

SEMCOG wins

Grant to fund pilot water study

Oakland County will be part of a nationwide pilot program to help urban areas curb water pollution caused by contaminated and debris-filled stormwater runoff.

The Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) has been awarded a \$170,000 demonstration grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to find more cost-effective ways to control water pollution caused when stormwater systems carry debris, dust, pet litter, oil and grease, decomposed leaves and grass and toxic materials into streams and lakes.

The grant, effective July 6, was awarded under the EPA's nationwide urban runoff program and is for the first year of a proposed three-year program. The total project cost is an estimated \$685,800.

SEMCOG will administer the grant in cooperation with the Oakland County Drain Commission.

SEMCOG selected Oakland County for the test project because it has implemented stormwater and sedimenta-

tion control measures and has a large number of inland lakes.

SEMCOG will soon select nine sites in the county with on-site detention basins for water quality sampling and analysis. Three of those sites will be new ones so that SEMCOG can have at least three of the most up-to-date systems under study.

A detention system is a low-level place in the ground where stormwater can drain, be held, and then be released

in a controlled or predictable manner.

Water is carried to the detention basin by a storm sewer pipe or in a ditch. On-site detention basins collect and store water to prevent large surges from overloading county drains and natural streams.

"Our research showed that urban stormwater runoff is a major source of water pollution in Southeast Michigan," said SEMCOG Executive Director Michael Glusac. "This disputed pre-

vious notions that agriculture runoff was a far worse polluter."

Glusac said SEMCOG will also study the legal, financial and management constraints related to local institutional capacity to complement the technical recommendations that result from this study. This is because increased use of a stormwater detention sites for water quality control will require a system of maintenance that does not currently exist.

Deadline for SBA disaster loans nears

The Small Business Administration (SBA) has announced the closing date for acceptance of physical disaster loan applications from homeowners, tenants, and businesses in Oakland and all adjacent counties that suffered property damage from the severe ice storms last April.

Under the SBA Disaster Program, persons who own homes or businesses that were damaged or destroyed as a

direct result of the disaster, and persons who suffered personal property losses may apply for direct low interest rate Physical Disaster Loans to restore their properties to pre-disaster condition.

Businesses that have suffered economic injury as a direct result of this disaster may apply for an Economic Injury Disaster Loan. Such businesses are required to submit documentation showing that the economic injury suffered was directly attributable to the disaster.

Physical Disaster Loan applications

must be filed on or before July 16, 1979. Business Economic Injury Disaster Loan applications must be filed on or before Feb. 18, 1980. No applications can be accepted after these dates.

The current interest rate for these loans is 7 1/2 percent.

Homeowners, tenants, and businesses may continue to contact the Disaster Branch Office in Detroit, on the mezzanine of the McNamara Building, 477 Michigan Ave. Telephone: (313) 226-4030.

The office is open Mondays-Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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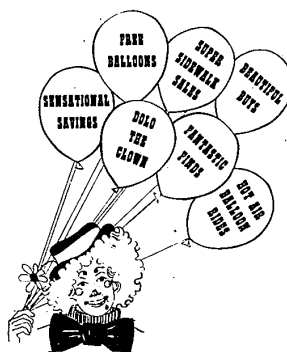
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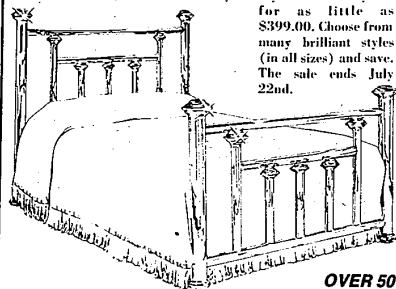
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