of all trade and proprietary secrets that may be disclosed in the course of providing public relations services. City of Auburn Hills shall identify to CKC Agency in advance and in writing any information or data deemed a trade or proprietary secret.
INTEGRATED AGREEMENT

This contract constitutes the final, complete and exclusive statement of the agreement between the parties herein. This Agreement contains all the representations and the entire agreement between the parties with respect to the subject matter of this Agreement. All other prior Agreements are null and void and are superseded by this Agreement.

Dated: ___________________

____________________________________________
Carolyn Krieger-Cohen, Founder, CKC Agency

Dated: ___________________

____________________________________________
Thomas A. Tanghe, City Manager, City of Auburn Hills
To: Mayor and City Council  
From: Thomas A. Tanghe, City Manager, and Mark Michling, Manager of Public Utilities  
Submitted: January 30, 2015  
Subject: 2015 Bloomfield Orchards Water Main Replacement Scope of Engineering Services

INTRODUCTION AND HISTORY

This project scope of services is the sixth phase of the Bloomfield Orchards Water Main Replacement Master Plan which began in 2003. Maps of the completed areas and the 2015 target areas are attached in the packet for reference. Final completion of all pipe bursting is slated for 2016, and will be followed by any remaining concrete road maintenance in 2017. Previously aligned road maintenance has been deferred in order to combine it with a larger scope of City wide concrete maintenance (in 2017) and achieve volume pricing discounts.

The 2015 phase includes pipe bursting of existing cast iron main and replacing it with new high-density polyethylene (HDPE) piping, as well as replacing all fire hydrants and gate valves. Previous segments of the project indicate copper services and stop boxes will only be replaced on an as needed basis. There will be no significant concrete maintenance proposed as a part of this year’s project, save repairing road sections and sidewalks impacted by the pipe bursting. Once existing service lines are connected to the new main, restoration will be completed.

The Proposed project limits for phase 6 are:
- Binghampton from Provincetown to Sheffield
- Jamestown from Old Salem to Provincetown
- Old Salem from Provincetown to Jamestown
- Provincetown from Jamestown to Sheffield

There is $1.5 million budgeted in the 2015 Water Fund for scope of engineering services, construction engineering services and contractor construction costs intended for this project. The OHM scope of engineering services provided in the packet is the first step in the progression of construction.

The cost breakdown is as follows:
- Project Initiation & Obtain Information $ 32,750.00
- Plan Development & Permitting $ 24,500.00
- Final Design & Contract Documents $ 12,500.00
- Bidding Assistance $ 1,750.00

TOTAL…………………… $ 71,500.00

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The DPW Staff recommends the approval of the Scope of Construction Engineering Services for the Bloomfield Orchards Water Main Project.

MOTION

Move to approve the OHM Scope of Engineering Services for the 2015 Bloomfield Orchards Subdivision Water Main Replacement for the not-to-exceed amount of $71,500.00. Funding is provided from The Water Fund (592-536-977.000).

I CONCUR:  
THOMAS A. TANGHE, CITY MANAGER
January 19, 2015

City of Auburn Hills
1500 Brown Road
Auburn Hills, MI 48326

Attention:  Mr. Ronald Melchert
Director of Public Works

Regarding:  2015 Bloomfield Orchards Water Main Improvements (Phase VI)
Scope of Engineering Services

Dear Mr. Melchert:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide professional engineering services for the above referenced project. We have prepared the following project understanding and scope of services to be provided by OHM Advisors based on our previous discussions.

PROJECT UNDERSTANDING

It is our understanding that the City of Auburn Hills plans to continue with the water main improvement program in the Bloomfield Orchards Subdivision for 2015. The water main improvement areas have been selected based on the phasing recommendation from the 2003 Bloomfield Orchards Water Main Replacement Master Plan. The water main upgrades continue a multi-phase project consists of pipe bursting the existing cast iron mains with new high-density polyethylene (HDPE) pipe. The proposed project limits for Phase 6 are:

- Binghampton from Provincetown to Sheffield
- Jamestown from Old Salem to Provincetown
- Old Salem from Provincetown to Jamestown
- Provincetown from Jamestown to Sheffield

In addition to replacement of the existing water main, all hydrants and gate valves will be replaced as part of the project. Based on experience from the previous phases of the project, exiting copper water services have been in good condition with the occasional service line curb stops needing to be replaced.

There will be areas where the water main replacement project will require removing existing roadway, driveway and sidewalk surfaces. No significant concrete maintenance activities are proposed on these roadways as part of this year’s program.

SCOPE OF SERVICE

Task 1 – Project Initiation and Obtain Information
Under this task, we will initiate the project and obtain necessary information to proceed with the design. Specific work efforts include:
- Attend pre-design meeting with the City to discuss project approach and schedule.
- Review existing utility information and record drawings for the Bloomfield Orchards subdivision area.
- Coordinate with the City DPW staff to field locate existing water main in the proposed areas of work.
• Review as-built information from prior phases of water main replacement.
• Collect additional topographic information within the project area as needed to facilitate the design. The survey will focus on utility features within the construction influence area.
• Conduct a condition survey (log) of existing pavements that may be impacted by construction to be utilized in preparation of the contract documents. This information will include but not be limited to road, sidewalk, and driveway dimensions, existing pavement surface conditions, locations and condition of structures within the paved section, pavement markings, curb & gutter, shoulders, and culverts.
• Notify all known utility agencies of the proposed project within the project limits. Check for conflicts and coordinate relocations as needed.

**Task 2 – Plan Development and Permitting**

Under this task, we will undertake the preparation of construction plans and specifications and advertise the project for bidding. Specific work efforts include:

• Revise and prepare plans for the water main improvements.
• Prepare an opinion of probable cost for the proposed work.
• Prepare technical specifications and method of payment entailing materials, equipment, and labor necessary to perform the work.
• Prepare a bid sheet entailing all items of work and associated quantities.
• Prepare preliminary schedule for proposed work including construction start, substantial completion, and final completion dates.
• Perform Quality Assurance/Quality Control reviews.
• Produce two (2) copies of contract documents for the DPW, if requested.
• Prepare documents to obtain a Water Main Extension Permit from MDEQ. If required, a maximum of two (2) submittals will be completed.
• Plan and attend one (1) meeting with the City to review draft contract documents.

**Task 3 – Final Design and Contract Documents**

Based on comments received from permitting agencies and the City on the draft plans, the design will be finalized and contract documents created. Specific work efforts include:

• Finalize design plans based on comments obtained during the draft plan review.
• Finalize technical specifications and method of payment.
• Assemble applicable maintenance of traffic specification necessary to complete the proposed work for inclusion in the contract documents.
• Prepare a bid sheet entailing all items of work and associated quantities.
• Prepare final opinion of probable cost.
• Perform final design Quality Control /Quality Assurance review.
• Prepare final schedule for proposed work including construction start, substantial completion, and final completion dates.
• Plan and attend one (1) meeting with the City to review contract documents prior to distribution for bid, if requested.

**Task 4 – Bidding Assistance**

Once the contract documents are complete, the project will be advertised and bid for construction. Specific work efforts include:

• Prepare and place an advertisement for bid. The job will be advertised for two (2) weeks with MITA & CAM. An invoice for advertisement, if applicable, will be provided to the Clerk for payment.
• OHM will provide plans and contract documents to the prospective Contractors and answer/document Contractor’s questions during the bidding process.
• Attend the bid opening.
• Prepare and evaluate a project bid tab. The bid tab shall include all bidding Contractors’ total project bid and unit price breakdown.
• Check references for the three lowest bidding contractors.
• Provide a recommendation of award to the City.
• If the City Council awards the contract, then OHM will assist in executing the Contract books including the following
  i. Create and mail out a Notice of Award letter to the awarded Contractor.
  ii. Coordinate the execution of six (6) copies of contract book.
  iii. Produce two (2) executed copies of contract documents for the City. One copy will be delivered to the City Clerk and one copy will be delivered to the DPW.
• If the City Council does not award the contract, then OHM will communicate that information to the appropriate Contractors.

SCHEDULE
The project will commence upon authorization to proceed. Field work for this project would take place this winter/spring, with design, permitting, and bidding following. We anticipate that the project can be bid for a presentation to City Council for approval in May. If the project is approved, construction could commence in June. This schedule is based upon an authorization to proceed given by January 30, 2015.

