

Detour route mapped for Orchard Lake Road

By Mary Lou Callaway
special writer

You've heard the joke, "There's no way to get there from here?" Don't laugh. It will happen in West Bloomfield this summer.

Drivers on Orchard Lake Road, between Maple and Long Lake Road will have to find alternate routes for one month, beginning sometime between May 15 and June 1.

"I came to find out how you're going to mess up my summer," said one township resident, attending the Oakland County Road Commission (OCRC) informational session last week at township hall.

The road widening, from two to five lanes for 1 1/2 miles from Maple to Willow, is expected to be completed by late fall. The rest of the road was widened in 1980. Also being improved is the intersection at Walnut Lake-Orchard Lake roads.

"Through traffic will be encouraged to use Middlebelt Road, between Walnut Lake and Long Lake roads," said

John Grubba, managing director of the Oakland County Road Commission. "Nobody will be landlocked, as there are alternate entrances to subdivisions served by the side streets."

Maple Road also will be widened to five lanes for 1,000 feet east and west of Orchard Lake Road.

Total cost is \$3,265,175. It is shared by federal, county and township governments.

Supervisor John Doherty said the township's 15 percent share is about \$500,000.

In 1982, the cost of the entire project was estimated at \$2 million.

THE MONTH-LONG detour (see map) could be a problem for the May Michigan Week Parade. Township Clerk Betty Sue Dupree is worried that the annual Spring Clean-Up also could be complicated by the detour.

The clean-up is planned for April 30 to June 13. Motorists will have limited access on Orchard Lake Road from Maple to Harris Lane and from Willoway to Lone Pine Road.

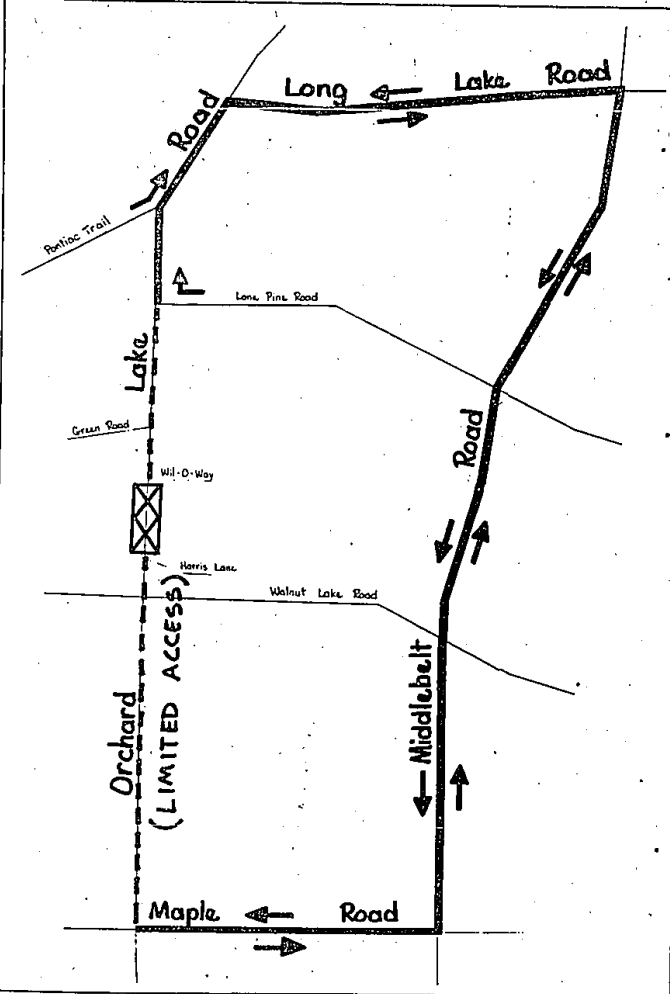
Police Lt. Dan Pilnos says, "People will learn they have to take alternate roads — Middlebelt or Haggerty. The timing of (beginning) the detour depends on the utilities."

An historic home with a rare copper beech tree in the path of the widening will be saved by a slight curve of the road, said William Olson, OCRC right-of-way agent.

For future information, complaints and questions, call the OCRC Citizens Service Department at 858-4804 or 858-4805 daily. On weekends or after 4:45 p.m. weekdays, call 854-4844.

Olson said the county purchased 38 rights-of-way, five by condemnation, and there were 10 temporary construction easements obtained.

Ralph Collyer, OCRC construction engineer, is in charge of the project. For 3 1/2 hours last week, he and other county staffers, including Traffic Service Engineer Winston Myrie, answered questions from a steady stream of business owners, property owners and residents.



Drivers should use Middlebelt, between Long Lake Road and Maple, as a detour route during construction of a 1 1/2-mile widening project on Orchard Lake Road in West Bloomfield Township next month. Limited access will be available on Orchard Lake Road, but the area will be closed completely between Will-O-Way and Harris Lane.

LIT debate considers types of architecture

Those who live in glass houses beware of brownstones because two rivaling architectural movements are about to meet head-on in "The Great Debate: Modernism vs. Post Modernism" at Lawrence Institute of Technology's School of Architecture at 7:30 p.m. Friday, May 4.

The debate, which is the academic year's final presentation in the Architecture series, is open to the public free.

Architectural history books are filled with styles and "isms" but the two most prevalent styles of our day are modernism and post modernism. Architectural styles affect us all far more than we realize. A slick glass modern high rise sends an entirely different message than the one received from an ornamental five-story brownstone.

Walter F. Wagner, Jr., editor of Architectural Record, will moderate the arguments set forth by Chicago architect, Harry Weese, representing the modern viewpoint, and New York architect, Edward Ingram Mills, arguing in behalf of the post modern.

Chairman of Harry Weese & Associates, Weese calls himself "an ardent admirer of the last century." With a

wink in his eye, he sneers, "What is new, anyway, besides silicon chips, miniaturization and plastic memory?"

The Time & Life Building in Chicago and the metro subway system in Washington D.C. are among Weese & Associates' many projects which forcefully represent the modern movement.

An articulate member of the eastern avant-garde generation, Mills is a founding partner of Voorsanger and Mills Associates. Mills is rapidly gaining a reputation for his compelling post-modern works including Le Cygne Restaurant in New York City, recently published in Architectural Design 53.

For further information, contact Gary Keckles at 356-0200.

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'Boat People' film to be shown

"Boat People," a 1982 film made in Hong Kong by director Ann Hui, will be shown by Detroit Film Theatre at 7 and 9:30 p.m. Friday in the Detroit Institute of Arts auditorium, \$200 Wednesday.

Tickets at \$2.25 (seniors \$1.75) are available in advance through the museum ticket office and at the door. For more information, call the ticket office during regular business hours at 832-2730.

"Boat People," subtitled in English, is about a Japanese photographer who returns to Vietnam three years after the fall of the Thieu government. The film has been shown at both the Cannes and New York Film Festivals.

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