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## Many summer construction projects planned

By **Jeff Samoray**, OU Web Writer

A number of improvement and repair projects are scheduled to take place throughout the summer on Oakland University's campus, including finishing construction of the new student apartments, School of Education and Human Services building and new parking structure, parking lot expansion, sidewalk replacement, electrical upgrades, and work on Varner Memorial Garden.

Several projects also will take place at the Wilson Boulevard/Oakland Center area, which will affect parking and traffic in the construction area.

A utility distribution pipeline that runs between Wilson Hall and North Foundation Hall currently is being excavated for replacement. Parking and traffic in that area will be affected through July 19 in the following manner:

- Parking lot P-2, located north of the Oakland Center, will be used as a staging area for construction equipment and will be closed to the university community from June 13-July 19.
- No parking will be allowed on Wilson Boulevard from June 17-July 19.
- No traffic other than construction and service vehicles will be allowed on Wilson Boulevard from June 17-July 19.
- The south side of Wilson Boulevard will be closed from June 19-21, and the north side will be converted to two-way traffic.
- The north side of Wilson Boulevard will be closed from June 22-July 19, and the south side will be converted to two-way traffic.

The pipeline that is being replaced also affects the air conditioning in Graham Health Center, Meadow Brook Theatre, Wilson Hall, North Foundation Hall, South Foundation Hall and the Oakland Center. Air conditioning will not be available in those buildings from July 5-9 to allow connection of replacement piping into the system, said Rusty Postlewate, associate vice president for facilities management.

"The pipeline is a high-temperature water line that also powers the air conditioning," Postlewate said. "The switch from the old line to the new will take five days. We scheduled this so it will partially overlap a weekend period and for a day when the university will be closed for the Fourth of July recess. We did this so there will be as little discomfort as possible for people in the buildings to be affected."

In conjunction with this work, a new concrete entrance with handicap access will be made at the northwest entrance of the Oakland Center. Some landscaping also will be added near this entrance to screen the loading dock from pedestrian view. Work will commence sometime in the next couple of weeks and be finished by mid-August. After these repairs and improvements have been completed, the Oakland Center loading dock area and Wilson Boulevard will be repaved. This work will be complete by the end of August, Postlewate said.

### OTHER CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

#### New Student Apartments

Construction of the six Tudor-style apartments and central clubhouse building, which began in October 2001, is about 85 percent complete, Postlewate said. The buildings are in different stages of completion – some are nearly ready for occupancy while others are undergoing finishing work. Sidewalks are being installed and landscaping will be complete before the third week of August, when the buildings will be ready for occupancy, Postlewate said.

University Housing will hold an open house for the apartments on Saturday, June 22. For more information on this event, see the [accompanying story](#).

#### SEHS Building

Construction of the new School of Education and Human Services Building is nearly complete. Employees plan to begin moving into the building in mid-August. Workers are currently completing interior finishing work, such as painting and installing carpeting and cabinetry. Landscaping also will be completed before the beginning of the fall semester, Postlewate said.

### **University parking structure**

Construction of the new parking structure, located at the lower athletic fields across from the new School of Education and Human Services building, began in April and is expected to be completed by October, Postlewate said. At this time, workers are working on the foundation and footings of the structure. By the end of June, workers will bring in large pre-cast concrete panels to assemble the sides and floors of the structure.

### **Parking lot expansion**

Parking Lot 11, located at the upper playing fields across from the George T. Matthews Apartments, will be expanded from 75 to 200 spaces. Work will be completed in August.

### **Oakland Center deck**

The deck and steps at the southeast entrance of the Oakland Center will be replaced with new seating, concrete and handrails. Work will be completed by mid-August.

### **Pedestrian bridge over the lake**

Repairs will be made to the concrete supports of the pedestrian bridge over the lake beginning in early August and conclude before September. The lake level will be lowered slightly to facilitate repairs. In addition, the banks of the lake will be recontoured to create a safer slope, and the perimeter of the lake will be landscaped with deep-rooted tall native grasses, tall wildflowers and low shrubs.

### **Varner Memorial Garden**

This courtyard garden, located at the west entrance of Varner Hall, will serve as a remembrance of Woody Varner, who was OU's first chancellor from 1959-70. Beginning within the next few weeks and finishing in August, new landscaping will be added, the concrete seat wall will be expanded and the deteriorated concrete surfaces will be replaced. After this work has been completed, a sculpture entitled "Resound" will be installed prior to September.

### **Electrical power upgrades**

Underground power lines and electrical switchgear serving several campus buildings will be replaced to improve the reliability of the university's power supply. The first phase of this project was completed last year. This project currently is under way and should be completed by October. Any temporary power outages that occur as a result of the upgrades will be announced as they are scheduled, Postlewate said.

### **Sidewalk replacement**

Some miscellaneous sidewalks will be replaced near Pryale House, Van Wagoner House and between the Oakland Center and Recreation and Athletics Center. Work will be completed by mid-August.

#### **SUMMARY**

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