COMPENSATION
The services outlined above will be performed on an hourly basis for the not-to-exceed amount of seventy-one thousand five hundred dollars ($71,500.00). This amount is based on the assumptions listed below. The City will be invoiced for services on a monthly basis. The estimated budget breakdown is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project Initiation &amp; Obtain Information</td>
<td>$ 32,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plan Development &amp; Permitting</td>
<td>$ 24,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Design &amp; Contract Documents</td>
<td>$ 12,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bidding Assistance</td>
<td>$  1,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 71,500</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FURTHER CLARIFICATIONS AND ASSUMPTIONS
The above-listed scope of services was prepared with the following assumptions:
• Presentations to the Planning Commission and City Council will not be required.
• The City will be responsible for all permit application fees and permit fees, if required.
• No permanent right-of-way is anticipated. City will obtain temporary grading easements, if required.
• No geotechnical services are included in this scope of services.
• OHM will be pleased to provide any additional services for this project on an hourly basis.
Services not included in this proposal:
  a. Construction phase services such as, but not limited to, construction management, construction engineering, construction administration, construction observation, and/or construction layout.
  b. Location of private utilities, other than requesting as-built information from private utility owners.
Should you find this agreement acceptable, please execute both copies and return one copy to us for our files. We look forward to providing professional services on this project. If you have any questions, please contact us.

Sincerely,

OHM Advisors

Timothy J. Juidici, P.E.
Client Representative

cc: Jeff Herczeg, Deputy Director of Public Works
    Mark Michling, Manager of Public Utilities
    Nicholas Bayley, OHM Advisors
    File

City of Auburn Hills
2015 Bloomfield Orchards WM Improvements (Phase VI)

Accepted By:________________________________________________________

Printed Name:_______________________________________________________

Title:_______________________________________________________________

Date:_______________________________________________________________
Bloomfield Orchards Pipe Bursting Schedule

Updated Project Schedule

- Completed 2001
- Completed 2002
- Completed 2003
- Completed 2004
- Completed 2014
- Planned 2015-2016
INTRODUCTION AND HISTORY
In 2008 the Department purchased the AVID Forensic Video Equipment through Ocean Systems to enable the enhancement of video recordings from various businesses in the City. The return on the City’s investment into the field of forensic video analysis and the AVID video system has been excellent. The value of the system was demonstrated in many cases including an officer involved shooting, arson, multiple robberies and larcenies. We have also assisted the Oakland County Prosecutor’s Office as well as creating training videos.

In 2012, a partial upgrade was done of the AVID system knowing the hardware was warranted for three more years. As of January of 2015, Oceans Systems will no longer offer software upgrades for the existing Nitris software system. The system uses RAID storage an acronym for redundant array of independent disks. It is a data storage virtualization technology that combines multiple disk drive components into a logical unit for the purposes of data redundancy or performance improvement. In addition to the software the new system will include a new Safe AV RAID with an 8 terabyte storage capacity which doubles our existing capacity. Twice within the last year, files had to be archived and larger cases migrated off the RAID so as not to exceed our current capacity. Further, the existing RAID storage has had two power replacements and two new drives replaced. These repairs are no longer under warranty.

The updates to this system are a fraction of the cost of purchasing a new system and the technological upgrades to the computer will maintain effectiveness through 2018 - 2019. The recommended upgrades are as follows:

1) Ocean Rackmount, Avid Media Composer Ready Window 7 OS - Dual CPU Mother Board with Single Eight Core Xeon 2.0 GHzE5-2640V2., 20MB Cache, 16GB RAM DDR3 1600MHz, 500 GB 7200 RPM "C"drive, BLU-RAY, QuadroK2000 (2GB), NIC, USB 3.0 & 2.0, Firewire, and eSATA, Mouse, Speakers, Keyboard, Ghost, 1 yr. 800 Support, Parts and Labor warranty.........................................................................................................................................................................................$4,795.00

2) AV Storage including 4, 500GB SATA300, 7200RPM (1TB internal memory). .................................................$180.00

3) SafeAV RAID 5 Video/Image Data Storage 2RU 8BAY SATA - LVD320 Interface (8.0/7.0TB) & 1 Spare 1TB Drive 3Yr. Includes ATTO Cable 3 ft Cyntronics UHD68 to HD68 (HDD). ..........................................................................................................................$4,999.00

4) Controller - SAS 8 Port PCI EXPRESS 3Gb/sec...........................................................................................................$451.00

5) 1 Additional Year 800# Phone Support .........................................................................................................................$1,295.00
6) Ocean Systems ClearID - Phone Support & Upgrades 1 yr. (No charge when renewing $1295 dTective support)…$0.00

7) Omnivore Digital Video Field Acquisition Thumb Drive 32GB SEC……………………………………………………$495.00

8) Renewal, Standard Avid Support ..................................................................................................................$299.00

9) Media Composer | Software Elite Support Renewal…………………………………………………………..$400.00

10) Shipping........................................................................................................................................................$80.00

Total.................................................................................................................................................................$12,994.00

Ocean Systems is a division of Dynamic Technologies and is the sole provider of the hardware, technical support, and training for the AVID Forensic Video equipment. The Police Department 2015 Approved Budget includes $13,000.00 for the purchase of this upgrade.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the purchase of the AVID Forensic Video system upgrade from Ocean Systems

MOTION

Move to approve purchase of the Ocean System AVID Forensic Video Equipment upgrade and authorize the City Manager to convey acceptance by purchase order in the amount not to exceed $12,994.00.

I CONCUR:

THOMAS A. TANGHE, CITY MANAGER
To: Mayor and City Council

From: Thomas A. Tanghe, City Manager, Steven J. Cohen, Director of Community Development, and Ronald J. Melchert, Director of Public Works

Submitted: February 2, 2015

Subject: Motion – Adopt Resolution Accepting Rabeeh Drive, Zaher Drive, and Ramzi Lane as Public Roads

INTRODUCTION AND HISTORY

The residential development known as the Shimmons Woodgrove Subdivision was first submitted to the City as a platted subdivision in April 2000. The project was approved by the City Council via the three-stage plat process, with the last approval to start work being obtained in June 2004. The approved plat identified property lines and establishes public right-of-way for roads with the intent that they be dedicated to the City once complete.

New construction in the subdivision was dormant for nearly six years much to the frustration of the people living there (only 15 of the 53 homes planned were built prior to the recession). Since April 2014, staff has been communicating with residents and working with the developer to finish the project’s roads and common areas. This was a very expensive burden that we did not want shifted to the existing residents. The developer sold a number of lots to two different builders and new homes have been popping up – around 13 now. All are selling in the $300,000 range. It is expected that the project will be complete within the next few years.

It has been a long nine months to get to this point, and many items have been addressed by the developer. Thus far, the roads have been paved with the final wearing course. OHM’s estimate for the work was over $200,000. These roads were planned to become public at the time of final plat approval, thus had to meet public road standards.

Photos of the completed work

Sidewalks in the common areas are completed, as well as trees planted, per staff’s direction. Stop signs have been added and a letter submitted to the Emergency Services Department from the developer authorizing traffic/speed enforcement in the subdivision. Excess silt in the detention pond from soil erosion has been cleaned out. Irrigation in the common areas has been repaired and winterized.

There are still a few items that will need to be completed in the Spring 2015. Crosswalk sidewalk curb cut on the north side of Shimmons Road connecting to the existing pathway has been completed, but does not meet with ADA requirements. This work will have to be reconstructed with signage and crosswalk markings added.
A payment of $12,940 has been received from Mr. Shouhayib as a financial guarantee that the work will be completed as weather permits and to cover outstanding inspection costs.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**
Staff has been communicating with residents within the Shimmons Woodgrove Subdivision in regard to closing out a number of Developer obligations prior to formation of the Homeowner’s Association. The Developer and subdivision residents have both requested the streets be dedicated to the City. The subject roads now conform to the City of Auburn Hills design and construction standards and are ready for City Council’s acceptance. Attached is the resolution accepting Rabeeh Drive, Zaher Drive, and Ramzi Lane into the Public Roadway system.

