

# Orchard Lake Road opens on Oct. 12

By Tom Henderson  
staff writer

There's good news fast approaching for residents of West Bloomfield who endured all summer the horrendous traffic logjam on Orchard Lake Road north of Maple.

Dennis Pajot, public information officer for the Oakland County Road Commission, announced Tuesday that the full five lanes of the road-widening project are scheduled to open Friday, Oct. 12.

Work on the project began in June, when the road was closed completely for a month. Since July, traffic has funneled through two extremely congested lanes between Maple and Green.

"It was our intention all along to have it open before the snow flies," said Pajot. "And unless we get an unusually early snow, we will."

"Of course, the way it's been the last

few nights, you never know," he added with a laugh, referring to the nightly time lows in the upper 50s the early part of the week.

PAJOT SAID there would be some clean-up work to be done after the 12th, but that work should not affect traffic.

"The 12th is what we're shooting for, but if it gets to be the 15th or 16th, people shouldn't panic," added Pajot. "Things have been going real well."

A trip to the construction site Tuesday confirmed the project's status of near completion. The frenetic pace of work along the road this past summer has eased. There were just three trucks and three workers along the stretch of Orchard Lake, with most of the asphalt and concrete in place.

The biggest item left in the construction project is the installation of curb along the west side of the road.

DAVID CASKEY/staff photographer

scheduled to open Oct. 12, according to Oakland County Road Commission officials.



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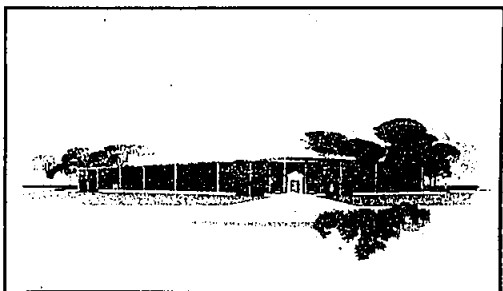
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