

Orchard Ridge builds activities center

By SANDI HORNE

Both students and residents will have use of a new activities building at the Orchard Ridge campus of Oakland Community College by April.

The building, located on the campus between Orchard Lake and Farmington roads south of Twelve Mile, will be utilized for physical education programs, intramural recreation and college athletics.

Cost of the 75,000 square foot building is \$2.8 million, according to college officials. It is being financed through municipal bonds.

The building's physical structure will have four parts, according to Mr.

Charles Yeramian, dean of educational services at OCC.

There will be an open gym area, an Olympic-size pool, handball courts and a multi-purpose room.

The multi-purpose facility can be set up for tennis, volleyball and jogging as well as some community uses.

Although the main priority of the building is for campus use, it also will be available to the community, said Yeramian.

"There is no time priority," he said. "It's just a matter of scheduling. There are enough hours in the day for all programs to be utilized."

A committee, made up of the deans of each OCC campus, a physical education teacher from each campus and an athletic coordinator, is currently studying public use. It will report at the end of January, giving definite costs and times for public use.

Rented facilities currently are used for the OCC physical education programs. Southfield High School's swimming pool and gym are used, as well as the gym in Birmingham's Barnum School.

"We don't have a complete physical education program," says Yeramian. "With the new building, the program should be diversified. For physical education and fitness purposes, it should be quite complete."

Brodhead on task force

President Jimmy Carter has named U.S. Representative William Brodhead (D-Detroit) to a special task force to help sustain the President's veto of the Water Development Appropriation Act.

Brodhead's 17th District includes Farmington, Farmington Hills and Southfield as well as northwest Detroit.

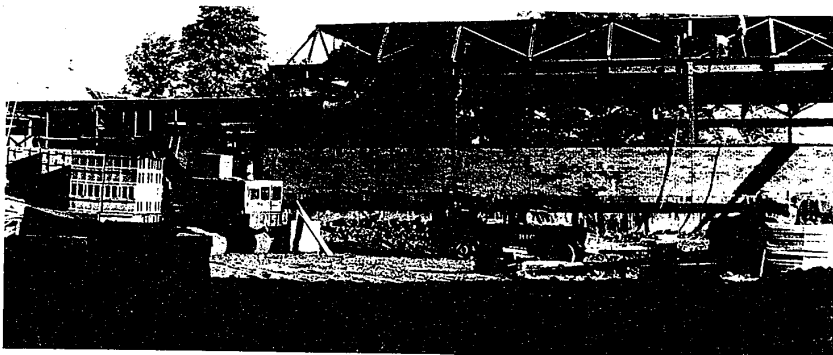
In a meeting at the White House recently, Carter told 20 House members who had voted against the measure in a Sept. 14 vote that he would veto the \$10.1 billion bill and asked them to form a task force to round up the votes necessary to sustain the veto.

"It's going to be tough to sustain the veto. Only 71 members voted against it and we will need 140 votes to sustain," says Brodhead.

"Nevertheless, we will have to make the effort because this bill is pure pork barrel. We simply must put an end to these wasteful water projects which accomplish little more than to make a congressman look important in his district."

Friedman is awarded bachelor's

March Jeffrey Friedman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Eli Friedman, 3239 Old Franklin, Farmington Hills, recently graduated from the University of Chicago with a bachelor's degree in sociology.



A new look is taking shape at the Orchard Ridge campus of Oakland Community College with the construction of the new activities building. It will be available for use by both students and residents. (Photo by Sandi Horne)

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English test is in vogue

By SANDI HORNE

Following a national trend of evaluating student needs, Oakland Community College returned to giving English assessment tests to incoming students this fall.

The purpose of the test is to assess students' writing skills and suggest English class alternatives. "Many colleges and universities are starting similar evaluations this year," says Johanna Kobran, an English professor at OCC. She also is the testing coordinator.

"The idea of giving an assessment test in English has been considered for several years. In January of 1978, serious planning began to initiate the testing in September," she says.

