



U.S. Rep. Joe Knollenberg

# Knollenberg wants your opinion on key issues

By JENNIFER PLACINO  
STAFF WRITER

Congress has identified their priorities, but U.S. Rep. Joe Knollenberg (R-Bloomfield Township) would like to get his constituents' opinions on those issues before casting his vote.

Residents of the 11th Congressional District, which includes most of Oakland County and a section of western Wayne County, can do their part by returning a questionnaire Knollenberg's office distributed last week.

Knollenberg is asking constituents to return questionnaires before Memorial Day. The congressman said he hopes there will be "more meat added to the bone" of the federal budget issue by that time.

"As much information as I can gather up (before the holiday) will help me," Knollenberg said. Questionnaires will be accepted after the holiday as well.

The top concerns to be discussed this year are highlighted in the survey, including:

- Prioritizing tax cuts including a \$600 child tax credit, college education tax credit and a capital gains tax cut.
- Views on taxes, cuts and privatization in the Medicare and Social Security system.
- Methods of dealing with violent crime including rehabilitation, tougher sentencing and the death penalty.
- Whether or not English should be the official language of the United States.
- Stances on the environment.

- When and how to balance the federal budget.
- Reforming campaign finance laws.
- Views on gas taxes for road improvements and spending.
- "It's an opportunity to voice their opinions on several key issues that will be debated by the 105th Congress," Knollenberg said.
- One of the issues Knollenberg considers most important is balancing the federal budget. "It's very critical," he said. "We

haven't balanced the budget in 27 years." Increasing funding for roads through a state or federal gas tax is another primary issue for Knollenberg. Last week, Gov. John Engler unveiled a measure that would increase the state gas tax by 4 cents per gallon to generate more money to fix deteriorating roads and bridges. "I just want to get some (feeling) from the public about what they'd like to see happen," Knollenberg said.

## Gardening tips offered Saturday

Free workshops, demonstrations and tours to help home gardeners understand environmentally-friendly gardening practices are being offered Saturday, May 17 at sites throughout Oakland County.

The event sponsored by South-eastern Oakland County Resource Recovery Authority includes activities such as: wildflower walks and workshops, native trees and maintenance, composting and natural mulches, landscaping for wildlife, and tours of private gardens. The events will be taking place rain or shine.

SOCRRA Demonstration Gardens, located at 3910 W. Webster Rd., off of 12 1/2 Mile Rd. between Coolidge and Greenfield roads in Royal Oak, will be open for tours from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Thirty minute tent workshops at the location include:

- Selection and maintenance of native trees and shrubs — 9 a.m. & 9:30 a.m.
- Why wildflowers? — 10:00 a.m.
- Earth-friendly gardening — 10:30 a.m.
- Making compost the easy way — 11 a.m.
- Landscaping for wildlife — 11:30 a.m. and noon.
- Compost, earthworms and soil health — 12:30 p.m.
- Marvelous mulches — 1:00 p.m.

- Fast-resistant trees and shrubs and garden hotline questions and answers — 1:30 p.m.
- Wildflower conservation and the home garden — 2 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.

Every 30 minutes there will be tours of the SOCRRA Native Landscape Education Site, a competing demonstration area and a lawn demonstration area.

Rouge River walking tours are planned from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. in Birmingham starting at Booth Park, located on Woodward Avenue and Harmon. The 45-minute walking tours depart at 10 a.m., 11 a.m., noon and 1 p.m. Tours follow paved residential streets adjacent to the Rouge River and feature water quality improvements, school-based education, and home landscaping practices which protect the environment.

The Birmingham Department of Public Services, located at 851 S. Edon, south of Maple and east of Adams, will have an open house from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Activities include a tree pruning demonstration at 11 a.m. and an Enviro-Magic Show at noon, healthy lawn care, making and using compost, and a Rouge River interactive kiosk on how you can protect water quality.

Activities at the Lloyd Al Stago Outdoor Education Center, located at 8685 Coolidge Hwy., between Square Lake & South Boulevard in Troy, include: woodland wildflower walks at 11:30 a.m. and 12:15 p.m.; backyard landscape with wildlife features from 11 a.m.-1 p.m.; using and making compost for a healthy garden from 11 a.m.-1 p.m.; landscaping for wildlife and a wildflower walk from 1 p.m.-3 p.m. Advance registration is required for this workshop only at (248) 524-3567.

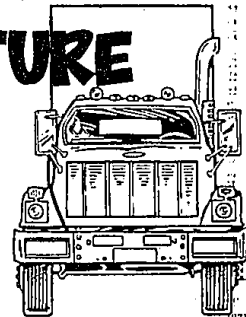
Home gardens will be open to the public from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. in Lathrup Village, Royal Oak, Birmingham, and Troy. Gardens feature wildflowers, diverse trees and shrubs, spring flowers, easy-care garden design ideas, and environmentally-sound practices. Maps for the gardens are available for pickup Saturday at Troy Outdoor Education Center, Birmingham Department of Public Works and Booth Park in Birmingham.

For more information, call (248) 288-6160 weekdays.



## PATIO FURNITURE SUMMER TRUCKLOAD EVENT!

FRIDAY, MAY 16th THRU SUNDAY, MAY 18th



**Sunbeam**  
**\$196**  
**CAMERON BAY STYLE ALUMINUM PATIO SET**  
• White frame with white, blue & mauve pattern cushions  
• Set includes 4 cushioned stacking chairs & 54" glass top table  
• Umbrella sold separately (159554)

**\$482<sup>3</sup>** **WHITE RESIN PATIO SET**  
• Includes white, low-back, stackable chairs and 38" white table  
• Easy to clean (375590)

**Sunbeam**  
**\$276** **HICKORY FORGE PATIO SET**  
• Includes 4 motion chairs and 48" round mesh table  
• Evergreen  
• Heavy duty wrought iron construction  
• Umbrella and base sold separately (150877)

**Sunbeam**  
**\$298** **BRECKENRIDGE PATIO SET**  
• Includes 4 cushioned stacking chairs and 48" glass top round table  
• Durable powder coated finishes  
• Rust-free aluminum frames  
• Easy clean weather resistant cushions  
• Umbrella and base sold separately (159886)

**\$307<sup>59</sup>** **WHITE PATIO SET**  
• Heavy duty construction  
• Set as shown includes:  
• (4) 5-position chairs  
• 48" glass top table and umbrella  
• All pieces sold separately (765054)

**\$388** **5-PC. SAVOY PATIO FURNITURE SET**  
• Tubular resin  
• Set includes 4 chairs with cushions & glass top oval table  
• Umbrella sold separately (R02074)

**\$398** **TARA 5 PIECE PATIO SET**  
• Includes 4 cushioned chairs and 38" x 55" table  
• Umbrella and base sold separately (H640335-ST225P (P24636))

**\$398** **ORLEANS PATIO SET**  
• Includes 4 cushioned aluminum garden chairs and 60" x 60" rectangular glass top table  
• Durable powder coated finishes  
• Easy clean weather resistant cushions  
• Umbrella and base sold separately (159918)

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