



Friday, May 30, 2003

## Campus improvements to be made

By **Jeff Samoray**, OU Web Writer

Several improvement and repair projects are scheduled this summer for Oakland University's campus, including completion of the Oakland Center expansion; road repairs and the addition of a new lane to relieve traffic congestion; renovation of room 202 in O'Dowd Hall; parking lot improvements; replacement of a heating, ventilation and air conditioning system (HVAC) in Wilson Hall; landscaping at the lake; and sidewalk replacement.

The 30,000-square-foot, state of the art **expansion of the Oakland Center** is moving steadily toward a mid-August completion. The expansion will provide 330 more seats in the food court area, a 7,000-square-foot multipurpose room that can seat 600, a 24-hour computer lounge featuring wireless Internet connectivity, and an 80-seat coffee shop. The work also includes extensive remodeling and updates to the OC kitchen to meet current catering and food preparation needs.

"Workers recently poured concrete for the first floor of the expansion and are working on interior electrical and mechanical systems," said Associate Vice President for Facilities Management Rusty Postlewait. "The project is moving right along and is about 50 percent done."

Associated with this project is the removal of the two canopies between North and South Foundation Halls and reconstruction of the South Foundation atrium – more commonly known as the "fishbowl." The canopy removal will increase the visibility of the OC expansion, and a redesigned, smaller atrium will be less intrusive in the corridor leading to the OC. Work will begin June 16 and conclude in mid-August. Because of the concentration of construction in this area of campus, no classes will be held in South Foundation Hall during spring and summer semesters.

### Road Repairs and Improvements

On June 4, construction will begin on Pioneer Drive between the new parking structure and Squirrel Road to improve the pavement condition and relieve traffic flow. The road will be resurfaced and repaired through this area, and a right-turn lane will be created on Pioneer Drive beyond Library Drive leading to Meadow Brook Road. The new lane will relieve congestion from traffic exiting the campus on Squirrel Road. The work is expected to be complete by June 20.

"There will be a series of one-lane closures while work is being performed, but our intent is to keep one lane open as much as possible," Postlewait said. "Traffic will be slow in this area during construction, so we encourage people to use alternate routes if possible."

### HVAC Replacement

Overly humid conditions on the first floor of Wilson Hall under Meadow Brook Theatre necessitate the replacement of the HVAC system servicing this area. The underground ductwork of the present system collects condensation and pulls moisture into the building, affecting offices, a lecture hall classroom, theatre rehearsal and costume storage areas. Beginning the week of June 2, the costumes and set materials will be moved to South Foundation Hall for temporary storage, offices will move temporarily to O'Dowd Hall, and the classroom will be closed while the ceiling is dropped for ductwork replacement. This project is expected to be completed by mid-August.

### Classroom Renovations

Room 202 in O'Dowd Hall, which presently seats 400, will be renovated into three smaller, more manageable, technology-equipped classrooms. Two of the rooms will seat 90 and the third will seat more than 100. One of the 90-seat rooms will be used by Cooley Law School beginning this fall. Cooley will use the other room beginning in the fall 2004 semester as it follows its phased enrollment plan. These rooms also will feature wireless connectivity. OU will use the third room seating more than 100. Work will commence in early July and be completed before the beginning of the fall 2003 semester.

### Parking Lot Repair

Parking lot 36, which has nearly 500 spaces and is located south of Kresge Library between Dodge Hall of Engineering and Elliott Hall, will be resurfaced beginning in early August. The project is expected to be completed in two weeks.

### Landscaping

About 25 trees will be planted to enhance the landscaping around the lake, located between the OC and Vandenberg Hall. Some bushes and shrubs also will be planted around the exterior of the OC expansion. Both projects will be completed by mid-August.

### **Sidewalk Replacement**

Various deteriorated sidewalks on the campus will be replaced. Work will be completed by mid-August.

### **Sign Replacement**

The main entrance sign at the intersection of Squirrel Road and University Drive will be replaced with a new sign once building supplies are received. Work will be completed by mid-August. The current concrete and marble sign was damaged in a vehicle accident last January.

#### **SUMMARY**

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