

# 'Status quo' marks election-year county budget

By TOM LONERGAN

Oakland County will be spending \$8.2 million more to operate next year, but at a reduced property tax rate.

County Executive Daniel T. Murphy called his recommended \$86.9 million proposed budget for 1980 a "realistic spending plan," in light of a 13 percent inflation rate and a stagnant economy. The proposed budget is 10 percent higher than this year's.

The Republican county executive delivered his annual budget message to the Board of Commissioners this week. A joint board committee will begin budget hearings Friday. The board has set a Dec. 6 deadline for approving the budget, which takes effect Jan. 1.

MURPHY RECOMMENDED a county millage rate of 4.90 mills, a decrease of 0.08 mills.

He said the tax rate rollback "is consistent with the spirit and intent of the Headlee Tax Limitation Amendment," passed by voters last fall. It requires that the rate be cut when the tax base (value of property) rises, which has oc-

curred in Oakland.

This year's county tax rate was 5.23 mills, but included 0.25 mills for the Huron-Clinton Metroparks. Under tax limitation, the regional park authority must levy the quarter mill tax separately. Thus, this year's actual millage for county operations was 4.98 mills.

Property tax revenues are expected to provide \$48.3 million, or 56 percent, of the county's operating funds next year.

"County revenue estimates are based on a conservative economic forecast," Murphy said. "The recession is expected to continue into next year."

Property tax revenues are "constrained" by the tax limitation amendment, Murphy added.

Federal and state shared revenue will provide 22 percent, or \$18.7 million of the county's operating revenue, while charges for services are expected to provide 15 percent (\$13.4 million).

Most of the remaining \$6.9 million comes from interest on invested county funds.

ON THE SPENDING side, Murphy is

calling for no new programs and a net increase in county employment of six positions.

Departments in Murphy's administration will account for 34 percent of next year's budget, or \$29.9 million. These include public services, human services, central services, public works, personnel, management and budget, and the executive office.

Murphy said his administration's proportion of the total budget has declined for the second straight year.

Expected to gobble up 32 percent of the budget (\$27.9 million) are "non-de-

partmental appropriations," primarily employee fringe benefits and reserve funds for future salary adjustments, overtime and the salaries of nearly 100 employees formerly paid with federal CETA funds.

Due to federal law changes, the county expects to have only 65 CETA employees next year. It had nearly 300 this year.

According to Murphy's recommendations however, 123 employees, formerly paid with federal funds, will remain, with 97 paid through county funds and the remainder through "other sources."

THE CIRCUIT, district and probate courts are expected to spend \$12.6 million next year, or 14 percent of the budget.

Thirteen percent of the budget will be for the sheriff's and prosecutor's departments.

Five million, or 6 percent of the budget, has been allotted for general government and legislative departments, including the treasurer, drain commissioner, clerk/register of deeds and the Board of Commissioners.

## OCC, AAA host trip lectures

The gasoline crunch's effect on "Michigan's mobility" will be the topic of a 7:30 p.m. lecture Monday, Oct. 15, at Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge campus, Farmington Hills.

Bill Banks, speakers bureau coordinator for Automobile Club of Michigan (AAA), will be the featured speaker.

The free lecture is the second of five

planned by OCC and AAA. All lectures are held in 108 H Building, the campus gymnasium.

OTHER LECTURES, dates and speakers are:

• "Planning a Trip Abroad," Monday, Oct. 29, Barbara Kowdyn, AAA world travel counselor.

• "Understanding and Being Understood," Monday, Nov. 12, Robert Loesch, AAA coordinator of management programs.

• "Tell It Like It Is," highway safety and public information, Monday, Nov. 26, Banks, AAA speakers bureau coordinator.

All lectures will begin at 7:30 p.m.

