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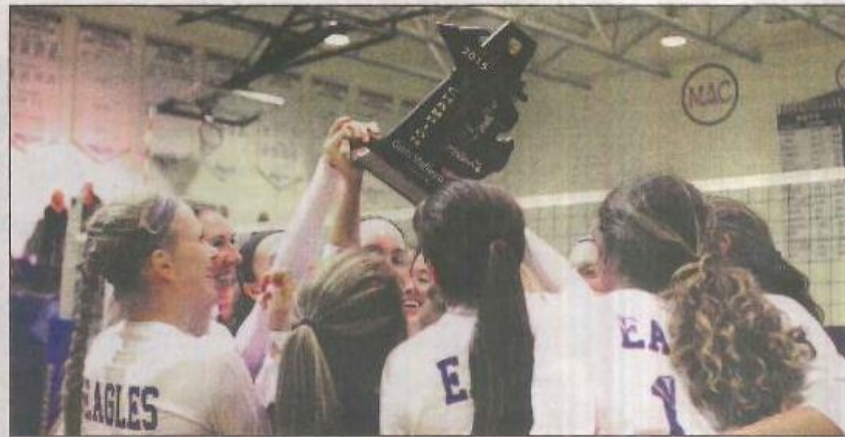
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Shelby - Utica News



EAGLES SOAR IN DISTRICTS — 8A

Federal grant to fund three community projects in Shelby

BY SARAH WOJCIK

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SHELBY TOWNSHIP — In February, Shelby approved three community projects to be financed by a Community Development Block Grant and hired a civil engineering firm to manage them last month. They must be complete by the end of 2016.

The projects include road improvements in the township's southwest quadrant costing \$200,000, Auburn Road landscaping costing \$99,304 and handicapped-accessible building improvements costing \$35,000.

The first project involves the resurfacing and related reconstruc-

tion of six road segments located within CDBG-eligible neighborhoods in the southwest quadrant of the township. Funds for the repairs also will come from the Pavement Preservation Program, a joint venture partnership between the township and the Macomb County Department of Roads.

The Auburn Road landscaping project is the second phase of the larger Auburn Road corridor improvement plan. Phase one consisted of the complete reconstruction of a 1-mile segment between Ryan and Dequindre roads.

Phase two calls for approximately 200 shade and ornamental trees and groupings of understory plantings along that segment to

improve the look and function of the street for commercial and residential uses.

The handicapped-accessible building improvements will target the township's Department of Public Works building and the municipi-

pal building.

The DPW building will receive handicapped-accessible doors that can be activated by a touchpad. The building currently has two sets of double doors separated by a vestibule. The doors are heavy,

and residents use the building on a daily basis.

The municipal building will receive new public service counters. The current counters are more than 30 years old, and the replace-

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ments will improve accessibility, security and safety.

On Oct. 20, the Board of Trustees unanimously approved the hire of Hennessey Engineers Inc., of Southgate. At \$12,500, the civil engineering firm had the lowest of three bids, including township engineer Fazal Khan & Associates, which managed the CDBG projects in the past.

Shelby Township Planning Director Glenn Wynn said federal regulations required the township to go out for bids for engineering services this year.

"We evaluated the proposals on the basis of the following criteria: proposal completeness, CDBG experience, Macomb County experience, relationship with the township, cost, experiences with similar projects and staff qualifications," he said.

Wynn said Macomb County formerly distributed its CDBG funds in a revolving three-year cycle, but, starting next year, it will begin disbursing the funds annually.

Joe Cooke, director of the Community Development Services Division of the Macomb County Community Services Agency, said the federal funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development varied over the years, so certain municipalities would receive more than others on the staggered three-year schedule.

He said Macomb County is responsible for distributing CDGB funds to 21 municipalities and that the other five communities receive money directly from the federal government.

To be CDBG-eligible, he said, projects must help low- to moderate-income people and be geared toward the entire community.

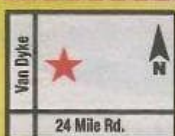
"The end result is to develop viable urban communities, decent housing, suitable living environments and expand economic opportunities," Cooke said. "We're always happy to work with our communities and very happy to help administer (the CDBGs)."

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