Talk of extending Northwestern revived

The possibility of extending Northwestern Highway through Section 34 in West Bloomfield to terminate at Maple Road, long thought a dead issue, is being revived.

Farmington Hills and West Bloomfield elected officials plan a Joint meeting on Wednesday, April 9, to discuss Northwestern and 14 Mile Road Improvements. Fourteen Mile is under Farmington Hills jurisdiction.

However, proponents of the extension once again may have to deal with public pressure against it and lack of money.

Traffic counts are high, the potholes

Traffic counts are high, the potholes deep and money is short in the town-ship, the county and the state for roads, township Supervisor John Doherty said. No primary roads serving West Bloom-field are under township control, he

Doherty has never given up wanting the extension. But the township plan-ning commission removed it from its Master Plan land-use guide three years ago.

THE MICHIGAN Department of Transportation does not show it on its 10-year plan. The only state priority affecting West Bloomfield is being given to widening Haggerty Road for 12 imiles from interstate 686 to M-59 at a cost of \$39 million this year, according to state Sen. Richard Fessler (R-West Bloomfield)

to state Sen. Hierard ressier in mea-Bloomfield.
Fessler was the prime mover, with the endorsement of the Oakland County Board of Commissioners, for the four-lane parkway project.
The widening of Haggerty is a good

Interim solution but what's needed is a freeway out there," said Dennis Pajot, Oakland Comuty Road Commission communications officer.
"We're still interested in having Northwestern built in compilance with our contract," Pajot said. "In 1937 we agreed to pay them (state) \$1.8 million over 20 years. They in return were to bond over \$50 million statewide and build Northwestern from Eight Mile Road to U.S. 23. They built only to Telegraph.

Road to U.S. 23. They built only to Telegraph.

"We think that route (Northwestern) is necessary to relieve the horrible traffic congestion," Pajot said.

The county planning and building department is interested in Improving the existing portion of Northwestern but warns it will compound problems where Northwestern ends at Orchard Lake Road.

THE SUPERVISOR is suggesting a

THE SUPERVISOR is suggesting a Northwestern extension be a landscaped boulevard from Orchard lake Road west to empty on Maple Road, also planned to be a boulevard. Thost, says Doherty, is the only practical solution to the mounting traffic bottleneck as drivers head north. From Maple, he said, they can go directly to Haggerty Road.

"I don't know whether the rest of the township board supports this or not," Doherty admits. In the early 1970s local opposition to the extension and the lack of state money secutived the plan, which had been a dotted line on maps since the plan of the plan of

"THE COUNTY wants Northwest-ern. Farmington Hills wants it. South-field wants it and certain factions in the township want it because of frus-tration with traffic patterns there," Worlon said.

the township want it because of trustration with traffic patterns there, Horton said.

We've always said the best insurance polley for those who don't want it may be the said of the said

said, but there has over no composal.

"There is discussion of a local option gas tax. It would require legislation. We would opt, by a vote of the people, to have a gas tax here (in the county) only, said Pajot. That would mean the moterist buying gas in Oakiand County would, in effect, pay a user tax.

"THE COUNTY doesn't have funds," agreed Doherty, "even if we could match it. We aren't supposed to have to match funds on primary roads. But we did to widen Orchard Lake Road. That had to come out of our general fund, holding up the township getting a new

town hall and a police station."
Horton predicts, "If the Northwestern extension goes through, Section 34 will not have the primarily residential flavor. The state highway department has some right-of-way. They own lots in Orchard Vale subdivision. They do

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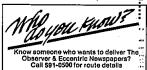
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"If Northwestern were extended el-ther as a freeway or a boulevard, you'd end up having West Bloomfield look like the last mile of Farmington Hills

between 12½ and 13½ Mile roads on Northwestern.

"Instead of the back portion (of the Bauervic acreage) being 90-percent residential, I believe it would be 90-percent office and commercial," Hor-ton sald.





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obituaries

GEBHARD STAAB

Mr. Staab, 84, of Novi died March 20.
Born in Germany, Mrs. Staab was a retired tool and die inspector for General Motors.
Survivors include his wife, Hedwigsons, William and Lawrence, daughters, Jeanette Gerard and Hidegard Staab; sister, Lisbeth Kappner, brother, Alfred, four grandchildren.
Services were March 24 at the Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington, with the Rev. Thomas Scherger of Spirit of Christ Lutheran Church officiating, Burial was in Glen Eden Cometery, Livonia.

on the agenda

Farmington Hills City Council Council Chambers 31555 11 Mile, Farmington Hills 7:30 tonight

Council will present resident Pat Baker with an award for being the winner of the "Name the Park" contest (Heritage Park, formerly known as the Spieer Properly. Council is expected to adopt a resolution approving the wording and election date for a half-mill levy for parks and recreation de-velopment. Council will also receive a

AUGUSTA MAESEELE

Mrs. Maesecle, 95, of West Bloom-field, formerly of Farmington, dled March 22 in St. Mary Nursing Home, St. Clair Shores. Born in Swevezeele, Belgium, Mrs. Maeseele was a homemaker. Survivors include her daughter, Eve-lyn Tilley, eight grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. Services were March 25 at the Thay-er-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington. Mass was celebrated at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church with the Rev. Arthur Jacobi officiating, Burial was in Mount Olivet Cemetery, Detroit.

report on the construction progress of the police building. Approval will be considered for additional equipment purchases for the police building. Also to be considered its approval of a sub-contract agreement with the Oakland County Road Commission for maintenance of the Grand River boulevard, between Eight Mite and Purdue. Council is expected to enact an ordinance amendment to revise purchase agreement conditions for the sale of property to the Detroit Baptist Manor at Drake and Freedom roads.

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Taxpaying is a tedious and sometimes frustrating experience for everyone, but the older taxpayer may confront new and difficult problems after retirement. For example, new tax forms may be required. The tax implications of pension income, sale of property, stock dividends, Social Security and tax credit for the elderly may be unclear.

In dealing with these special problems, the older taxpayer may wish to take advantage of the free Tax-Aide program offered by the American Association of Retired Persons, in cooperation with NBD. For further information about where you or someone you know can speak to a qualified tax advisor, free of charge, simply call 642-0115 Monday through Friday between the hours of 9 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

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For unknown reasons, early spring is the time of control of the co