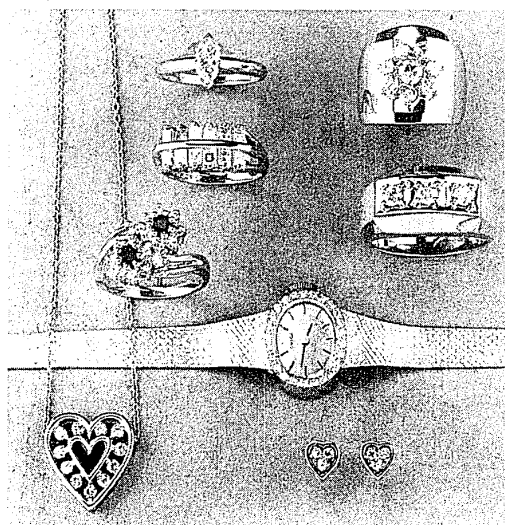


DANIEL T. MURPHY  
Small tax cut

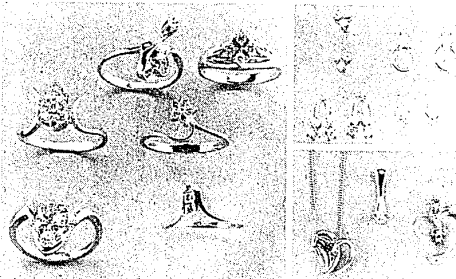
## HUDSON'S

# SEMI-ANNUAL DIAMOND SALE

## SAVE 10% TO 50% ON EVERY DIAMOND IN OUR DAZZLING COLLECTION



Everyone loves them—glittering, fiery diamonds. And now, during Hudson's Semi-Annual Diamond Sale, nearly everyone can afford them. We've taken 10% to 50% off the price of every diamond in our \$8,000,000 collection. So you'll save on rings, earrings, pendants, bracelets, wedding bands, engagement sets, diamond watches, men's rings and more. Many set with rubies, emeralds and sapphires. Save now through October 27, in Fine Jewelry, at Hudson's. And be sure to ask about our convenient credit plans. Selection will vary by store.



## SAVE 50%

Save 50% on fabulous diamond pieces like these. But hurry—quantities are limited and at these prices they won't last long. Our collection includes:

**Diamond rings.** Reg. \$198 to \$640, sale \$99 to \$320.  
**Diamond earrings.** Reg. \$180 to \$410, sale \$90 to \$205.  
**Diamond pendants.** Reg. \$206 to \$425, sale \$103 to \$210.

See more exciting diamond styles at our Diamond Sale trunk shows. Plan to come in and meet our experts while viewing their entire sample collections. In Hudson's Fine Jewelry, check chart for the store near you:

|                       | Downtown | Northland | Eastland | Pontiac | Westland | Oakland | Southland | Bilarwood | Fairlane | Twelve Oaks | Lakeside |
|-----------------------|----------|-----------|----------|---------|----------|---------|-----------|-----------|----------|-------------|----------|
| Sunday, October 14    | 11-5     |           |          |         |          |         |           |           |          |             |          |
| Monday, October 15    |          | 4-8       | 11-8     |         |          | 11-8    | 11-8      | 11-8      | 11-8     | 11-8        | 11-8     |
| Tuesday, October 16   |          | 11-8      | 11-8     |         | 11-8     | 4-8     |           |           | 11-8     |             |          |
| Wednesday, October 17 |          | 11-8      | 11-8     |         |          |         |           |           |          | 11-8        | 11-8     |
| Thursday, October 18  |          |           |          |         | 11-8     |         | 11-8      |           | 11-8     | 4-8         |          |
| Friday, October 19    |          | 11-8      | 11-8     |         |          | 11-8    |           |           |          |             | 11-8     |
| Saturday, October 20  |          |           | 11-8     |         | 11-8     | 11-8    |           |           | 11-8     |             |          |
| Sunday, October 21    |          | 12-5      |          |         | 12-5     | 12-5    |           |           |          |             | 12-5     |
| Monday, October 22    |          | 11-8      | 4-8      |         | 11-8     | 11-8    | 11-8      |           | 11-8     |             |          |
| Tuesday, October 23   |          | 11-8      | 11-8     | 11-8    |          |         |           |           |          | 4-8         | 11-8     |
| Wednesday, October 24 |          | 11-8      | 11-8     |         |          |         |           |           | 11-8     | 11-8        | 11-8     |
| Thursday, October 25  |          |           |          |         | 11-8     | 11-8    | 11-8      |           |          | 11-8        |          |
| Friday, October 26    |          | 11-8      | 11-8     |         |          |         | 11-8      |           | 11-8     |             |          |
| Saturday, October 27  |          |           | 11-8     |         |          |         | 11-8      |           | 11-8     | 11-8        |          |

You are invited to attend the Downtown Diamond

Event, Sunday, October 14, from 11 to 5, at Hudson's Downtown only. See the entire Fine Jewelry department transformed into a designer diamond showroom. Select styles from top designers, or create your own from our exciting collection of stones and mountings. Plus, at this event only:

- Save an extra 5% on any designer diamond purchase
- Appraisals done at no charge (limit 2 pieces please)
- A large collection of loose stones, many G.I.A. certified stones, will be available.
- Register for our diamond giveaway (value \$1000)
- Refreshments will be served
- Valet parking at no charge (use Farmer Street entrance).

Open Monday through Saturday: Northland, Eastland, Pontiac, Westland, Oakland, Southland and Twelve Oaks 9:30 till 9; Lakeside, Fairlane and Ann Arbor 9:30 till 9:30; Flint 10 till 9:30; Downtown open 9:30 till 5:45.