



Winter isn't over yet, but Oakland County communities are preparing for spring and summer road projects now. The following is a list of planned projects:

- ◆ **Oxford** - The continuation of the 1996 paving project this spring will culminate with the final layer of roadway to be laid on the following residential roads in April or early May: Maple, Dayton, First, Willow, Depot, Church, Powell, Mill, East, Horky, and Louck. No detours are expected and a completion date has not been set.
- ◆ **Rochester** - The Sheldon Road Extension is currently under construction and expected to be completed in the late summer months. The first phase of the three-phase project to create a bypass through the City of Rochester, is a half-mile stretch of two-lane roadway from east Second Street to Parkdale. The roadway will be located east of Miller and is expected to be open for traffic in July.
- ◆ **Troy** - Expansion of Square Lake Road between Crooks and Livernols. The road will be expanded to four-lane boulevard 3,200 feet from Crooks and tapered into a 5-lane roadway through the Livernols intersection. The project is expected to start sometime in July and to be completed by November, weather permitting. One-lane temporary traffic roads on both sides of the roadway will be established to maintain traffic flow during construction.
- ◆ **Walled Lake** - Extending Maple Road west past Pontiac Trail to Ladd Road. If land acquisition occurs in time, the project is expected to begin this summer and could last up to two years. No detours are expected until the latter phases of the project.
- ◆ **Farmington** - Deteriorated concrete in Elizabeth Court, St. Mary Court, Twin Valley Court and the intersection of Farmington and Shiawassee roads will be removed and replaced during the spring or early summer. The entire project is expected to be completed in two months and no detours are planned. Residents living in the court areas will have access to their homes during the road work.

Source: Local city and village officials. Compiled by Staff Writer Jennifer Pankala

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Parties differ on state issues

By **TIM RICHARD**
STAFF WRITER

State Senate Republicans and Democrats not only offer different solutions to problems. They have far different notions of what Michigan's problems are.

A few days after Gov. John Engler's State of the State address, party leaders unveiled their own agendas for the legislative term. Sample issues:

- ◆ **"Civil service reform."** Republicans, led by majority leader Dick Posthumus of Aledo, see it as necessary but don't define "reform." In the past, Posthumus has said too many top layers of state departments are protected by civil service.
- ◆ **Democrats don't list it as an issue.**
- ◆ **Consumer protection.** Senate minority leader John Cherry of Clio has a seven-point program that includes refusal to hide company settlements of product liability lawsuits, "strengthening the ban on fully automated telephone sale solicitations," limiting "junk mail and phone calling," and creating a standardized form for auto insurance policies. House Democrats have formed a consumer affairs committee.
- ◆ **The GOP agenda has no consumer item.**
- ◆ **Transportation spending.** Republicans propose to "reform" it but don't say how. Republicans also propose to "invest more in transportation infrastructure."
- ◆ **Democrats don't list it transportation as a problem.** They refuse to put forth a fuel tax

increase proposal until Republicans, including Engler, offer some support for it.

- ◆ **Environment.** Democrats want to "toughen the environmental audit law to revoke immunity if an uncovered violation is one that is already required to be reported to a state or federal agency. Violations uncovered in voluntary audits are currently immune from prosecution."
- ◆ **The second sentence refers to the GOP-backed law sponsored in 1995 by Sen. Loren Bennett, R-Canton.**
- ◆ **Democrats propose a business tax credit for pollution prevention initiatives "above what is required," a biological monitoring program for air and water quality, better reporting on the effects of pollution, and an annual health advisory on contaminated fish.**
- ◆ **The Republican agenda addresses none of the Democrats' issues.** It proposes to "restrict and regulate waste, acquire developmental rights for protection of sensitive areas, comprehensive protection of water resources and sound scientific management of wildlife."
- ◆ **Welfare.** Republicans intend to "build on welfare reform by expanding Project Zero," a series of zoned experiments to help recipients off welfare.
- ◆ **Democrats don't mention welfare.**
- ◆ **"Frivolous lawsuits."** A big item for Senate Republicans. Not mentioned by Democrats.

Athletics from page A5

the student body and the administrative body. I hope that kind of transformation happens here and I think it possibly could. OU is growing so fast and you got the feeling the move was a never-never situation. I think it's going to be good for the school in the long run."

Courtney Ruffing, one a number of recent basketball standouts to come out of coach Fran Schaefer's Rochester Adams program, is a current member of the women's basketball team. The sophomore guard, who transferred to Oakland from the University of Dayton (Division I-AA), says she'll consider redshirting next season in order to play at the Division I level her senior year. Juniors like Jamie Pevinski, a teammate of Ruffing's at OU, will not have that luxury.

"I have thought about the move and there isn't much I can do about it because the school has already decided to go Division I," said Ruffing, who has no thoughts of transferring again. "Competing for a national title and a GLIAC championship is something we've been doing around here for a long time, so some people are down about the situation. But it's better for the university and obviously it's going to enhance (the women's basketball program) in the near future. If you really think about it, there are a lot more positives than negatives for going Division I."

"My hope is that it's a good move for Oakland and I pray that Oakland moves forward and does well," said 11th-year women's basketball coach Bob Taylor, who entered the 1996-97 season with a 229-67 career record at OU. "I think that it was a very special place when we were Division II. It's a winning university with great teams, and I'm sure we have confidence in the abilities of the administrators and powers-that-be to be visionaries and see where we need to go."

"I think Oakland can be successful at that level," Taylor added. "I've always said that Oakland has the best women's basketball tradition in the state, so now we just have to take it a step further."

Oakland plans to compete in six men's sports and eight women's sports. The men's sports are cross country, golf, basketball, soccer, baseball, and swimming and diving; the women's are tennis, volleyball, cross country, golf, basketball, soccer, swimming and diving, and softball. Softball will be added by 1999.

As of December, 79 schools were designated Division I-AAA, which means they don't have to field a football team. The University of Michigan and Michigan State University, for example, are Division I-A. Schools that field football teams but don't meet Division I-A requirements for average attendance or stadium size are I-AA.

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