**MOTION**
Move to approve the Resolution Accepting Rabeeh Drive, Zaher Drive, and Ramzi Lane as Public Roadway.

I CONCUR:  

THOMAS A. TANGHE, CITY MANAGER
CITY OF AUBURN HILLS
RESOLUTION
ACCEPTING RABEEH DRIVE, ZAHER DRIVE, AND RAMZI LANE, AS PUBLIC ROADWAY

At a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Auburn Hills, Oakland County, Michigan, held in the Council Chambers at 1827 N. Squirrel Road, Auburn Hills MI 48326 at 7:00 p.m., on the 9th day of February, 2015

The following resolution was offered by Council Member __________ and supported by Council Member __________:

WHEREAS improvements to the water mains, sanitary sewers, road storm sewer mains, street surface and base were constructed and reviewed by the City’s engineering consultant and the Department of Public Works and have been found to be acceptable for integration into the City’s utility and street systems; and

WHEREAS Kamal H. Shouhayib, President of Choice Development Corporation, representing the Shimmons Woodgrove, L.L.C. has prepared the Shimmons Woodgrove Subdivision Plat conveying ownership of the road right-of-way known as Rabeeh Drive, Zaher Drive, and Ramzi Lane to the City of Auburn Hills; and

WHEREAS water mains, sanitary sewers, road storm sewer mains, street surface and base are intended to be part of the City’s public infrastructure; and

WHEREAS it is appropriate for the City Council to accept the improvements and authorize their integration into the City’s overall systems.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Auburn Hills, pending submission by Shimmons Woodgrove, L.L.C. of 1. A legal description of the roadway; 2. An engineering drawing depicting the legal description; and 3. A certified copy of the recorded plat granting ownership of the roadway to the City, that:

1. The water mains, sanitary sewer mains, roadway storm sewer mains, street surface within the right-of-way on Rabeeh Drive, Zaher Drive, and Ramzi Lane are hereby accepted as public improvements and are directed to be integrated into the City’s utility and street maintenance programs.

2. The water and sanitary sewer laterals that extend from the main to the individual homes are the property of the individual homeowners who bear the responsibility for the maintenance of these lines.

3. The City Manager is hereby authorized and directed to provide maintenance for the facilities which have been accepted by the City and to integrate the facilities into the City’s overall utility and street program with maintenance provided as required under that program.

4. Within 30 days after the City Council’s approval of this resolution, the City Clerk shall record a certified copy of this resolution with the Oakland County Register of Deeds and shall file a copy of this resolution with the office of Michigan State Treasurer. The Street Administrator shall report to the Michigan Department of Transportation the addition of Rabeeh Drive, Zaher Drive, and Ramzi Lane to the list of streets under the jurisdiction of the City of Auburn Hills for Act 51 Report.

AYES:
NAYS:
ABSENT:
ABSTENTION:

RESOLUTION ADOPTED

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
COUNTY OF OAKLAND)

I, the undersigned, the duly appointed City Clerk for the City of Auburn Hills, Oakland County, Michigan do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted at a regular meeting of the Auburn Hills City Council held on the ___ day of __________, 2015.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto affixed my official signature on this ___ day of __________, 2015.

____________________________
Terri Kowal, City Clerk
### Curve Table

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### Shimmons Woodgrove Subdivision

**Part of the N.W. 1/4 of Section 12, T.3N., R.10E., City of Auburn Hills, Oakland County, Michigan**

**Location Map**

- **Shimmons Road as Established under the Act, P.A. 29 of 1961 (for Public Use)**
- **North 1/4 Corner of Section 12, T.3N., R.10E., City of Auburn Hills, Oakland County, Michigan**
- **L.R.C.R. L.C. 3209, P. 449, Oakland County Records**

**Property Controlling Corner Found North in Monocline, L.R.C.R. L.C. 3209, P. 449, Oakland County Records**

- **Property Controlling Corner Found North in Monocline, L.R.C.R. L.C. 3209, P. 449, Oakland County Records**

**Plat Legend:**

- "ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN FEET.
- "ALL CURVATURE SHADINGS ARE SHOWN ALONG THE ARC.
- "CENTRES RADIAL" INDICATES A CENTER LINE NOT RADIAL.
- "THE SYMBOL "F" INDICATES A MEASURED "F" SHAPE WHICH IS A 1/2" CONCRETE FLOOR BARRIER OR LIMB OR WOODEN "F" SHAPED."
January 15, 2015

Karen Adcock, Senior Services Director  
City of Auburn Hills  
1827 N. Squirrel Rd.  
Auburn Hills, MI 48326

Dear Ms. Adcock,

It is my pleasure to inform you that at its meeting of January 14, 2015, the Oakland County Board of Commissioners appointed you to serve as a member of the Oakland County Community Development Advisory Board for the term ending December 31, 2016.

Please be advised that all appointees shall attend meetings in person and no participation is allowed through the use of telecommunication devices.

If it becomes necessary to resign your position, please do so in writing to the Oakland County Board of Commissioner Office with the reason(s) for resignation. We will notify the board or commission you were appointed to of your resignation.

Your willingness to serve in this capacity on behalf of the County is greatly appreciated. It is always our goal to appoint individuals who share commitment to excellence in their respective fields and the commitment to serve the needs of the citizens of Oakland County.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Gingell, Chairman  
Oakland County Board of Commissioners
January 26, 2014

RE: Traffic Concerns on M-24
Follow-Up Report from the Michigan Department of Transportation

Dear Business Representative:

On December 16, 2014, a meeting was organized by the City of Auburn Hills and held at Knight Industries to discuss concerns related to traffic conditions impacting a number of businesses that outlet to M-24. It is noted that M-24 is a State highway under the legal jurisdiction of the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), not the City of Auburn Hills.

At that meeting, representatives from MDOT outlined improvements planned for the roadway system in Y2016 and answered questions from those in attendance. At the conclusion of the meeting, it was requested that MDOT conduct a traffic study to evaluate the installation of “No Turn On Red” signs in the location of the I-75 connector ramp and northbound M-24. The results of that study are attached. In summary, MDOT has found that the roadway operates at a “safe and efficient manner” and will not install the signs requested at this time since the conditions, in their professional opinion, do not warrant them.

If you should wish to pursue this matter any further, it is recommended that contact be made directly to MDOT since the City of Auburn Hills does not have jurisdiction over the matter.

Sincerely,

Steven J. Cohen, AICP, PCP
Director of Community Development

cc: Thomas A. Tanghe, City Manager
Doreen E. Olko, Police Chief
Mayor Kevin McDaniel and Members of the City Council
To: Steven Cohen  
   Auburn Hills, Director of Community Development

FROM: Jeff Horne  
   MDOT Oakland TSC, Traffic & Safety Engineer

DATE: January 5, 2015

SUBJECT: No Turn on Red sign study; I-75 CONN ramp at NB M-24

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) has completed a traffic study to evaluate the installation of No Turn on Red (NTOR) signs in Auburn Hills, Michigan. The location in question is the intersection of I-75 Connector ramp and northbound M-24.

The purpose of this study was to determine whether NTOR signs meet State guidelines, which is identified in the 2011 Michigan Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MMUTCD). It is important to note, signs must meet requirements in the MMUTCD in order to be installed; however, the Department also has the authority to prohibit traffic control if it is not in the best interest of the general public.

MDOT has the primary responsibility to develop, maintain, and operate a statewide trunkline highway system designed to move traffic from one destination to another in a safe, efficient, and expeditious manner. Erecting and maintaining highway traffic signs on the state highway system are a part of this responsibility and a requirement in Section 609 of the Michigan Vehicle Code (MVC).

Standards for the design and application of all highway traffic signs erected on public highways are specified in the MMUTCD which, in turn, is required by Section 608 of the MVC to conform to national standards on highway signing.

According to MMUTCD Section 2B.54 Paragraph 03, there are six factors to evaluate when considering whether a NTOR sign should be placed at an intersection. A No Turn on Red sign should be considered when an engineering study finds one or more of the following conditions exist:

A. Inadequate sight distance to vehicles approaching from the left (or right, if applicable);
B. Geometries or operational characteristics of the intersection that might result in unexpected conflicts;
C. An exclusive pedestrian phase;
D. An unacceptable number of pedestrian conflicts with right-turn-on-red maneuvers, especially involving children, older pedestrians, or persons with disabilities;
E. More than three right-turn-on-red accidents reported in a 12-month period for the particular approach; or
F. The skew angle of the intersecting roadways creates difficulty for drivers to see traffic approaching from their left.

