



Sixth graders at Power Middle School in Farmington Hills spearheaded a collection drive to help Hurricane Hugo victims. Pictured are (standing, from left) John Bierman, David Popp, Caroline Neale, Kristen Zbanok and David Whitesell. Sitting (from left) are: Karen Moore, Erin Phelps and Nileah Shah. Phelps and Shahreah eighth graders at Power.

## Students help Hugo victims

Marlene Angelo's sixth grade social studies students at Power Middle School in Farmington Hills got a triple lesson last week.

Current events, teamwork and helping others were tops on the lesson plan.

The sixth graders led a week-long, schoolwide collection effort that will send several hundred dollars to help victims of Hurricane Hugo, which hit the southern United States in September.

"It was lots of fun — they were really enthused," said Angelo, who was tallying the balance of the lunch hour collection late last week. So far, she had counted \$327, not including some teacher donations.

Lunchtime at the school is divided into "A" and "B" hours, which allowed for a bit of fun collection competition. The B group were beating the A group by only \$12 during the competition, which ran Sept. 28 through Oct. 3.

The sponsoring sixth grade class designed posters promoting the effort. Money will be sent to the American Red Cross.

# State officials lean toward Haggerty boulevard plan

By Darrell Clem  
staff writer

State transportation officials seeking a solution to traffic congestion on Haggerty Road appear to favor building a new multi-lane boulevard instead of widening the existing road.

Project manager Mike Flajole said officials are expected to decide within a month whether to widen Haggerty or build a new six- or eight-lane boulevard, west of Haggerty from 12 Mile to Pontiac Trail.

"People are frustrated at the progress and how long it takes to do things," Flajole said last Monday. "But we're moving along as fast as we can."

Flajole strongly indicated a new boulevard would be the most viable way to reduce traffic congestion in the Haggerty Road area. He said a new road would cost an estimated \$12 million, while making improvements to the existing road would cost \$109 million to \$114 million.

"It would be about \$40 million cheaper to build a new road," Flajole added.

MUCH OF the increased cost for widening the existing Haggerty Road would stem from "cutting

into" areas already commercially or residentially developed, he said. "A lot of that area is tied up in real estate."

Moreover, Flajole said the public appears to favor building a new boulevard. Of the citizens who attended a public hearing on the issue earlier this summer, Flajole said 90 percent of those who spoke out supported a new road.

In addition to resolving Haggerty Road traffic congestion, the project also is intended to provide access to the interchange of I-275, I-696 and I-96 near 12 Mile in Farmington Hills.

Moreover, Flajole said the project eventually could be expanded to include a new stretch of road from Pontiac Trail north to M-59. Some communities have sought more information about which direction such an extension might take, but Flajole said the primary concern at the present should be addressing problems from 12 Mile to Pontiac Lake Trail.

"We'll worry about that later," Flajole said of extending a new road to M-59.

Meanwhile, officials are continuing to analyze comments from the public hearing, Flajole said, and they also are developing an environmental impact statement that must be

approved by federal officials before the project can begin.

AFTER OFFICIALS reach a decision on which Haggerty proposal to implement, they will complete the environmental analysis.

Flajole said it will be "a good six months" before federal highway officials will be asked to review the environmental issues, which range from wetlands mitigation to utility construction.

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