

# Feds approve money for Oakland roads

The U.S. House of Representatives Transportation Committee has allocated \$13.7 million for various road construction projects throughout Oakland County.

"I was very pleased when I received the call about this," said Brent O. Bair, Road Commissioner for Oakland County managing director. "This money will allow the continuation of critical projects that have been in the pipeline for years."

The money is earmarked for 6 projects on RCOC roads and state highways including:

- \$5 million for widening the remaining two-lane segment of Baldwin Road, south of I-75 in Auburn Hills and Lakeland;

- \$3.7 million to extend Telegraph Road from Dixie Highway in Waterford Township to Walton Blvd. in Pontiac to four lanes;

- \$2 million to widen Walton Boulevard from two lanes to five from Sashabaw to Dixie Highway in Waterford Township;

- \$2 million to widen Walton Boulevard from two lanes to five from I-75 to Squirrel Road in Auburn Hills;

- \$500,000 to provide immediate congestion fixes, such as

turns lanes, traffic lights and signs on M-24, from I-75 north to the county line; and

- \$500,000 to perform preliminary engineering work for improvements to M-15 from Clarkston north to the county line.

The Baldwin, Telegraph and Walton Boulevard projects are part of RCOC's long-standing Walton Boulevard corridor improvement plan.

"This money will allow us to eliminate critical bottlenecks," said Richard Skarratt, chairman of the RCOC Board of Road Commissioners. "We're extremely excited about the possibility of receiving this money and being able to complete these projects."

Board Vice Chairman Rudy Lozano said the money will provide funds to finish important projects.

"The projects identified are not frivolous or something we just dreamed up," Lozano said. "They have been in the works for a decade or more. We just haven't had the money to complete them. The improvements are needed today."

The bill still has to pass the full House and Senate version of the transportation bill and the president.

Oakland Digest provides a summary of headline stories from around the county during the week leading up to April 2.

## BIRMINGHAM

Fund-raiser planned: The Children's Charity Coalition, a new group made up of four Oakland County charity organizations in support of children, have organized "Trevin' on the Roadtop-A Cruise Preview Party." The fund-raiser will be held Aug. 14 during the Woodward Avenue Dream Cruise 1998 weekend on the tops of the Chester Street and Old Woodward parking garages in downtown Birmingham.

## CLARKSTON

Student honored for poem: Mary Kaye Varnau, a 13-year-old Clarkston Middle School student attended a luncheon held at the Michigan Reading Association's annual conference in Grand Rapids to honor her poem entitled "Brown." The poem, which addresses racism, is featured in a student anthology published by the MAR called Kaleidoscope.

## FARMINGTON

Students conduct mediation sessions: Eighth grader Brandon Connolly and sixth grader Amanda Mergener are one of 24 Power Middle School students trained to handle peer mediation sessions, which usually occur at least once a week. The program allows students to air grievances and talk about problems before an argument turns deadly.

## LAKE ORION

Bridge construction nearing: Construction on Lake Orion's

new Bellevue Bridge is expected to get under way April 27. The one-lane bridge, which suffers from corroded steel rods, will be replaced with a new, two-lane span over the summer.

## OXFORD

Auction features sports items: The fourth annual Oxford High School "All Night Party Auction" will be held at Oxford High School at 6:30 p.m. Friday, April 3. Sports memorabilia, such as a Sergei Fedorov and a Grant Hill jersey, will be auctioned off to fund the school's all night party. To make a donation, call chairpersons Penny Linto at 628-0169 or Loretta Bell at 628-9905.

## ROCHESTER

Support group promotes non-violence: Eva Krupa, whose son was killed last year in a drive-by

shooting, and her brother, Roman Frankel, organized a support group called Promoting Peace in Our Community. The meetings will be held every Friday at the Potere-Modetz Funeral Home Planning Center, located at the corner of University and Walnut in downtown Rochester. The two also want to start a task force to develop a school curriculum on non-violence. The first meeting for the task force is 6 p.m. Friday, April 17, at the planning center. For more information, contact Krupa at 652-7242 or Frankel at 855-3919.

## SOUTHFIELD

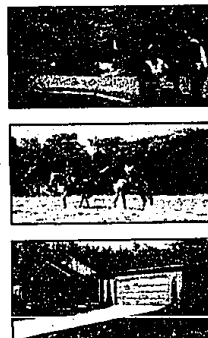
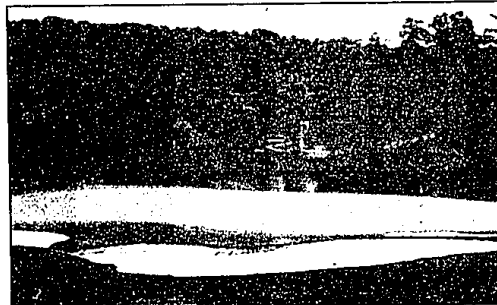
Resident chooses assisted suicide: Assisted suicide advocates Dr. Jack Kevorkian and Georges Redding of Galesburg, Mich., dropped off the body of Southfield resident Mary Judith Kan-

ner, 67, at Providence Hospital last Thursday. Kanter, who suffered from Huntington's disease, was the third Southfield resident to choose assisted suicide this year.

## TROY

Students spread message: In honor of Safe Rides Week, the Troy Athens High School Safe Rides organization have organized events to promote the negative effects of drinking and driving. On Thursday, students will have the opportunity to experience what it's like to drive drunk by using a special Neon Drunk Driving Simulator provided by Safe Rides, Chrysler Corporation and Birmingham Chrysler Plymouth in Troy. Safe rides are offered from 10 p.m. until 1 a.m. on Friday at Sakuma. For assistance, call (248) 641-1661.

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