**Evaluation of each warrant:**

Inadequate sight distance to vehicles approaching from the left (or right, if applicable)

Intersection sight distance is defined as the sight distance needed to allow the drivers of stopped vehicles to decide when to enter an intersecting roadway. The design speed on M-24 at this particular location is 60 mph (posted speed is 55mph). The intersection sight distance for passenger cars is 575 feet from the location the vehicle is stopped, with an 18 foot offset from the edge of the travel lane. The picture below reflects the minimum standard for intersection sight distance. There are no obstructions at this intersection or horizontal/vertical curves; therefore this warrant does not recommend installing a NTOR sign.
**Geometrics or operational characteristics of the intersection that might result in unexpected conflicts**

MDOT analyzed the subject intersection based on geometric and operational characteristics. The intersection operates as a traditional 90 degree right turn with a traffic signal controlling the movements between the two roadways. The geometry of the I-75 Connector right turn onto northbound M-24 is designed to carry a large amount of vehicles at higher speeds, hence the 50 foot turning radius. Typical intersections in Metro Detroit have turning radiuses of 25 feet to 35 feet. If a NTOR sign is installed, there could be motorists that disobey the signs and turn right on red. Residual effects could occur which could cause the signs to lose their effectiveness. If a NTOR sign is installed, fewer vehicles from the I-75 Connector ramp will be able to travel through the intersection on each signal cycle. This warrant does not recommend installing a NTOR sign.

**An exclusive pedestrian phase**

Sidewalks and or pedestrian signals do not exist at this intersection or in the immediate vicinity of this intersection. From field observations, it appears pedestrians rarely cross this intersection thus the demand for a pedestrian signal is not needed. This warrant does not recommend installing a NTOR sign.

**An unacceptable number of pedestrian conflicts with right-turn-on-red maneuvers, especially involving children, older pedestrians, or persons with disabilities**

Sidewalks and or pedestrian signals do not exist at this intersection or in the immediate vicinity of this intersection. From field observations, it appears pedestrians rarely cross this intersection thus the demand for a pedestrian signal is not needed. There were 208 crashes at the subject interaction in the past three years, while pedestrians accounted for zero. This warrant does not recommend installing a NTOR sign.

**More than three right-turn-on-red accidents reported in a 12-month period for the particular approach**

MDOT analyzed crash data at the subject intersection for three years (August 2011 – August 2014) and found only two of the 208 crashes were angle turn on red accidents. The crash report stated both drivers said they had the green light (police were unable to determine who was at fault). The other angle crash indicated the vehicle traveling northbound M-24 ran a red light and collided with a vehicle turning from the I-75 Connector ramp. The crashes occurred on 4/8/13 and 12/11/12 respectively. This warrant does not recommend installing a NTOR sign.

**The skew angle of the intersecting roadways creates difficulty for drivers to see traffic approaching from their left**

After analyzing the geometry of the subject intersection, the I-75 Connector ramp intersects northbound M-24 at approximately 90 degrees. It is important to note, MDOT modified this intersection in 2014 to reduce the skew angle and treat it as more of a ‘T’ intersection. The
current configuration has the “stop bar” on the I-75 Connector ramp 90 degrees from northbound M-24. Additionally, the stop bars for the I-75 Connector lanes are staggered 10’ to provide motorists sufficient sight distance to oncoming northbound M-24 traffic. This warrant does not recommend installing a NTOR sign.

**Crash Analysis**

A crash analysis was performed at the subject intersection to determine the amount and type of crashes over a three year period (8/31/2011 – 8/31/2014).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crash Type</th>
<th># of crashes</th>
<th>% of crashes</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Angle Straight</td>
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<td>1.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angle Turn</td>
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<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animal</td>
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<td>0.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dual Right Turn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fixed Object</td>
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<tr>
<td>Misc. Crashes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Overturn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rear-End Right Turn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rear-End Straight</td>
<td>83</td>
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<tr>
<td>Side Swipe Same</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>208</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MDOT considers the following minimum thresholds as a high crash type: Rear ends (35%), Angle (20%). Further investigation reveals that the overwhelming majority of the rear end crashes occurred due to congestion on the I-75 Connector ramp before motorists turn onto northbound M-24.

**Conclusion/Recommendation**

After careful consideration, the intersection of I-75 Connector ramp and northbound M-24 operates in an acceptable and efficient manner. The MMUTCD provides six guidelines to evaluate prior to installing a NTOR sign. MDOT’s investigation proves each of the six guidelines do not justify installing a NTOR sign at the subject intersection. More so, there is an unacceptable level of rear end crashes on the I-75 Connector ramp at this intersection. MDOT is hopeful the pavement marking modifications made in 2014 will reduce the number of accidents. To add a NTOR sign at this intersection would increase delay on the I-75 Connector ramp, which leads to more rear end crashes. A NTOR sign is classified as a regulatory sign, which should be installed only where mandated or warranted so that their effectiveness will not be diminished by excessive use. At this time, MDOT will not install NTOR signs at the subject intersection.
Additionally, it is worth noting Auburn Hills Police Department performed 5 traffic studies from Sept. 30 – Oct. 8, between 4p-6p. The average wait time at Commerce Parkway (location of Knight Industries) was 25.82 seconds. Another traffic study was performed by Auburn Hills PD on Dec. 12, from 4:15p-6p. The average wait time to turn onto NB M-24 was 10.48 seconds. Given the weather conditions and Auburn Hills PD extensive field data, MDOT did not perform additional field reviews.

Should you have any questions regarding this review, please feel free to contact me.

___________________________
Jeff Horne
Traffic & Safety Engineer
Oakland TSC

Cc via email: T. Pozolo (MDOT)
J. Stubbs (Auburn Hills PD)
Grand opening: SEA LIFE Aquarium at Great Lakes Crossing now open to the public

By Dustin Blitchok
dustin.blitchok@oakpress.com;@SincerelyDustin on Twitter

AUBURN HILLS » After moving 250 marine species into 22 tanks and selling thousands of tickets in advance, SEA LIFE Michigan Aquarium opened at Great Lakes Crossing Outlets Thursday with a mission to entertain and educate families.

The aquarium, Michigan's largest, features interactive displays, conservation education and animals ranging from fish native to the state to sharks.

“They had 50 states to choose from. They had (more than) 3,000 countries to choose from,” Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson said of SEA LIFE's parent company.

“To have it end up here is a real testament to the quality of life that we have here in Oakland County, the things we can do and the families we raise.”

Pure Michigan's Dave Lorenz said bringing the aquarium to Auburn Hills was a development six years in the making.

“This really is filling in another of the pieces of the puzzle for tourism in Michigan,” Lorenz said, adding that the aquarium’s economic impact will reach far beyond its doors.

The aquarium is the seventh SEA LIFE location in the U.S. and 42nd in the world, said General Manager Hayley Townsend. Merlin Entertainments Group's other attractions include Legoland and The London Eye.

“It's a wonderful new attraction in Auburn Hills and part of a larger plan that we have for Great Lakes Crossing.”

SEA LIFE Michigan Aquarium opened at Great Lakes Crossing Outlets Thursday. The 35,000-square-foot attraction in Auburn Hills is the home to more than 5,000 sea creatures.

“This really is filling in another of the pieces of the puzzle for tourism in Michigan.”

— Dave Lorenz, Pure Michigan
our youth about the world's amazing sea creatures and how they can protect them for generations to come," Townsend said.

The company's mission includes conservation efforts such as programs for seal rescue, seahorse breeding and loggerhead turtle protection.

The aquarium is expected to draw thousands of visitors from well outside Oakland County to Great Lakes Crossing Outlets each year.

Nina Groll, 11, came from Saginaw for Thursday's grand opening and got to pick up a crab at a hands-on exhibit at the attraction.

"I've never been to a really big aquarium before, so it's really (interesting) to me," the 4th-grader said.

The educational videos and displays throughout the aquarium touch on conservation issues such as the threat posed to turtles by boats, the effect of climate change and the environmental issues in the world's oceans.

