

County may aid 1- 696 cities

By Kathy Parrish
staff writer

Three more cities hard hit by 1-696 construction may get county help defraying costs.

Oakland County's Planning and Building Committee will consider a resolution giving \$79,050 to Huntington Woods, Lathrup Village and Pleasant Ridge. If approved, the amount would help offset taxes lost because of the east/west freeway construction.

A summer 1989 completion date has been set for the I-696 freeway which will run from across the Oakland and Macomb county suburbs from I-96 at Telegraph and 12 Mile to I-94 on the east.

"We recognize that some communities

are having to shoulder the burden for something that will benefit the whole county," explained Commissioner John Olsen, R-Huntington Woods, who proposed the resolution. He hopes the amount will be awarded annually for eight years. "But we didn't include the smaller cities."

ON MARCH 22, Oakland County commissioners awarded \$252,518.60 to Oak Park, Royal Oak and Southfield. The amount is intended to repay the cities for taxes lost because of lost property or construction payments.

Also expected to be awarded for eight years, the money apparently went just to cities paying 1-696 construction costs. Olsen said cities with less than 30,000 res-

idents aren't paying construction costs. So Huntington Woods, Lathrup Village and Pleasant Ridge were overlooked in the reimbursement.

But all three small cities did lose property and taxes because of the freeway construction. The resolution states that the "annual tax cost on a percentage basis for the cities far exceeds that of the larger cities."

"The burden is tremendous on these cities," said Olsen, who lives in Huntington Woods and represents that city as well as Berkley, Lathrup Village, Pleasant Ridge and parts of Royal Oak and Southfield.

"It's not just that the land has been taken, but because of uncertainty all these years people haven't developed or maintained property."

Call 4-H for challenge

Oakland County 4-H is looking for adults interested in becoming Challenge Leaders.

The 4-H Challenge program is designed to help youth discover their mental, physical and emotional capabilities, as well as help them build self-confidence and a positive self-image and cope with stress.

Adult leaders learn hiking, backpacking, canoeing, cross-country skiing, orienteering and wilderness survival and cooking.

Adults must attend four intensive weekend training sessions, pass a comprehensive written test and take a Mul-

ti Media Standard First Aid and CPR course. Additional training in areas such as climbing, rappelling, kayaking, wilderness transportation, kayaking, sailing and bike touring is also available.

Leader training will be Sept. 25-30, Nov. 9-11, Feb. 8-10, and April 19-21. To be eligible, applicants must be at least 21. Those 16-20 may become associate leaders, who are accompanied by certified adult leaders when taking youth on challenge outings.

To sign up, call Greg Rogers, Oakland County 4-H Program assistant, at 525-0552.

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