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## Oakland County news briefs: 17 dogs from warehouse get new homes

*COMPILED FROM REPORTS BY BILL LAITNER, GINA DAMRON AND MEGHA SATYANARAYANA*

### **AUBURN HILLS: 17 dogs from warehouse get new homes**

Officials at Oakland County's animal shelter have new homes for 17 of 33 small dogs seized in June from a woman who penned them in a Royal Oak warehouse after Birmingham authorities charged her with keeping too many dogs.

Last week, Royal Oak police said the city would not file neglect charges against Traci Nelson, who operated Itsy Bitsy Dog Rescue from a Web site and her former home in Birmingham.

Nelson, 35, paid a \$300 fine June 8 for keeping more dogs than Birmingham's limit of three.

Nelson said she wanted only to rescue dogs.

Friends who helped with Itsy Bitsy Dog Rescue said she paid for pet food and care for animals she found suffering at puppy mills in Michigan, Ohio and Indiana.

She charged \$200-\$400 to adopt a dog. But animal-control authorities said Nelson profited by selling dogs.

The dogs -- Chihuahuas, Pomeranians, miniature pinschers and Jack Russell terriers -- are available for adoption.

The cost is \$136.50 each, said Sgt. Joanie Toole, a supervisor at the Oakland Pet Adoption Center in Auburn Hills.

To adopt a dog, go to the center at 1700 Brown Road. Hours are 10 a.m.-6:15 p.m. Mondays and Fridays; 10 a.m.-5:15 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturdays. Call 248-391-4100.

### **HIGHLAND TOWNSHIP: Mom charged and jailed**

A township woman was charged with child abuse after she was found intoxicated and staggering down a road with her 4-year-old son following far behind, police said.

Mary Ann Rollins, 47, was charged with fourth-degree child abuse Wednesday in 52-1 District Court in Novi, according to the Oakland County Sheriff's Office.

According to the Sheriff's Office's inmate list Thursday, Rollins was in the Oakland County Jail. She is

to be in court Wednesday.

Police said Rollins was found wandering down Duck Lake Road on Monday – her son following about 50 feet behind – and at one point, passed out in a front yard.

Rollins, who had a previous child neglect conviction, had a blood-alcohol level of 0.164%.

Her son has been placed with relatives, according to the Sheriff's Office.

## **NOVI: City is asking for ideas**

Novi officials want suggestions on future uses for a famous spot – 11 acres of city-owned land where there was once an amusement park and the famed Walled Lake Casino dance hall.

The property, known as the Landings, fronts on Walled Lake at the northeast corner of South Lake Drive and Old Novi Road, two miles north of Twelve Oaks Mall.

The area is listed on the city's master plan as "Parks and Open Spaces," but officials want to know if people prefer some or all of it to contain stores, restaurants, services or homes, adding to the city's tax base.

Anyone can submit views with an online survey at [www.cityofnovi.org](http://www.cityofnovi.org), leave written comments in drop boxes at city buildings or attend one of two public comment sessions.

The sessions are to start at 6:30 p.m. They are set for Tuesday at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile, and Wednesday at Lakeshore Park, 601 S. Lake Drive.

To attend, register at 248-347-0400.

## **FERNDALE: Pooch parade planned**

The city is to host its second annual Fido Does Ferndale street fair for people and their dogs at 10 a.m. Saturday.

The event is to include pet supply vendors, a dog adoption fair, a pooch parade and dog show. Parade entry is \$5 per person, \$10 per family.

Registration for the dog show is to begin at 9 a.m., and the show is to begin at noon. Entry is \$5 per dog.

Dog-friendly businesses are to be open and a professional photographer is to take pet portraits for a fee.

For information, call Carrie Copeland at Affirmations at 248-398-7105 or go to [fidodoesferndale.com](http://fidodoesferndale.com).

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