Alivia Damiano, 4, of Clarkston, handled a sea star and shrimp Thursday. Her mother, Kristen, said she's bought a membership for her family.

"All the moms are very excited to come and bring their kids over and over."

Tickets are $23.50 for adults and $18.50 for kids. Children under 3 can visit for free.

A one-year membership costs $230 for a family of four and individual memberships are $60.

Auburn Hills City Councilwoman Cheryl Verbeke brought her three daughters to the aquarium Thursday: Chloe, 7, Haley, 8, and Dalia, 10.

After walking through the 35,000-square-foot aquarium, Haley told her mother she wants a fish tank in her bedroom.

"We're thrilled to the addition to the community," Verbeke said.

The councilwoman also leads two Girl Scout troops and said she'd like to bring them to the aquarium.

"There's a lot of opportunities to get down here, enjoy and see all the fish."
Visitors check out the fish, rays and sharks in the nursery at Sea Life Michigan Aquarium in Auburn Hills. The aquarium at Great Lakes Crossing Outlets opened to the public Thursday, allowing close encounters with different kinds of marine life.

Sea world opens at mall

*Auburn Hills*

The Sea Life Michigan Aquarium opened Thursday at Great Lakes Crossing Outlets in Auburn Hills. The 35,000-square-foot aquarium next to the Rainforest Cafe features thousands of underwater fish, including three blacknose sharks, two bonnethead sharks and one nurse shark. It also has a tropical ocean tank with a walkthrough underwater tunnel. There’s even an interactive touch pool where patrons can pet a starfish, sea urchin or horseshoe crab.

— Detroit News staff and wire reports

Sea Life employee Jessica Krutell, left, helps Heidi Meier of Auburn Hills hold a hermit crab at Sea Life Michigan Aquarium in Auburn Hills. The aquarium at Great Lakes Crossing Outlets opened to the public Thursday, allowing close encounters with different kinds of marine life.
NEW STATE TEST FOR FUTURE TEACHERS FAULTED BY AREA COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES

By Diana Dillaber Murray
diana.dillaber@oakpress.com,
Twitter @ddillaber

A high percentage of college students who want to be teachers are failing a new state test at a time when a teacher shortage is predicted over the next decade.

The new Professional Readiness Exam measures a student's foundation in English, math and writing learned in high school. The test it replaced was called the Basic Skills Test.

At some colleges and universities, such as Madonna University, the test is taken for admission into the teaching program after the student has been in college for a year or two. Others, such as Oakland University, the test isn't required until just before student teaching begins.

If students don't pass it, they can't do student teaching and they can't be recommended for certification or take the Michigan Test for Teacher Certification.

Students who earned ACT scores of at least 22 in math and 24 in English language arts in their Michigan Merit Examination do not have to take the test at all.

TEACHING » PAGE 4
A group of top university and college educators, including Oakland University, University of Michigan-Flint and University of Michigan-Dearborn, have arranged to meet with state Department of Education with hopes of working out the issue, said Robert Maxfield, interim dean of Oakland University’s School of Education and Human Services, and Nancy Brown, assistant dean.

With the implementation of the new thresholds in 2013-14, initial pass rates for MTE mathematics and writing fell from 90 percent and 92 percent in 2012-13 to 49 percent and 31 percent, respectively; while the overall MTE initial pass rate fell from 82 percent to 26 percent in that time, according to a MDE press release.

State law mandates a testing program as part of Michigan’s teacher certification requirements. The test’s purpose is ensuring that each certified teacher has the necessary professional readiness and content knowledge to serve in Michigan schools.

Bill DiSessa, spokesman for the MDE, said a “new, more rigorous Professional Readiness Exam (PRE) was rolled out in October 2013. The new test is part of an effort to assure that only the most highly qualified college students become Michigan teachers.”

DiSessa said the PRE test was created in collaboration with a standard-setting group of Michigan K-12 educators and representatives from the Educator Preparation Institutions.

Lower scores were predicted when the test was announced, he said. Maxfield and other area university officials said they agree with the MDE’s decision to use a more rigorous standards.

However, now that so many students are falling the test in its second year, the educators are urging the state Department of Education to change the test, replace it with an alternative, and/or use it as only one factor in determining whether a student is qualified to become a teacher.

“We want strong teachers to come into the field,” said Nancy Brown, associate dean of OU’s SEHS. Brown said math and English professors have taken the test and said it is like an exam from the 1970s.

“It tests procedures instead of concepts,” Brown said. “We have asked for reliability studies to be made public.”

“We would prefer a good examination that tests content, knowledge and basic skills. We don’t know what it is testing.”

The issue is especially critical for students who are older, possibly changing careers, and have not been in high school for many years. At Baker College, “The average age of our students is 29 — higher than other universities that attract recent high school graduates,” said Christine Schram, dean of the School of Education.

“Our students typically have not completed the same high school curriculum on which the PRE is based. For those who do not pass the PRE, Baker College offers extra educational support through our Academic Resource Center.”

Schram said the Readiness test is used as a screening tool and students must pass to be admitted into the Teacher Prep program. She pointed out that some of the test takers whose scores were included in the Baker average were high school students and others who never attended Baker College.

“The bottom line is it’s just not a good test,” said Maxfield at OU, where in the past an average of 85 percent of students passed the test. Only 29 percent passed the most recent test.

Maxfield advocates for multiple measures of a future teacher. For example, OU puts an emphasis on students’ teaching experience and other experiences in working with children. He also would prefer the PFE be given to students when they are admitted to the university, not when they have already completed two years or four years.

It would be better for students to build a portfolio that would include evaluation of their skills and knowledge and teaching experience, he said.

An emphasis on teaching experience would give the student, professors and professional teachers information to determine whether the student has the potential to be a good teacher.

At Madonna University, Dean Karen Obsnink noted, “The test is based on the new high school curriculum. Many of us (colleges) won’t see the results improve for several years,” after more high school graduates who have studied under the new curriculum apply to major in education.

Besides having older, nontraditional students, Madonna also has many students for whom English is a second language.

So until more students are familiar with the material to be tested, Madonna will continue its effort to provide workshops for its students to help them prepare for the test.

Obsnink said many students who take the workshops do better and pass. They can take the test, which is in three parts, as many times as they want, but each time costs them in time and money.

“Obviously we are all striving for the highest scores possible. We understand it is a change. It is a new test and a more difficult test.”

VARYING RESULTS

- Future teachers are required to take the new Michigan Professional Readiness Exam to be admitted to a teaching program or before student teaching.

- Below are the percentage of students that passed the test:
  - U-M Ann Arbor — 71%
  - Michigan Tech — 55%
  - Hope College — 43%
  - Calvin College — 42%
  - Grand Valley — 41%
  - Michigan State — 41%
  - Lake Superior State — 39%
  - Concordia — 37%
  - Aquinas College — 36%
  - Cornerstone — 35%
  - Madonna — 32%
  - Oakland — 29%
  - Spring Arbor — 28%
  - Saginaw Valley — 27%
  - Eastern Michigan — 23%
  - Northern Michigan — 23%
  - Adrian College — 22%
  - Central Michigan — 22%
  - Andrews University — 20%
  - Western Michigan — 20%
  - U-M Dearborn — 19%
  - Wayne State — 19%
  - Baker College — 18%
  - U-M Flint — 18%
  - Ferris State — 17%
  - Alma College — 16%

- Source: Bridge, an online publication of news and analysis for The Center for Michigan.
Patterson to discuss milestones in address

By John Turk
john.turk@oakpress.com
@jrturk on Twitter

Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson on Thursday said he'll be spending a good deal of his upcoming 2015 State of the County address talking about foreign investment and the Great Lakes Water Authority.

More than 500 are expected to attend the speech, which will take place at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 4, in the Oakland Ballroom at the Auburn Hills Marriott Hotel.

Patterson is also slated to discuss achievements that include a boom in the knowledge-based economy in Oakland, a balanced budget through 2020, and other "exciting announcements that will impact many residents and businesses.

"There is strong financial news to relay to the public."

---

About 20 percent of his speech will focus on the Great Lakes Water Authority — a newly announced partnership between Oakland, Macomb and Wayne counties and Detroit to run the city's water department, which provides services to more than 4 million customers in southeast Michigan.

