In October

Decision due on road designation

The Oakland County Road Commis-sion (OCRC) will make its decision by Oct. 15 on designating Halstead and Walnut Lake roads natural beauty

roads.

Brian Blaesing, OCRC environmental concerns coordinator, told about 20 people who attended the public hearing in West Bloomfield Sept. 16 that he has received only two objections to the plan.

plan.

Clerk Betty Sue Dupree submitted 29 letters written to the township in support of the road redesignation and none in opposition.

Both the township board and plan-Bioth the township board and planing commission support the proposal for Walnut Lake from Haggerty to Haltstead and Halstead from Walnut Lake to 14 Mile.

Trustee Raymond Holland, who also serves on the planning commission, and bupree gathered the petition signatures calling for the bearing.

The states Walnut Haltstead was the state of the property of the propert

serve certain county-local-roads having unusual or outstanding natural beauty such as native trees and vegetation. Industrial zoning along a half mile of Walnut Lake Road, east of Haggerty, can be planned to protect the road, Holland said.

The township's roadscape plan adopted in 1980-states both roads need

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HOLLAND AND SEVERAL residents described the 40-50-foot-high hardwood trees, marshes and wildlife refuges along the roadsdess as unique in the county. "I counted 254 trees along the road. I've seen deer, fox, raccoon, beaver and so many bird species you can't believe it," Holland said.

Both roads are under county jurisdic-

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Frank Meyers, executive director of the Intercounty Highway Commission, in a letter to OCRC, called the designa-tion 'unwise' because of the lack of road facilities in the area, possible fu-ture development and the 120-toot right-of-way plan.

A Farmingion Hills resident opposed cause it is a main route to Henry Ford Hospital, he said.

Supervisor In Doherty, who did-not attend the hearing, also has ex-pressed doubt south residential. It is the commission of the commission of the bearing also has ex-pressed doubt south residential. It is the more and more difficult, to get said.

said.
"I'M NOT AGAINST the goal, but it could create impediments in the industrial zone. It's not good planning. Trees can be preserved without the designation," he said.

Several subdivision representatives, the League of Women Voters and Concrened Citizens for West Bloomfield submitted letters asking for the preservation designation for both roads.

'Comparisons were made with Bloomfield Township's two natural beauty roads, Echo and Wing Lake.

But OCRC representatives pointed out those Bloomfield Township roads are maintained by that township which has a voted millage for road improve-

has a voted millage for roau improvement and maintenance.
West Bloomfield has no road tax, although Holland said someday it may have to ask voters for road funding.
Several residents complained the

roads under discussion

Five in the two roads are reclassified by the county, they could still be paved, Blaesing told the audience.

If approved, the roads could lose the natural beauty designation in the future if they become unsafe because of heavy traffic, he added.

Peter Uplich called Walnut Lake Road a quagmire of mud in rainy weather and a dust, bowl in dry periods.

"The road commission has been throughly negligent." Jurick charged.

OCRC Transportation Director William Foorini resilied that "we tust don't

OCRC Transportation Director Wil-liam Fognini replied that "we just don't have the money without matching funds (from the township)."

Teenager killed on Orchard Lake

A 19-year-old Waterford woman died Friday morning after she was struck by a van while attempting to change a flat tire on Orchard Lake Road, south of Maple. Karen Lynn Wise was taken to Providence Hospital in Southfield, where she died. Death was the result of a basal skull fracture, according to the Oakland County Medical Examiner's Office.

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FURNACE CHECK-UP Driver of the van which hit Ms. Wise's van was Christopher Joseph Muller of West Bloomfield. He approached Ms. Wise's van from the same direction, reportedly struck

her van, veered to the right and hit her, police said. The van was parked in the curb lane with its hazard lights opera-ting, a witness said. No charges have been filed. The acci-

dent remains under investigation

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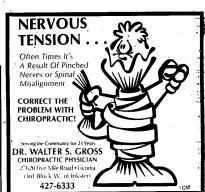
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