

Oakland community grant projects reap \$5.1 million

By Suzie Rollins Singer
staff writer

Oakland County has received \$5.1 million from the federal government for community block grant projects.

Area residents will soon begin seeing new parking lots, recreational facilities and street improvements as a result of the grant money.

"We used the 1980 census data to demonstrate the need for these projects and we want to get the money out there quickly," said Marsha Berkeley, director of the county's property management and community development division.

Each participating community hires its own contractors and earmarks its own projects. The county acts as the administrator.

IN ADDITION to the \$5.1 million, \$1.5 million has been set aside for county residents wishing to rehabilitate their houses. The HUD loans administered through the county are either an installment loan with a 3 percent interest rate, or a deferred payment loan collected when the house is sold.

Income and family size are part of the criteria used when selecting participants in the rehabilitation program.

Persons interested in applying for a Housing and Urban Development grant should call 858-9493.

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THE FOLLOWING is a partial list of HUD financed projects to begin in Oakland County under the 1983-84 block grant program:

- Avon Township - Providing an ample and potable water supply to residents in the Brooklyn Subdivision Water mains will be installed along portions of Melvin, Eastern, Longview, Gerald, Essel and Culbertson.

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There will also be a preliminary site analysis and master development plan for Urich Park. • Farmington - resurfacing the entire length of Sherwood and Shaw streets, costing about \$57,800.

- Lathrup Village - 1) provide barrier-free crosswalks in the area of 11 and 12 Mile roads, bounded by Southfield and Santa Barbara roads. 2) purchase or renovate a bus to transport senior citizens. 3) plant trees in the area bounded by 11 and 12 mile roads, Santa Barbara and Lathrup Boulevard. 4) upgrade the Community Plaza Park with plantings, landscaping and park benches. The cost of all the projects is about \$71,300.

- Rochester - 1) purchase and install barrier free playground equipment in the Rochester Municipal Park. 2) construct a 7,200-square-foot gravel entrance and a 15,000-square-foot gravel parking lot for Welling Park. 3) drafting Phase I improvement plans for the city's central business district, including complete engineering and construction drawings for physical improvements in the public right-of-way along

Main Street, such as plantings, sidewalks and lighting. The cost of all these projects is about \$46,100.

- Troy - Install about 7,700 feet of drainage pipe in the right-of-way the entire length of Louis, Troy, Franklin, Helena, Talbot and Kilmer Streets. Manholes and catch basins will also be installed for a total cost of approximately \$235,800.

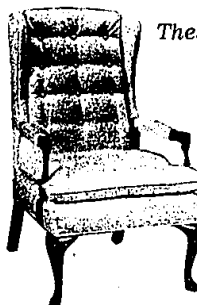
- West Bloomfield - 1) install about 435 feet of drainage pipe on Playstead Street from Cooley Lake Road to Union Lake Road, then east and west one block on Locklin. 2) install a safety path of about 2,200 feet on Richardson Road between Bloomer Park and Green Lake Road. 3) install two baseball diamonds in Keith Road Park and purchase and install picnic tables, grills and play equipment in Bloomer Park. 4) Providing funds for leasing space for the senior citizen center. All the projects are expected to cost about \$115,400.

Southfield was not among the participants because it administers its own community block grant program. Birmingham chooses not to participate in the program.

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Series begins on alcoholism

Brighton Hospital is sponsoring a program dealing with alcoholism and their problems throughout the summer.

The program is free and open to the public. Persons concerned about loved ones or associates or those who believe they have a problem with alcohol should attend.

The series will be held at 6 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month, beginning June 7. Each meeting will last about 1½ hours and will be held in the Brighton Hospital Chapel.

Brighton Hospital is at 12851 E. Grand River at the corner of Kensington Road, just off the I-96 freeway. Phone number is 227-8143.

Some topics to be covered include: identifying the alcoholic, the disease and concept of alcoholism, where to alcoholism is going, the enablers and intervention.

Trained alcoholism counselors will be on hand at each meeting.

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