

Lawsuit delays drain construction

By JOE MARTUCCI

Franklin and Oakland County Drain officials will meet May 26 in an effort to resolve a deadlock over the Peterson Drain.

Although construction was approved in April, bonds cannot be advertised until a lawsuit filed by Franklin is resolved.

Chief Deputy Drain Commissioner Robert Fredericks explained that the Peterson Drainage Board is anxious to begin construction because it has to award contracts by next month.

And if it can't award bid by next month, the bids will have to be re-let, delaying construction until next year.

The new bids probably would be higher and could end up costing Southfield, where the drain is to be built, an additional \$300,000.

Franklin officials last year filed a lawsuit against Oakland County Drain Commissioner George Kuhn, seeking an injunction to halt drain construction until an environmental study had been conducted.

Oakland County Circuit Court Judge Frederick Ziem denied the village's motion for an injunction, but stopped short of dismissing the lawsuit.

As long as the suit is pending, the bond sale cannot be advertised, which effectively halts construction.

DRAINAGE BOARD attorneys have already filed a motion which will be heard Wednesday by Judge Ziem. The motion, according to Fredericks, seeks to have either the lawsuit dismissed or Franklin's attorney appear in court on behalf of the village.

Franklin recently retained new legal counsel, Clerk Sharon Riley said the attorney, Michael Feiler, has been studying the drain case.

Fredericks said another motion was filed seeking an immediate trial on the merits of the issues in the case if Judge Ziem does not dismiss it.

The Peterson Drain will run for two-thirds of a mile under Franklin Road in western Southfield. Cost estimates for construction were \$900,000, but a low bid of \$600,000 was submitted.

Some Franklin officials and residents are concerned about the impact of the drain on the water table in the village. They are also concerned about environmental damage, since the Peterson would be a tributary of the \$6 million Pernick Drain, which some maintain will cause downstream flooding along the Rouge River.

Another Franklin concern stems from the fear that the drain will open the door to intensive development in Southfield's "Silver Triangle," the area bounded by Northwestern High-

way, Telegraph and Twelve Mile Road.

THE MICHIGAN Environmental Review Board's decision in March to issue a construction permit for the Peterson Drain was made contingent upon a pledge from Oakland County officials that the Pernick Drain will not be built without proof that it won't cause Rouge River flooding.

This compromise enabled the project to clear a major hurdle, since the state Department of Natural Resources had withdrawn its approval of the project.

Earlier, the DNR had issued a permit, although an impact study requested by the environmental review board in August 1975 had never been conducted.

The history of the Peterson Drain dates from 1972, when Southfield officials proposed it as a means of handling storm water runoff in the western part of the city.

Swimming to win

Howell has stroked past the pack

By STEVE KAPLAN

Although Eastern Michigan University's Bruce Howell has been swimming competitively for only five years, he has surpassed some good swimmers, and now he's trying to catch up with some great ones.

Howell, a junior at EMU, didn't start his swimming career until his junior year at Farmington Harrison High School at the suggestion of a friend.

But after his initial season of high school competition, Howell gained All-Conference (Western Six League) honors and finished eighth in the state in the 100-yard breaststroke. After his

senior year, he was still All-Conference and a top finisher in breaststroke. He won the event at the 1974 state finals.

Following high school, Howell chose Eastern Michigan as the school to continue his swimming career. "They (Eastern's coaches) showed a lot of interest in me even before I started to do real well," said Howell, a biology major.

Howell started strong at Eastern, winning the Mid-American Conference (MAC) breaststroke championship in his freshman year. He continued to improve during his sophomore season and again earned MAC honors in the breaststroke.

This past season, Howell set new records as well as winning many conference titles, including the 100-yard breaststroke in a record of 59.10. In the 200-yard breaststroke, he set the MAC record in the conference meet preliminaries with a 2:06.5 clocking and then went on to win the MAC title with a time of 2:06.24.

HOWELL ALSO set some Eastern records last season. They include the 400-yard individual medley (4:27.9), the 200-yard individual medley (1:58.6), and the 400-yard freestyle relay as a member (3:28.49, also an MAC record).

Competitive swimming has become

a year-round passion for Howell. For the second straight summer, he will be swimming with the Long Beach Swim Club in California, where the competition is unlike any he has encountered to date.

Everyone out there is great," he said, adding that eight of the people he'll be swimming with were on the 1976 Olympic team. "We all work together. There is a mental lift swimming with guys like that."

As for now, Howell said, "I'd like to keep on improving." And with the hard work and dedication he has shown, who knows—1980 is just around the corner, and so too may be some Olympic medals.

Ex-Northland guard is freed

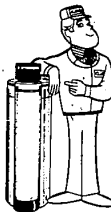
Larceny charges against former Northland security-head Leonard Lantz have been dismissed in Southfield's 48th District Court.

Misdemeanor charges against Lantz, accused of taking four watches and a ring from a youth he arrested at the shopping center, were dropped by 48th District Court Judge Clarence A. Reid Jr. in pretrial hearings last week.

Reid said in his opinion the prosecution failed to establish that the jewelry had been taken from persons arrested at Northland for shoplifting. Lantz, who headed the 38-member security force until his discharge last summer, was fired and charged last summer following an investigation into security guard's activities by Michigan State Police. Lantz was a 10-year veteran of the force.

IF YOU HAVE PROBLEM WATER ...

