

# Murphy is 'greedy' for funds for 24th

"I feel I have done a good job so far," said 24th District Oakland County Commissioner Dennis Murphy.

"And I hope the people will vote for me so I can continue to do a good job," Murphy, who serves as

vice-president of the Bank of the Commonwealth in Detroit, faces Nov. 1 City Councilman Martha

Hoyer in the Republican primary Aug. 8. The winner of the Murphy-Hoyer contest will face Democratic candidate Lew Oy in November.

Murphy said he has been active in winning additional programs for residents of the 24th district from the county. The district's share of county funds has steadily increased since he took office two years ago, he added.

Some of the areas for which he claims to be at least partly responsible are tax dollars at work in the county emergency medical service program which should get under way soon, the senior citizens' lunch program and work on the Greenway Drain.

"It's obvious we're getting a good share," Murphy said. "Basically, I'm greedy for the district and I'd like to see more, but obviously we're making some headway."

Murphy considers himself as well informed on the issues as any of the other 23 commissioners.

EVERY CITY official in his district realizes he is available and willing to work on solving any problems they might

have, according to Murphy. In addition, he says he has maintained a low profile throughout his two year term.

"I get things done," he said. "I don't go around brag about it."

Murphy says he has been charged with a low-visibility during his term but he maintained charges arose only because he doesn't choose to publicize his accomplishments on the board.

The challenge from Mrs. Hoyer has irritated Murphy, who claims that she has never been involved in Republican politics before.

"I would classify her as a completely Republican," he said. "To my knowledge, she's never done party work, at least not at the county and local level," he said.

Murphy said he would expect a true Republican to have his record and allow him to seek the nomination unopposed.

"It baffles me more than anything else," he said.

The Lakes Area Special bus service rather than allowing SEMTA to get shares from each of the communities involved in the program.

OAKLAND COUNTY already pays a tax to the state to fund SEMTA and the community share for the service would represent double taxation, according to Murphy.

He favors withdrawal from the SEMTA system if no "significant strides" are made in the next few weeks.

Murphy accused SEMTA of employing "scare tactics" to win the local funding. He is prepared to take legal action if necessary against the agency.

On the issue of the Task Force on Organized Crime, Murphy holds an open stance. While admitting the concept of an organized crime task force is "sound," Murphy added there is a question of its effectiveness and how much of the county's money should be spent for the purpose.

The difficulty comes in trying to determine its effectiveness. Murphy said, because there are few readily available statistics by which to judge the task force.

He also questioned whether the task force is being used to further Oakland County Prosecutor L. Brooks Patterson's political future.

Patterson is running for the U.S. Senate. On the M-275 controversy, Murphy supports the construction of a north-south route with limited access.

"The freeway may or may not be the answer," Murphy said.

He added he thinks there has been too much discussion the project and said he opposed the idea of placing the question on the August primary ballot.

"It will only muddy the water again," Murphy said. "I don't think voters will know what they are voting on."

Murphy is not alarmed with forecasts released by the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) concerning population projection for communities in the 24th district, particularly Novi.

The figures show an alarmingly slow growth rate for Novi in direct contrast with predictions of city officials. The forecasts are important because they would be used in deciding whether federal grants would be

approved for a city. Murphy said he believes there will be changes in the forecasts as more cities register their concern.

He also favors the fixed millage proposal which will be on the

August primary ballot. The proposal, which would set a limit of 18.48 mills on taxes collected from the county, townships and school districts would "save a lot of the duplicate budget process."

## C'ville names special ed director

A work-study coordinator for special education students has been named Director of Special Education for the Clarencville School District.

The Clarencville Board of Education announced its decision Thursday night, following an uncomfortable meeting where board members publicly discussed the two top candidates for the job.

Michael Dombrowski, who has been with Clarencville schools for three years, will take over his new position in early August.

For the district, Dombrowski has been a special education teacher and a work study coordinator. In that capacity, he helped place special education students in suitable jobs.

Dombrowski was picked over Pat Miller, another Clarencville special education teacher. They were both interviewed at the public meetings as required under the open meetings law.

Several members of the board admitted they were uncomfortable openly discussing the job candidates. Four of the six board members present voted for Dombrowski.

Board Trustees Lorene Erickson and Norman Hunt voted for Mrs. Miller. But all the trustees said the decision was a tough one because both applicants were highly qualified and came highly recommended. Earlier, School Supt. Dave McDo-

well had recommended Mrs. Miller. Dombrowski, who received his bachelor of science and master of arts degrees in special education from Eastern Michigan University, impressed the board with his enthusiasm.

As Director of Special Education, Dombrowski will, according to state law, organize, develop, coordinate and administer all special education programs and services for the district. He will also be the local authority on state laws and organize in-service teacher training for the district.

Dombrowski, during the board interview, said he would try to make the special education staff more involved in the total operation of the school system.

"The special education staff has to feel like they are a part of the building and the school," he stressed. "We need more involvement in all areas."

Dombrowski has worked directly with students since he joined the staff. He said involvement must "start at the grass roots level to be effective."

"But," he added, "I think I can have a greater impact on a greater amount of kids in a supervisory position."

Dombrowski has also worked with students as a champion of school dances, a coach and has served in several special education advisory positions.

## Clarenceville gets new mat

Clarenceville wrestling and gymnastics students will hammerlock an opponent and cartwheel during a routine on a new mat that should offer more safety this year.

The district will spend \$400 for an oversize gymnastics and wrestling mat to replace several smaller mats joined together.

At a recent meeting, the Clarenceville Board of Education approved the purchase of the mat after several members watched the students perform on a makeshift mat they all agreed was "dangerous."

The present mat is made up of a single wrestling mat and several small tumbling mats surrounding it.

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