# HUD bashing

## Troy man says block grant rules need changing

staff writor

Greg Kaza likes to stimulate critical thinking and independent action. That's why the 28-year-old vice president for policy research for the Mackinac Center for Public Policy — a Midland-based think lank — wrote an article for The Wall Street Journal criticitaring the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development block grant program, which allowed affluent communities in Oakland County to quality for federal money, "HUD's block grant program, established to assist the nation's poor, "HUD's block grant program, established to assist the nation's poor, "Staff or County's wealthy." Kaza wrote in the Sept. 19 save of the Journal. It appeared on the op ed page, which is generally devoted to opinion articles.

TO SUPPORT bis claim that HUD.

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TO SUPPORT his claim that HUD money was misspent in Oakland County, Kaza cited these specifics:

• Rochester Hills received \$47,263 for a park.

• Birmingham received \$50,070 to be divided equally among three projects, including curb cuts to make city streets barrier-free.

• Troy, where Kaza lives, received \$16,169 in block grants for a water system and street improvements.

ments.
• West Bloomfield Township

received \$74,714 for a senior citizen center and to help the handleapped and elderly with home chores.

These and other communities.

These and other communities didn't necessarily misrepresent facts or figures when they applied for federal block grant funds, Kaza said.

"The question is whether or not this is an appropriate expenditure of funds earmarked for the poor," he said.

said.

Kaza said HUD block grant guidelines should be reviewed and changed. And "if they can't be modified, block grants should be abolished," he said.

Kaza's article prompted comment from a number of officials, including Michael J. Rony, HUD Deroit office program manager.

"We're aware of the article and the implications," Rony said. "But they are not something we normally react to. But I can tell you one thing, communities qualify for block grant funds according to a very strict criteria, a very structured formula."

Troy, for example, qualified under existing, HUD guidelines for the \$161,640 the city carmarked for a water system and street improvements, Rony said.

Rony added he could speak specifically about Troy because HUD officials monitored the city's request as part of a spot check of block grant programs. "When we monitor a pro-

'We have low and moderate income people. I won't name the subdivisions, but we have them.

> Dorothy McIntosh West Bloomfield supervisor

gram," he said, "It's not a cursory review. It's very thorough." Other communities also insisted they qualified for their block grants.

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BIRMINGHAM — which is newly eligible for HUD grants after taking steps to remedy housing discrimination — will spend \$16,690 to acquire a site for a senior clitzen center, \$16,690 to make streets barrier-free and \$16,690 for housing rehabilitation, said city clerk Judy A. Benn. "Each project was carefully reviewed and approved by city commissioners," Benn said. Dorothy L. McIntosh, supervisor of West Bloomfield Township, said the community's reputation for affuence sometimes blinds people." she said. "I won't name the subdivisions, but we have the dierry and handicapped people who are just hanging on," she said.

Doris J. Keylon, assistant to the mayor of Rochester Hills, voiced similar sentiments. "Rochester Hills is an affluent area," she said. "But that doesn't mean everybody is rich."

WHILE ROZNY said he is confi-WHILE ROZNY said he is conti-dent the communities mentioned by Kaza meet HUD qualifications, he said some people might question the wisdom of using public funds in af-fluent areas. But that is an issue of policy, he said. "At HUD, we make sure the rules are followed. Policy decisions crease is the Compress."

are set in the Congress."

Kaza said that is the point of his criticism.

#### Lower it your cholesterol

Learn to lower your cholesterol. The Oakland County Health Division is offering a cholesterol education class at the Bloomfield Township Public Library, 1099 Lone Pine Road, Bloomfield Hills, The class will meet 6:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Oct. 3, 16, and 17. Cost is \$6.

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ADDITIONAL

The group calling itself "Citizens Unfairly Taxed" says it will pro-duce a 1990 ballot proposal to re-duce properly taxes by cutting assessmenis.

After splitting with its previous chairman, L. Brooks Patterson, and economist Patrick Anderson, the group reorganized this week under co-chairmen Walter Averill III, a Saginaw physician, and William D. McMaster, a Boomfield Township public relations executive.

tive.
It lists Richard Headlee as a vice chairman. Headlee, chairman and CEO of Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Co., gave his name to the 1978 tax limitation amendment to

1976 tax limitation amenance to the Michigan Constitution and was the 1982 Republican nominee for governor. "I'll stay in touch with both (groups)," Headlee said Tuesday, "I have friends in both. To me the is-sue is more important than the per-sonalities.

"To be honest with you, I'm going to focus on defeating Proposals A and B (on the Nov. 7 ballot)."

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"OUR BALLOT proposal is still being drafted and continues the process begun by the CUT board last March," said Averill after Monday night's meeting of 25 people in the Hamilton beadquarters in Farmington Hills.
"We're confident we can rally around a new ballot proposal that will genuinely cut tax assessments and which will be submitted to the people for majority approval on

ENTRESTOCICOESMEATERS

New group plots

tax cut strategy

ue. Nov. 6, 1990, general election jailot."

McMaster said the CUT group rejected the proposal of Anderson, a Hamilton economist, and Patterson, a former Oakland County prosecutor. McMaster says Anderson, and Fatterson walked out on them. Other officers include Thomas filter, an Alexander Hamilton vice president, treasurer, board members Rose Bogart of Livonia, chair of the Wayne county Taxpayers Association, Marie Remmert, chair of the Oakland Taxpayers Association and Mike Sessa, founder of the Magnetin State of the Magnetic State of the Magnetin State of the Magnetin State of the Magnetic State of the Magn

ANDERSON, WHO with Patter-on split with the McMaster-Aver-ANDERSON, WHO with Patterson spiti with the McMaster-Avereill group, says the latter group hay or right to use the CUT name. McMaster sald be owns the assumed name. The Anderson-Patterson propostal, rejected by the other group would:

• Reduce all school operating property taxes to 30 mills maximum.

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a.m.-4 p.m.
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