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plan public hearing. Community Development Coordinator Rick Lumpi told officials the lower amount may not be due to a federal budget "cut."

"What can happen in the funding remains the same, but the number of programs funded increases, so the allocation can be reduced," he explained.

Planning and Community Development Director Dale Countegan said the city will have \$419,000 in new funding to augment \$215,000 from unused funds, as well as repayment of housing rehabilitation loans.

"Every year, (estimates for loan repayments are) \$20,000-\$30,000 under what we actually receive. That'll help us because we have a lot of needs out there," he said.

Lumpi said city staff members carry packets of information about the rehab program, which includes grants, loans and loans for which repayment is deferred until a property is sold. The department also produces a widely distributed brochure.

The zoning department has been a source of referrals, Countegan said.

"When we see issues where

■ The city works on 25 to 30 rehabilitation projects every year.

our preference is not to enforce, we can recommend the housing program," he said.

The city works on 25 to 30 rehabilitation projects every year, which is the limit with current staff and resources, Countegan said. The revolving loan fund has grown to \$1.5 million, so the city could continue the program even without federal funds, he added.

In addition to housing help, which is targeted to certain census areas, the city will spend \$310,000 on capital improvements, including badly needed sidewalks along a stretch of Inkster Road.

"There are some really tight areas to deal with," Countegan said of the project, which was requested by Old Towne Homeowners Association members at last year's public hearing. "A \$100,000 (allocation) may or may not be enough."

This year

Construction along Eight Mile Road, between Grand River and Inkster, planned for this year, marks the beginning of a two-to-three year plan to improve the area's appearance, similar to the Grand River project.

Funding is expected July 1, but it will take months to complete the design work. Countegan expects construction will begin next spring.

CDBG funds will pay for storm drain improvements in two areas, Spring Valley and Sans Souci, in the southeast corner of the city. Residents requested both projects, at costs of \$100,000 and \$60,000, respectively.

Projects

Along with residents who spoke in favor of public improvements, representatives from Detroit Baptist Manor and HAVEN (Help Against Violent Encounters Now!) shelter for victims of domestic abuse testified at the hearing.

Carol Ackerman of Detroit Baptist Manor said the elderly residents in their care have an average income of less than \$800. The \$12,000 in CDBG

funding would help the Manor continue work on its parking lot. "Your help allows us to keep our rent increases at a minimum," Ackerman said.

Though HAVEN suffered a loss last year when a fire damaged its residential shelter, satellite offices like the one in Farmington stayed open to provide services, said President and CEO Hedy Nuriel.

Now in temporary housing, the organization expects to be back in its original building in summer or early fall.

"In the end, when we go back, it'll be better than it ever was," she said, noting improvements to handicapped accessibility and wiring will be part of the project.

HAVEN served 186 people from Farmington Hills last year, in a variety of programs from sexual assault counseling to treatment for batterers.

Hills officials approved a total of \$6,000 for HAVEN, of which \$2,000 will come from housing rehabilitation and \$4,000 will come from \$80,000 set aside for administrative costs. The \$12,000 approved for Detroit Baptist Manor comes out of housing rehabilitation funds.

School expansion up for approval

BY STACY JENKINS
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■ WALLED LAKE SCHOOLS

Expanding Walled Lake Middle School is one part of the equation to solve crowded conditions in the Walled Lake school district.

The board of education is expected to consider a \$2.1 million project that would add seven classrooms and an auxiliary gymnasium to the eight-year-old middle school on Pontiac Trail. The board meets tonight at 7:30 p.m. at the Educational Services Building, 860 Ladd Rd.

The project would be paid out of the district's Public Improvement Fund, which contains about \$6 million, said Sandra Motz, the district's business director. She said the fund mainly consists of money received by the district from the Durant settlement, in which 84 Michigan school districts sued the state for underfunding special education programs.

Superintendent James Geisler said the expansion is needed to relieve crowding at the school and to bring that building up to the same size as Sarah Banks and Walnut Creek middle schools.

Other plans to ease crowding at Walnut Creek Middle School are under way. To even out the populations, the district's Feasibility Committee is embarking on a plan to redistrict students from Gengary Elementary to Banks instead of Walnut Creek. A parent group is meeting with the committee to revise the original redistricting plan before its presentation to the board of education.

Geisler said enrollment at Clifford Smart Middle School is on target and Sarah Banks

has space. As of a February 9 count, enrollment is 829 at Clifford Smart; 909 at Walnut Creek; 790 at Walled Lake Middle School and 716 at Sarah Banks.

The proposed expansion of Walled Lake Middle School includes a two-story addition on to the east end of the school, which would provide space for two new classrooms on each floor, said Chuck Kiasaw, director of operations for the district. He said the school was designed for such an addition.

An auxiliary gym would provide space for another teaching station and two more classrooms would be added to the second floor, where rooms are being used for other purposes, said Kiasaw.

Requests for construction bids would go out within 45 days, if the board approves the project. TMP Associates is working on the designs, said Kiasaw, and the construction manager for the project would be the George W. Auch Company.

The plan is to have the two inside classrooms ready by August, said Kiasaw, and the addition completed by the end of January.

"It's a very, very energetic goal, but we're (confident) we can do it," he said.

The building addition and the redistricting plan will not solve the crowding conditions forever. Geisler said a new middle school will be needed in the future, but the district must focus on these two solutions first.

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Any women out there who want to play hockey?

Suburban Hockey of Farmington Hills is conducting preliminary inquiries as to the feasibility of a fall hockey league for girls 12 and under, with all games to be played at the Suburban Training Center in Farmington Hills and the Novi Ice Arena.

The league would adhere to all Michigan Amateur Hockey Association and USA Hockey rules, which means there would be no checking. The league would create

an atmosphere of competition at two convenient locations for girls who want to play hockey with other girls at their age level.

Those interested in such a program should contact Amy Jones at Suburban Hockey, 478-1600 and indicate their interest by April 15. If enough interest is received, a registration period will begin immediately.

OWL presents speaker on school vouchers

The Farmington Chapter of OWL will present a program on school vouchers at the Farmington branch library on Monday, April 3, at 7 p.m. Janet Cooper, president of the Michigan A.C.L.U., will discuss the impli-

cations of the amendment the state constitution which would legalize taxpayer support of private and religious schools.

The meeting is free and open to the public. For more information, call 248-474-3094.

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