- HARDNESS
- IRON
- TASTE
- SEDIMENT
- ACIDITY
- ODOR



You need Culligan Water

The most complete line of water conditioning equipment for rental or purchase!

Rental Rates As Low As \$7.00 Per Month For A Fully Automatic Unit.

WATER SOFTENER SALT FOR ALL TYPES OF WATER SOFTENERS

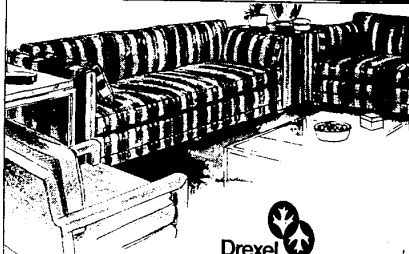
FREE WATER ANALYSIS - FREE ESTIMATES IN YOUR HOME

Call anytime Detroit 964-2246 Pontiac 334-9944

Culligan
WE TREAT WATER SERIOUSLY.

925 Orchard Lake Rd., 2 blks. E. of Telegraph Rd. Pontiac, Mich.
Office Hours 8 to 5 p.m. — Sat. 8 to 1 p.m.

SERVING WAYNE, OAKLAND AND MACOMB COUNTIES



Final 2 weeks!

DREXEL SOFAS AND CHAIRS
CUSTOM-COVERED IN CHOICE OF FABRICS

ON SALE **20% OFF**

FACTORY AUTHORIZED SALE — choose from our handsome collection of fine quality Drexel sofas and chairs in your choice of outstanding decorator fabrics. Special orders included in this special sale.

Use our convenient charge plan, BankAmericard or Master Charge

Towne & Country Interiors

Dearborn—23600 Michigan Ave.
Bloomfield—4107 Telegraph Rd.

Rochester—1110 S. Rochester Rd. in Winchester Mall

TENNIS PLAYER SPECIAL!

TENNIS BALLS

Wilson
Princeton
Dunlop

\$1.99 Limit 4 cans

Custom Stringing
One Day Service

The Sports Co.
1960 W. 10 Mile
1 blk. E. of Evergreen
Southfield, 356-1116

\$1,200 How much will do it for you?

Commercial Credit's been helping people for more than sixty years. So whatever you need. A few hundred. Or even as much as \$1,500. Just call us about a loan. We'll find ways to help.

COMMERCIAL CREDIT

Personal Loans
a financial service of
GD CONTROL DATA CORPORATION
Detroit • 21559 W. 8 Mile Road • 538-7000
Plymouth • 6064 Sheldon Road • 450-2400
Credit Life Insurance Available to Eligible Borrowers



FIRST TIME EVER!

Special Summer Shape-up Program



\$50. Six Week Introductory Offer

For Men & Women

THIS PROGRAM AVAILABLE FROM 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. DAILY AND 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. SATURDAY AND SUNDAY; MINIMUM AGE 22.

OFFER NON-RENEWABLE. OTHER MEMBERSHIPS ALSO AVAILABLE.

It makes sense...when your body is in good condition, you'll feel better, look better and enjoy life more. We want you to prove to yourself what we already know - the time of your life depends on the condition of your body. So, for just \$50, you have full use of all our incredible facilities (extra charge for racquetball courts, when available). Plus, our staff will design a diet and exercise program especially for you.

VIC TANNY BLOOMFIELD
EXECUTIVE HEALTH & RACQUET CLUB
6420 TELEGRAPH ROAD AT MAPLE ROAD
CALL NOW 855-2300

OAKLAND RACQUET CLUB
OPENS ITS DOORS

For an Air-Conditioned
SUMMER OF RACQUETBALL

\$7.00 per hour
"non-prime time"

\$9.00 per hour
"prime time"

NON-MEMBERS WELCOME
May 1st - Sept 1st

Oakland Racquet Club
20 Regulation Racquetball courts

31333 Southfield Rd.
(Just N. of 13-Mile Rd.)
647-4222

Why Spot can't find his spot.... Easy!

His mistress just reared the RENSENAC Carpet Cleaning System. She combined RENSENAC Carpet Cleaner with the RENSENAC deodorizing solution to remove dirt, grease, nicotine... and at the same time eliminate pet and other objectionable odors.

Result: fresh, clean, odor-free carpet!

Smart mistress! A nice, clean spot for Spot too!

RENT RENSENAC
Cleans—and deodorizes—the way professionals do, at a fraction of the cost

SAVE \$6
OFF OUR REGULAR RENSENAC RENTAL RATE

WEEK-DAYS
\$8 Fridays & Saturdays
OFFER EXPIRES 6/1/77
Reg. Rental Rate \$12 a day

Lloyd's
Hardware
24225 Orchard Lk.
at 10 Mile, Farmington
477-9679

LOOK! LOOK! LOOK!
OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Complete Stock of Annuals

SPECIAL!

PETUNIAS \$379 A FLAT

35¢ A PACK OR 3 For \$1.00

Choice of 10,000 flats to pick from — grown in our own greenhouse. We carry all kinds of vegetable plants. We handle a full line of small perennials.

OPEN 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. 7 DAYS A WEEK

FENNINGDORF GREENHOUSE
20191 S. NORWOOD (off Evergreen between 9 & 10 Mile)
LOOK FOR THE RED & WHITE SIGN ON THE CORNER