The deal has the authority leasing Detroit Water and Sewerage Department facilities for $50 million a year for the next 40 years.

Under the terms of the agreement, which was approved in October, Detroit will control its own water and sewerage services and maintenance and the authority will oversee the department's operations in the suburbs, giving the counties more power in how the department is run.

"We came to a conclusion on the (memorandum of understanding), but that was just the basic framework" for the water authority, Patterson said.

"Now you've got to put some flesh on all that framework... We've got a long way to go."

Patterson added that he will discuss plans for the future, which include several trips overseas in 2015 to expand the search for companies looking to locate in Oakland. The county tallied $717 million in foreign direct investment in the county last year, much of that coming from Europe and Asia.

"That's real money being injected into the economy," said Patterson, "a huge economic development investment."

Patterson has served as county executive for 21 years. He is now in his sixth four-year term as the head of a budget that floats around $800 million annually, and nearly 4,000 full- and part-time employees.

Those who want to listen to the state of the county address at home can tune in to WDET-FM (101.9) to listen to audio, watch a livestream at oakgov.com and follow tweets from Oakland County's Twitter account, @OakGov.

After the speech, a complete video will be uploaded to the county's YouTube channel.

Anyone can find the speech on the county's Facebook page and the county home page, as well.
Nude man on I-75 helped by police

By Dustin Blitchok
@dustin.blitchok@oakpress.com; @SincerelyDustin on Twitter

Auburn Hills police removed a nude pedestrian wearing only a cowboy hat who was walking into oncoming traffic on I-75 Sunday.

The man was likely suffering from what’s known as excited delirium syndrome, often fueled by a preexisting psychological condition and a binge on drugs such as cocaine, methamphetamine, PCP, LSD or bath salts, Auburn Hills Police Chief Doreen Olko said in a blog post.

The 53-year-old Bloomfield Hills man was driving northbound on I-75 near University Drive at about 11:30 a.m. Sunday when he lost control of his truck and went into a ditch, said Lt. Casimir Mranka. “When he got out of the vehicle, he started taking his clothes off.”

The temperature in Auburn Hills averaged 21.5 degrees Sunday.

Officers are following up to check on the man’s condition Monday, Mranka said, and still evaluating the situation and how to proceed.

“Ultimately, our goal was to get this gentleman some help,” Olko said.

Online: See video of this story and more by visiting OAKPRESS.COM.

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Sgt. Scott McGraw and five officers dealt with the situation as a medical emergency and convinced the man to get into a patrol car. Olko said. An ambulance was requested, but due to the snowfall Sunday, the officers decided it would be faster to drive to the ambulance and took the man to the fire station on University Drive.

The man, who became unresponsive during the drive, was transferred onto a gurney at the fire station, where he became combative.

Officers and paramedics were able to secure the man for the trip to the hospital, Olko said.

Local resident Lena Painter said her husband also saw the incident.

“It was around 11:30 a.m., and I was talking to him on the phone. He saw him get out of his car and start taking his clothes off — first his shirt and then his belt and pants. My husband, Bryan, was shocked and wasn’t sure what to do or why he was doing it,” Painter said.

The chief said police wouldn’t be prepared to deal with situations like Sunday’s without regular training.

“The good news is that no one was injured — not the person, not the officers and not the paramedics. Because the officers recognized the true nature of the call, they may have saved his life.”

The Bloomfield Hills man’s family was contacted and met him at the hospital.

“It is a difficult challenge for family members,” Olko said of the man. “I hope they are able to find sufficient help for him.”

— Staff writer Monica Drake contributed to this report
Rosaleigh Wyman, 5, waves from inside a tank of Cardinal fish. Guests have a couple of opportunities to pop up in clear domes in the tanks.

Under the SEA
Did you know that a starfish ejects its stomach on top of its prey to digest its catch? Or that an octopus has the ability to recognize the faces of people she sees regularly?

These facts and so much more are up for kids and adults to learn when the Sea Life Michigan aquarium opens today, adding jellyfish, sharks, sea urchins and more to Great Lakes Crossing's lists of attractions.

The 35,000-square-foot aquarium — in the Auburn Hills mall's District 7 and smartly next to the Rainforest Cafe — has thousands of underwater animals, from tiny seahorses just a few centimeters in length to the majestic southern stingray with a four-foot wingspan.

Brennen Vechazone of Waterford likes the way you can view the many stingrays swimming up close at Sea Life. A young environmentalist, he says he likes the stingray because it has "personality."

"I think it's awe-inspiring for kids and parents because they get to see all these exotic creatures that we don't see because we're in Michigan and there's fresh water surrounding us," says the 11-year-old, who got a chance to attend a sneak preview of Sea Life last week by winning a social media contest.

NEW AQUARIUM BRINGS SHARKS, JELLYFISH, STINGRAYS AND MUCH MORE TO MICHIGAN

Touchpool staffer Reese Aldrich, left, transfers a decorator crab from his arm into the hands of Laureana Stump, 10, of Shelby Township.

Natalie Lemp, 8, left, from Livonia, and her sister Olivia, 4, get their hands on a starfish in one of the aquarium's touchpools.
The whole attraction is extremely kid-friendly. From the cartoon sea creatures who guide visitors through the exhibit, to the portholes at knee level, the experience seems tailored to children of all ages. It's exciting for anyone who enjoys animals or the sea, though. Concave windows make you feel like you've stuck your head in the tank (but without getting wet).

"It's amazing, it's captivating the children's interest," says Amber Louchart, blogger and owner of parenting website MetroDetroitMommy.com. She attended the sneak preview with her three children, ages 2, 5 and 9.

"We're excited to have something like this in Metro Detroit."

One of the first "wow moments" comes with the interactive touch pool. Reach in and pet a starfish, sea urchin or horseshoe crab (yes, there's a hand washing sink nearby). Sea Life employees stand by to guide little ones and answer questions.

Another exhibit tips a hat to Michigan's underwater creatures with freshwater marine life such as sturgeon, bullethead catfish and largemouth bass. There are also aquariums housing jellyfish, a green moray eel and a giant Pacific octopus.

There are less elaborate displays throughout the aquarium, such as the calming, blue circular tank with white sand that houses a school of silver fish swimming 360 degrees around you. Get into a staring contest with a puffer fish in a darkened area designed to look like a shipwreck, or try to spot fish that look like your favorite cartoon characters such as Nemo (clown-fish) or Dory (regal tang).

The big finale is a massive structure made to look like a coral reef and a walk-through tunnel, where visitors can view sharks and stingrays swimming above them. Most of the 150,000 gallons of water used at Sea Life is in this exhibit, which has many viewpoints.

"We want people to come and see things from every angle," says Sea Life Michigan curator Lucy Handel.

"That helps them to learn more and get passionate about the whole environment."

Environment and conservation are themes throughout Sea Life, which is operated by Merlin Entertainment, based in the United Kingdom. The Great Lakes Crossing location is among 42 around the world and is the seventh in the United States. The message is "breed, rescue and protect."

After you've studied all 250 species, exit through the gift shop (which sells everything from Sea Life coffee mugs to Sea Life spatulas), or take another lap. With 5,000 marine animals inside, there's bound to be something you missed the first time around.

mbestens@detroitnews.com
twitter.com/melodybestens

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Sea Life
Michigan

Great Lakes Crossing
4313 Baldwin Avenue
Auburn Hills

Grand opening Thursday, June 27, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Mondays-Saturdays and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sundays.
The last guests are allowed in one hour prior to closing.

Admission: $17.50 when purchased online, walk-up price is $23.50.
Children 13 and older, $18.50, children, yearly passes start at $54 for a limited time. Birthday party packages are $350-$500.

visitsealife.com/michigan
Visitors walk through an underwater tunnel that leads through the main ocean tank filled with fish, stingrays and sharks at Sea Life Michigan in the Great Lakes Crossing mall in Auburn Hills.
County attracts foreign money

Oakland got $171M in international direct investment in 2014

By Aftab Borka
afab.borka@oakpress.com;
@afabborka on Twitter

Calling the county a "multi-national" business destination, Oakland County officials announced on Tuesday that foreign companies invested $171 million in the county in 2014.

