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Construction projects improve OU campus

By **Jeff Samoray**, *OU Web Writer*

The sounds of construction will be heard at Oakland University this summer as a variety of campus improvements take place.

The projects include the resurfacing of Parking Lot 1, repairs to Meadow Brook Road, replacement of the Shotwell-Gustafson Pavilion roof, sidewalk and stair repair at the Oakland Center and Wilson Hall, new signs at the Meadow Brook Music Festival and construction of a new university storage facility.

Parking Lot 1, located west of North and South Foundation Halls, Meadow Brook Theatre and Wilson Hall, will be repaved in mid or late July. The \$500,000 project will be completed before fall classes begin September 4. The 55,000-square-yard lot will be repaved in sections so parking space is available for students, employees and visitors.

New pavement and repairs to deteriorated sections of Meadow Brook Road on the campus' northeast side will ensure a smoother, safer drive for campus traffic.

Meadow Brook Road will be closed between East Oakland Drive and Festival Drive from July 11 to August 30 for repaving and to repair a deteriorated culvert and embankment, said Rusty Postlewate, associate vice president for facilities management. The stretch of road at the campus' east entrance leading from Adams Road to Sunset Drive will also be closed for repaving from August 6 to 30. The total cost of the repairs is \$400,000.

"There's a lot of traffic on Meadow Brook Road near the festival, and there's also a curve, which creates some potential danger," Postlewate said. "The road's been patched a lot over the years and it's real rough by the traffic light (at Adams Road). The culvert is also badly deteriorated, which is why these areas have been made top priorities for repair."

A new Meadow Brook Music Festival marquee at Festival Drive and Walton Boulevard and other festival banners will enhance the presence of Oakland University and create a more attractive entrance to the campus.

A smaller marquee matching the university's campus sign design will replace the current green marquee marking the entrance to the festival.

"The current sign is considered too big, unsightly and outdated," Postlewate said. "It also doesn't fit with our campus design and color scheme. All the signs on campus are of the same character, and the new one will match that design."

The replacement marquee stands about 25 feet high and is gray, black and gold. The sides of the marquee will display information on upcoming events. The rear will display messages for exiting visitors.

Three gold-colored banners promoting the festival and OU will lead to the festival entrance. A canvas sign hung from the festival pavilion and six additional gold banners hung alongside the amphitheatre seating will further enhance the presence of the university. The total project cost is \$90,000.

The university spent over \$8,000 in making temporary repairs to the roof of the Shotwell-Gustafson Pavilion, which houses the Meadow Brook Health Enhancement Institute. However, the patches are no longer effective, Postlewate said. The entire roof will be replaced beginning in mid August. The \$300,000 project will be completed by mid October, Postlewate said.

Repairs to concrete stairways at the east entrance of Wilson Hall and at the northwest entrance of the Oakland Center in July will create safer entryways to those buildings. Additional sidewalk replacement for the paths leading from the Oakland Center to the Recreation Center and those surrounding Fitzgerald House will be made in the spring of 2002. The total cost of these projects is \$150,000.

The university's storage facility, known as the Pig Barn, will be torn down to make room for the new student apartments, to be located on Meadow Brook Road across from the George T. Matthews Apartments. A new storage facility will be built on the site of the former Clinical Research Facility south of the main campus off of Lonedale Road. The new 6,000-square-foot structure will serve as general university storage and will be more efficient in its use of space, Postlewate said. Construction on the

\$285,000 facility will begin in late June and be completed in mid August.

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