

# Alexander wins new SEMTA term unopposed

By TOM LONERGAN  
R.J. Alexander of Bloomfield Township is starting a new three-year term on the Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority (SEMTA) representing Oakland County.

Alexander, retired county director of public works, was the unanimous choice last week of the Southeast Michigan Council of Government's General Assembly, which appoints two of Oakland's three SEMTA board members. The third is selected by the county Board of Commissioners.

SEMTA is a regional planning agency comprised of local government officials from seven southeast Michigan counties.

West Bloomfield Township Supervisor John Doherty and Commerce Township Supervisor Robert Long also had been nominated for the SEMTA seat under a law requiring the county to provide three nominees for SEMCOG to consider. Both moved for a unanimous ballot for Alexander at the general assembly meeting in the Michigan Inn, Southfield.

Alexander, mayor of Oak Park in the early 1980s, will serve his second term on the 15-member SEMTA board. Board members receive \$35 per meeting.

IN OTHER appointments, Bloomfield Township Treasurer Fred Korzon was selected for the Regional Clearinghouse Review Committee (RC2) by SEMCOG township government members.

The 10-member committee meets several times a year to review local government applications for federal assistance in housing, transportation and other types of aid.

Also appointed to RC2 were Ann Arbor Township Supervisor Nancy Davis and Carl Morris, president of the Wayne County Intermediate School District.

Farmington Hills Mayor JoAnn Soronen was re-appointed to the committee

by the city and village SEMCOG members, as was Detroit Councilman Clyde Cleveland.

Schoolcraft College Trustee Rosina Raymond of Livonia was appointed an alternate committee delegate representing the SEMCOG school bloc.

Plymouth Township Trustee Lee Flidge was appointed an alternate committee delegate representing the township bloc.

## MSU has 'express' grad courses

Michigan State University will offer a series of express graduate courses during July at the Birmingham Center for Continuing Education, 746 Purdy, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. prior to their starting dates. Except where noted, classes are \$97.50. VISA or MasterCard accepted. If you have questions, call the center at 645-5410.

THERE WILL be a pair of one-credit physical science courses.

PHS 405 Environmental Toxicology will meet 9 a.m. to 12:20 p.m. July 1, 8 and 10. This course examines the distribution and use of potentially hazardous materials.

PHS 405 Energy Education meets 9 a.m. to 12:20 p.m. July 15, 17 and 22. The class focuses on the shift from abundant, low-cost energy to scarce, expensive energy.

Each course may be taken for one MSU credit for \$38.50. They may be taken non-credit for \$31. These are introductory courses, suitable for anyone with an interest in the field.

A pair of courses is suitable for vacationing teachers.

You may register for any of these classes at the Birmingham Center by 5 p.m. prior to their starting dates. Except where noted, classes are \$97.50. VISA or MasterCard accepted. If you have questions, call the center at 645-5410.

## Pest force gathers

# Grasshopper invasion threatens state

Millions of grasshoppers are threatening Michigan counties, and the pests could spread across the rest of the state in a few weeks.

"They are in outbreak proportions, and we have a potential problem that could be the worst in 30 years," says Robert Ruppel, Michigan State University Cooperative Extension Service entomologist.

Field entomologists have found most grasshoppers in Otsego, Kalkaska, Antrim, Montmorency and Charlevoix counties, with slightly lower numbers in Emmet, Pique, Isle, Alpena and Grand Traverse counties.

The standard recommendation is to spray insecticide when eight or more grasshopper nymphs (young grasshoppers) are found per square yard. Ruppel and his team of entomologists have been regularly counting

more than 90 grasshopper nymphs per square yard.

"I am very worried that if farmers don't start checking their croplands immediately, a lot of crops will be severely damaged, if not destroyed, by what should shortly be an adult grasshopper horde," Ruppel says.

Where grasshopper nymphs are detected, insecticide should be applied immediately. Within two weeks the adults will emerge and will be much more difficult to control than the young grasshoppers.

Ruppel says the grasshopper nymphs are currently being found primarily in roadside grasses and weeds, pastures and idle lands. They are already damaging some pastures and alfalfa fields, however, he says.

The grasshopper found in northern Michigan is the migratory grasshopper.

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Though this is the same kind that is found in the West, where it flies long distances, this species moves only from field to field in Michigan.

"If we can't get control of this right now, it won't be just the farmer who suffers. When they become numerous enough, they'll attack vegetables and flowers in the backyard as readily as they'll go after lush field crops," Ruppel warns.

Growers in the rest of the state, from Clare south, can rest on their sprayers for about a month. The type of grasshopper found in the southern part of the state is the red-legged grasshopper. Though it is not a migratory species, it can cause substantial damage if not controlled. Ruppel says that farmers should be checking croplands regularly and preparing to take necessary steps.

Generally, grasshopper nymph populations are substantially reduced during cold, wet weather that fosters bacteria that kill the insect. That didn't happen this year, Ruppel notes.

"Considering the population buildup we've had throughout the state the past three years, I'm afraid we are going to see some real damage by grasshoppers this summer," he says.

## Arthritis classes

The Arthritis Foundation, Michigan Chapter, is offering free educational classes for patients with rheumatoid and osteoarthritis.

Each session will last for two hours and family members are encouraged to attend.

To attend the classes or for further information call Mary Flugstad at the chapter office, 561-9096.

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