

# Oakland, Wayne allies on judgeships

By MICHAEL MATUSZEWSKI

Oakland County, in its battle to prevent creation of four new circuit court judgeships, has found an ally in Wayne County.

Alarmed Oakland officials say that state-mandated addition of four judges to the 11-member circuit court bench, could cost the county at least \$5 million and as much as \$9 million. They can't afford it, regardless of the final price tag, county officials add.

Wayne County is in much the same straits, according to lobbyists in Lansing and Oakland officials.

Over the past several years, Wayne County has been faced with substantial budget deficits and has been forced to cut back on even primary services.

STATE SEN. James DeSana (D-Wyandotte) and Basil Brown (D-Highland Park), chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, have introduced proposals to allow the counties to

determine the number of additional circuit court judges needed.

The state legislature now makes the decision based on the recommendations of the county's circuit court bench. Oakland's circuit bench says it needs the extra judges to prevent a serious future backlog of cases.

"We're all for it," county executive aide Patrick Nowak said of the DeSana-Brown proposal. Nowak is a deputy for intergovernmental relations.

"Wayne County's in deep financial trouble. That's what we're trying to avoid," he said. "And we can't do that if the state legislature is going to mandate three or four new judges."

DESPITE THE DeSana-Brown proposal, Nowak said he still expects the legislature to approve the addition of at least three new circuit court judges. "We keep hearing these uncomfortable rumblings that they'll vote down Brown's proposal."

"If they permit us to determine how many judges we need, there are no problems," he said. "If they mandate, then we've got problems."

County officials had expected the addition of four judges to the bench, but they say reducing that number to three really would not make much of a difference.

"If I couldn't swim in eight feet of

water, I'd still drown in seven feet," Nowak said.

Wallace Gabler (R-Royal Oak), chairman of the county board of commissioners, also supports the DeSana-Brown position.

He said the county would be able to accommodate three more judges only if it were able to set its own timetable for the additions.



## Slipping into spring

Even if spring seems a bit reluctant to make its arrival known, there are certain little people who don't mind donning a jacket and going out for a slide. (Staff photo by Art Emanuel)

## Area sewage control topic

A wastewater control meeting sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will be held at 7 p.m., Thursday in Plymouth City Hall, 201 S. Main.

"This is the last public participation meeting that the EPA will hold before the agency announces its tentative decision on how the wastewater control problem in the Huron River Valley will be handled," said William Sullivan, chairman of the Wayne County Public Works Board.

EPA representatives will describe the environmental impact of various alternatives for solving the sewage control problem in western Wayne County and parts of Oakland County.

The county has proposed an interceptor sewer sometimes called the "supersewer," which would extend from the Walled Lake area in Oakland County to a treatment plant at the mouth of the Huron River.

The system would serve 18 communities in Wayne, Oakland and Monroe counties.

## Artists elect new officers

The South Oakland Art Association celebrated their final session of the season with an annual after-glow party and installing of officers for the coming 1978-1979 season.

Kay Kann was unanimously re-elected president. Other officers are: Dorothy Zatteli, vice president; Marilyn Zeikes, recording secretary; Walter Mordarski, treasurer; and Ruth Shiller, corresponding secretary. Board members include: Shirley Denton, membership chairman; Jorgan Mau, exhibit chairman; Jo Chiappelli, publicity and historian; Jim McCallan, programs; Jeri Fellwock, newsletter; Bob Hutchinson, library; and Marge Farison, artist of the month chairman.

The first meeting of the new season will be September 11. All interested artists, amateur or professional, are invited to join the group at this time. It isn't limited to painters.

## How to spoil your mother.

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