A greater desire for accountability among students, and society's continual demand for better prepared college graduates are the main reasons for returning to usage of the test.

"We used assessment tests when the college first opened in 1967," says George Keith, English Department chairman.

"When college education became more liberal, and more minority students were admitted to college, the testing was stopped."

With colleges and universities tightening restrictions, and social expectations of college graduates greater, the assessment tests were reinstated, he said.

All students who registered for English 151, an essay writing class designed to increase student ability to organize and develop major ideas, were required to take the test.

The students were given an hour to compose a 500 word written essay on one of three suggested topics. Topics ranged from television criticisms to a visit to an old neighborhood.

Three English professors read each student's essay and the majority decided if the student should be placed in English 151 or another developmental section.

"Seventy-five per cent of the students who took the test were admitted to English 151. Twenty-five per cent took other sections," Ms. Kobran said.

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Volunteer adds rose-y touch to Meadow Brook

Every house looks a bit brighter with fresh flowers inside its rooms and the 100-room Meadow Brook Hall is no exception.

Unlike most houses, however, it takes a dozen volunteers and a fulltime groundskeeper to supply fresh flower arrangements in the hall where once lived the family of Alfred and Matilda Wilson. Wilson had the hall built in the late 1930s at a cost of \$3.5 million.

In addition to groundskeeper Steve Doyle of Birmingham, members of Meadow Brook Guild work on the five gardens surrounding Meadow Brook Hall, located on the campus at Oakland University in Avon Township.

Arlene Olson has worked as a flower volunteer for 18 months. Like many of the volunteers, she joined because she was interested in helping at Meadow Brook Hall, which now serves as a cultural and conference center.

But her dedication and hard work, especially in the rose garden, has brought Mrs. Olson the title of "Rose Lady."

"She's the volunteer in charge of the rose garden," said Peg McGarry, Meadow Brook Hall representative.

A nurse at Pontiac General Hospital and a north Oakland County resident, Mrs. Olson still is able to spend 20 hours a week with her roses. She not only cuts and makes arrangements with the fresh flowers, she weeds and fertilizes the garden and prunes and waters the bushes.

"I have a small garden of my own at home but I'm going to garden, I do it at Meadow Brook Hall," said Mrs. Olson.

IF SHE WORKED at home, she wouldn't have to contend with the hazard of being hit by a flying golf ball. The rose garden, which is behind the hall, is next to Katze-Cousins Golf Course.

"I find golf balls in the garden all the time," she added.

Mrs. Olson and the other flower volunteers will soon be doing most of their work inside the hall since the weather is getting colder. And while many of us aren't even thinking about Thanksgiving yet, the flower volunteers are already thinking about Christmas.

"That's when we get really busy," said Mrs. Olson. "Though florists supply the floral arrangements for five days of the Christmas Walk at Meadow Brook Hall, we keep the hall in flower arrangements during the rest of the season."

Mrs. Olson has already begun drying many of items to use in fall and winter arrangements. She's drying baby's breath and may try drying her roses, though her attempts last year weren't successful.

"They're too delicate," she said. Volunteers to work with flowers inside Meadow Brook Hall are always needed, according to Mrs. McGarry, and anyone interested can contact the hall at 377-3140.

Being a volunteer may lead to being in the movies, if one is as lucky as Mrs. Olson. "Last Sunday (Sept. 24) I made an arrangement in a silver vase of Mrs. Wilson's, I used 18 roses. The arrangement was on a table when people were filming the documentary that's being made on Meadow Brook Hall. I hope my arrangement will be in the movie," the "Rose Lady" said.

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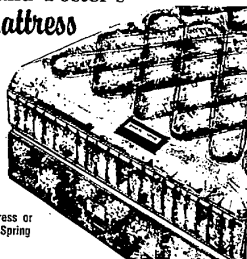
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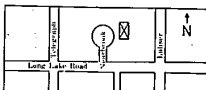
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