The investment, which is more than a quarter of the $639 million total business investment in the county for 2014, created 1,941 jobs.

One of those companies is Japan's Hirotec America, which has been based in Auburn Hills since 1992. The company is expected to invest up to $26 million and build its headquarters in the city.

The company's president and COO, Jim Toeniskoetter, said there's a strong reason they've been operating in the county for such a long time.

"We find both Oakland County and Auburn Hills as a very vibrant community to be located in and to have our headquarters in. We have a very high quality available in this area," said Toe.
Investment

FROM PAGE 1

niskoetter.

"Basically we see this (community) as our permanent home."

Seeking international investment continues to be a priority in Oakland County in the coming year.

"This international investment is a perfect hedge for U.S. investment," Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson said.

Officials say the county's business development team will expand its global search for companies looking to locate in the county with trips planned to Canada, China, France, Germany, Japan and Taiwan in 2015.

Patterson said the team will also be attending the 2015 SelectUSA Investment Summit in Washington D.C. in March.

More than 40 countries are expected to attend SelectUSA, which is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Commerce to encourage international investment in the United States.

Oakland County has more than 1,000 international firms from 38 countries with business locations in different communities.

In 2014, more than two international businesses a month either expanded or located in Oakland County.

"We are focusing on companies who have expressed a desire to locate in the United States — automotive, tech and medical device companies," said Irene Spanos, Director of Oakland County's Department of Economic Development. "Michigan is at the western end of the Eastern Time Zone, which makes it attractive to many businesses. It's our job to sell them on our many assets and Oakland County's strategic location."

HIGHLIGHTS OF FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN OAKLAND COUNTY INCLUDE:

- China's H.A. Automotive Systems, based in Troy, is generating a total capital investment of $28.8 million and 368 jobs.
- India's Mahindra North American Technical Center, based in Troy, plans to invest nearly $2 million and create up to 112 new professional and engineering services-related jobs.
- South Korea's Inzi Controls Detroit, based in Rochester Hills, plans to invest $4.1 million and create 61 new jobs.
- Japan's Hitotech America Inc. in Auburn Hills is expected to generate up to $26 million in new capital investment and create 140 jobs.
- France's Adduxi Group in Rochester Hills plans to invest $5 to $6 million and create 40 jobs in the next two years.
Business briefs

AUBURN HILLS

Dollar General
opening new store

Dollar General is opening a new location at 645 S. Opdyke Road in Auburn Hills, Saturday, Jan. 31. Doors open at 8 a.m. with free prizes and special deals. The first 50 adult shoppers at the store will receive a $10 Dollar General gift card and the first 200 shoppers will receive a Dollar General tote bag, among other giveaways. The store will employ six to 10 people, depending on the need. Those interested in joining the team may visit the Career section at www.dollargeneral.com.

— Staff writer

Kathy Blake
AUBURN HILLS

AQUARIUM READY TO OPEN WITH A SPLASH

Left: Brennen Vechazone, 11, of Waterford, picks up a Decorator crab at the SEA LIFE Michigan Aquarium at Great Lakes Crossing Outlets in Auburn Hills on Thursday. The aquarium opens to the public at noon on Jan. 29. Top right: A fish swims Thursday at the aquarium. Bottom right: Rosaleigh Wyman, 5, of Hazel Park, takes pictures of the fish.
SEA LIFE Michigan at Great Lakes Crossing opens to the public Jan. 29

The fish at SEA LIFE Michigan Aquarium are ready for their debut when the attraction opens to the public at noon on Jan. 29.

SEA LIFE, which includes about 250 species in 22 different tanks, is located at 4316 Baldwin Road in Auburn Hills at Great Lakes Crossing Outlets. The 35,000-square-foot aquarium is Michigan's largest.

Tickets are available to purchase now at a pre-opening rate of $7.50 for all ages at www.visitsealife.com/michigan.

Starting opening day, Online: To watch a related video, please visit TOUT.COM/UPPHOTOEDITOR. See a photo gallery at MEDIA. THEOAKLANDPRESS.COM.

Tickets are $23.50 for adults and $18.50 for kids. Children under 3 can visit for free.

Annual SEA LIFE passes are available at a pre-opening rate of $54 for an individual and $200 for a family of four.

SEA LIFE Michigan Aquarium will be open from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Saturday, with the last entry at 8 p.m.

The aquarium will be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sundays with the last entry at 5 p.m.

For more information, go to www.visitsealife.com/michigan, call 866-622-0695 or follow the aquarium on Twitter @SEALIEMichigan, on Facebook or on Instagram @sealifemichigan.

A tour of the entire attraction is expected to take about an hour. The aquarium includes a soft play area for younger visitors.

The aquarium will be the seventh SEA LIFE location in the U.S. The company's mission includes conservation efforts such as programs for seal rescues, seahorse breeding and loggerhead turtle protection.

SEA LIFE is owned by Merlin Entertainments Group, the company behind other attractions such as Legoland and The London Eye.

— Staff writer Dustin Blitchok
OU engineering gives students glimpse of programs

By Andrew Kidd
andrew.kidd@oakpress.com
@AndrewKidd on Twitter

Prospective students got a glimpse of what Oakland University's School of Engineering and Computer Science had to offer Saturday.

More than a thousand students and guests registered for this year's Engineering and Computer Science Day. The event saw a 78.85 percent increase in registered prospective students over the previous year's event with 462 students and 690 guests registered.

Students and their guests were able to explore academic and research opportunities with the school, as well as find information about admissions requirements, scholarships and financial aid.

Oakland University's School of Engineering and Computer Science offers instruction in electrical and computer engineering, industrial and systems engineering, mechanical engineering and, of course, computer science and engineering.

Dr. Louay Chamra, dean of Oakland University's School of Engineering and Computer Science, said enrollment in the program has grown exponentially in the five years he's been at the university.

He attributes much of this growth to the school's goal of changing perception of what's available in terms of engineering jobs in southeast Michigan.

"The first thing I noticed talking to the community is that they think with engineering, the only job you can have is within the auto industry, specifically the Big Three," he said.

That's how the school's Engineering and Computer Science Day came into existence in 2010.

"The idea came up that maybe we need to change the perception that engineering jobs were not available," Chamra said.

"Even at the height of the recession, engineering jobs were available, maybe not in the auto industry, but across the country there were engineering jobs."

The school opened up its labs and allowed members of the community inside its labs and let them engage with the school's faculty in order to show them that engineering programs — and jobs — stretch much further than what's offered by General Motors, Ford, and Fiat-Chrysler.

Besides seeing a nearly 80 percent increase in event attendance since last year, the school has seen a substantial spike in enrollment over the past five years. The university's engineering programs enrolled 1,800 undergraduate students this year — up from just 850 in 2010, Chamra said.
Auburn Hills' Cellar Door offers unique food experience

Published On: 1 h  Updated 8 m

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. -

It's a hidden gem tucked away in an industrial area of Auburn Hills, but the twinkle of light, rustic wine barrels and intricate place settings are waiting for you to discover.

Welcome to The Cellar Door.

It's not quite a hall, it's not quite a restaurant, call it a lifestyle space.

“We do everything here,” said sales director Marty Watson. “We have wine education classes, cooking classes. We bring in metro Detroit’s best chefs for pop up dinners and will rent our stunning space out for any of your events.”

The space can be used for private wine tasting parties, charity events, business meeting, bridal showers and receptions, rehearsal dinners, birthdays, graduations and social club gatherings.

The venue partners with Wine Counselor Michael Schafer, a local wine expert who leads the education series. Weekly events include beer and wine making classes and themed dinners.

Special pop up restaurant events

- Underground Supper Club....Valentine’s With French Flair
  Saturday, February 14, 7 PM - 9 PM

- M & M Pop Up Dinner
  Tuesday, February 24, 7 PM - 10 PM
Wine education classes

- Fundamentals Of Food & Wine Pairing
  Thursday, January 29, 7 PM - 9 PM
- The Big Reds-Exploration of Red Wines
  Thursday, February 12, 7 PM - 9 PM
- A Night In Spain
  Thursday, February 26, 7 PM - 9 PM
- The Big 6 Varietals
  Thursday, March 12, 7 PM - 9 PM
- Pleasure Of Pinots
  Thursday, March 26, 7 PM - 9 PM

For a full schedule, click here.
Sharks, stingrays, jellyfish, oh my! More than 5,000 creatures make debut at Sea Life Michigan aquarium

Loading Photo Gallery

William E. Ketchum III | wketchum@mlive.com By William E. Ketchum III | wketchum@mlive.com

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on January 22, 2015 at 1:36 PM, updated January 22, 2015 at 1:37 PM

AUBURN HILLS, MI -- Most of the 5,000 creatures in Michigan's largest aquarium have had a couple of months to settle into their new home, and soon the public may see, touch and hold the newest residents of the Great Lakes State.

On Thursday, Jan. 22, Sea Life Michigan aquarium at Great Lakes Crossing Outlets in Auburn Hills welcomed media to a press preview before its grand opening for the public on Thursday, Jan. 29.

The aquarium's 35,000 square feet has more than 5,000 creatures, 250 species, and 150,000 gallons of water. It is broken up into nine zones — animal-themed exhibits such as the Stingray Bay and the Sea Horse Mangrove.

Each tank of water is accompanied by interactive touch screen guides that list the types of fish inside, along with information about their natural habitats, foods they eat, size, range, threats to their existence, status in terms of population or endangerment and fun facts (for example, that soldier fish swim upside down).

Shallow, interactive touch pools let people touch and hold creatures such as sea stars, decorator crabs, sea urchins and sea snails. Small crawl spaces by certain tanks allow children to get a more detailed look at the fish by getting closer access to the water.

A 180-degree underwater ocean tunnel lets people see creatures around and above them.

Lucy Handel, curator of Sea Life Michigan, said most of the creatures have been in the aquarium for about two months, "plenty of time to relax, settle in and get to know their environment." She expects the sharks and the stingrays to be the main attractions, but said she expects the touch pools to catch on quickly as well because of the hands-on learning they offer.

"For me, there's nothing that can beat walking through a 180-degree ocean tunnel and having sharks and rays swim over your head," she says.
Some schools have pre-booked visits, and Handel said she would like to do higher-education tours as well. The aquarium has a classroom dedicated to school visits. The aquarium will also have talks and sea creature feedings scheduled throughout the day.

Handel said that "quite a few" of the creatures at the aquarium are endangered. She said 100 million sharks are killed every year, with their fins cut off for shark fin soup before they are thrown back into the water to drown. Millions of sea horses, she said, are taken out of the water and dried to make Chinese medicines, despite "no proven science behind it." The killings, combined with sharks' late sexual maturation and birth rates of very few young, hurt their numbers.

"That's why our focus is to breed, rescue and protect, and we have our characters (illustrated on the walls) so people know why we need to conserve these species," Handel said.

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Hirschmann Car Communication Inc. Announces Addition of Christopher Bala as Vice President of Sales and Marketing


Based at the regional headquarters in Auburn Hills, Mich., Bala is responsible for all sales and marketing activities for Hirschmann’s Solutions business in the North and South American markets, including business development for infotainment, antenna, tuner systems, telematics, asset tracking and automation and energy applications. The Solutions business unit focuses on the M2M market primarily in the commercial truck, transportation and logistics industries.

Bala comes to Hirschmann with experience and expertise in demand creation in the automotive, power electronics and industrial automation industries, including a strong background in go-to-market strategy, product management, business development and sales and marketing team management.

Previously, Bala served as vice president of sales and marketing at Novi, Mich.-based OPS Solutions and as vice president for OEM business development for Auburn Hills, Mich.-based Energy Conversion Devices / United Solar Ovonic.

Bala earned a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from General Motors Institute (now Kettering University) and a Master's of Business Administration from the University of Michigan's Ross School of Business.


About Hirschmann Solutions:

With its U.S. offices based in Auburn Hills, Mich., Hirschmann Solutions operates as a business unit of Hirschmann Car Communication GmbH, Germany, to enhance communication technology by offering smarter solutions to its customers. The product portfolio includes a wide range of antenna products, communication modules with embedded transceivers, complete tracking devices and in-vehicle entertainment and communication solutions for nearly all terrestrial and satellite based services.

Hirschmann Solutions was formed in response to growing demand from the telematics and M2M sectors for its communication technology. Increasingly data transmission is a standard component in a wide variety of applications and therefore reliable performance is paramount. The Hirschmann brand is known for producing high quality, top-of-the-line technology and
equipment that is best tailored to the customers' needs. In the 2014 financial year (March 2013 through February 2014), the company generated sales of $170 million with a global workforce of around 900 employees.


SOURCE Hirschmann Car Communication Inc.

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Acquisition provides stable ownership, committed to growing business and investing in technology.

Existing management team will continue to lead TI Automotive.

AUBURN HILLS, Michigan, Jan. 27, 2015 /PRNewswire/ -- TI Automotive, a leading provider of fluid storage, carrying and delivery systems to automotive manufacturers, today announced that it has entered into a definitive agreement to be acquired by Bain Capital, a leading global private investment firm. The existing management team will continue to lead the company. Financial terms of the private transaction were not disclosed.

Headquartered in Auburn Hills, Michigan and with facilities in 29 countries in all key markets, TI Automotive is a highly diversified automotive supplier with leading market positions across its product lines. TI Automotive has a broad yet exclusive focus on vehicle fluid management, and major global product areas include Fluid Carrying Systems, Tank Systems, Pump and Module Systems, HVAC Fluid Systems, and Powertrain Components.

"We are excited that Bain Capital will invest in TI Automotive to grow the business and to enable our team to focus solely on what we do best - manufacturing high quality, safety critical fluid systems for our customers," said Bill Kozyra, TI Automotive President, CEO and Chairman of the Board, who will continue in his current roles. "Bain Capital brings to TI Automotive a deep understanding of our business and a well-known track record of global success in the automotive industry, and we look forward to partnering with them."

"TI Automotive is a market leading company that serves its customers' needs extraordinarily well, through a combination of innovative engineering, extensive experience, and a very strong commitment to quality," said Todd Cook, a Managing Director at Bain Capital. "We look forward to partnering with Bill and the TI management team to support them in their next phase of growth."

The transaction has committed financing in place and is not subject to a financing condition. The deal is subject to approval from TI Automotive shareholders, a substantial majority of which have pledged to support the deal. Closing is expected in mid-2015, pending regulatory review and other customary closing conditions.

Weil, Gotshal, & Manges LLP is serving as legal counsel to TI Automotive. Blackstone Advisory Partners is serving as financial advisor and Latham & Watkins LLP is serving as legal counsel to an ad hoc group of shareholders of TI Automotive. Goldman, Sachs & Co. and UBS Securities LLC are serving as financial advisors, Ropes & Gray is serving as legal counsel, and PWC is serving as accounting advisor, to Bain Capital. Lazard is advising the non-executive Directors of TI Automotive’s Board of Directors.

About TI Automotive
TI Automotive is a highly diversified automotive supplier with leading market positions in the majority of its products. TI Automotive has a broad yet exclusive focus on vehicle fluid management, and major global product areas include Fluid Carrying Systems, Tank Systems, Pump and Module Systems, HVAC Fluid Systems, and Powertrain Components. The Company's competitive advantages include its unparalleled revenue diversification, extensive low cost global footprint, award winning technologies, product development alignment with future regulatory requirements, optimal level of vertical integration, and a management team with a track record of significantly improved performance. For more information visit http://www.tiautomotive.com.

About Bain Capital

Bain Capital, LLC (www.baincapital.com) is one of the world’s foremost private investment firms, with approximately $80 billion under management across several asset classes including private equity, venture capital, public equity, credit products and absolute return. Bain Capital’s more than 400 professionals are collectively the single largest investor in all of its funds and are dedicated to investing in and building its portfolio companies. Founded in 1984, Bain Capital has made private equity, growth, and venture capital investments in hundreds of companies around the world, and has deep experience in the industrials sector, with investments in companies including Sensata Technologies, FTE Automotive, Trinseo SA, ASIMCO and Hero MotoCorp Ltd. Bain Capital has offices in Boston, New York, Chicago, Palo Alto, London, Munich, Dublin, Luxembourg, Tokyo, Shanghai, Hong Kong, Mumbai and Melbourne.

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