

# OU-Avon communications gap closed

By KAREN SUE HERMES

Oakland University officials will supply Avon trustees with a master plan of the campus and work toward better communicating their building plans. That's the word from Avon Supervisor Earl Borden.

Borden met with campus engineer George Karas after Avon trustee Melvin Schmittel said he wanted to be informed of the university's building plans "even though it's none of our business."

"They don't live by themselves over

in that part of the township." Half of the OU campus lies in Avon.

What prompted Schmittel's request was the construction of a half-mile road to connect the campus' east and west sides and the construction of housing for married students.

The state-supported school is exempt from certain local ordinances and its officials are not required to seek building permits from the two municipalities in which it sits, Avon and Pontiac townships.

"There's no question they can do pretty much as they please," Borden said.

Oakland University's construction of the connector road "hasn't been any secret," said Karas who, as an Avon resident, sits on the township's planning commission and zoning board of appeals.

"I don't feel they (Avon officials) have not been informed," he said.

"THE TOWNSHIP is knowledgeable of the work we have done," Karas said he has talked to Avon's building director, Robert Wright, and director of engineering, C. Neall Schroeder, on several occasions about the project.

He suggested the information he gives the township's employees doesn't reach its trustees.

Schroeder agreed contact between Oakland and his department has been "pretty good."

"Engineering-wise, we work very closely with Karas."

Borden, after investigating, learned it was the trustees who weren't informed.

"The engineering department has been aware of the things we've seen going on over the last few weeks."

Karas said he is willing to share with trustees "any information."

"We certainly don't want to be bad neighbors."

The connector road, which parallels Walton, was built with a \$235,000 state grant. The state designed it, took bids on it and supervised its construction, Karas said.

Married student housing, comprised of 48, two-bedroom apartments, is being built with a \$2 million loan from the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The housing sits partially in Avon Township and partially in Pontiac Township. It is expected to be completed next summer.

## Drinking age proposition a deja vu experience?

By MSU News Service

Currently, the Michigan Constitution says individuals must be 21 years old to consume or buy alcoholic beverages. Proposal B on the Nov. 4 ballot would change that to 19.

"This question has been considered before, the first time in 1972 when Michigan's Comprehensive Age of Majority Law went into effect," says Garland Wood, Michigan State University Cooperative Extension Service state and local government specialist.

That provision granted 18-year-olds the right to possess and consume alcoholic beverages. They were also granted the right to vote, the right to enter into contracts and other rights previously restricted to persons 21 years of age or older.

In April 1978, the Michigan Legislature passed a law that raised the drinking age to 19. Meanwhile, a citizen's group had placed an initiative proposal on the ballot in the November 1978 election, which would amend the state constitution to raise the drinking age to 21.

## ORT book sale begins Oct. 20


Glenwood Chapter of Women's American ORT (Organization for Rehabilitation through Training) plans a used book sale for 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Oct. 20-24.

• Anyone wishing to donate books for

the sale can arrange to have them picked up or get further information by calling Phyllis Dubinsky at 478-9393. The sale will take place at Harvard Row Mall, 11 Mile at Lahser in Southfield.

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### Grants total

\$7 million

Sponsored funding for projects at Eastern Michigan University reached an all-time high of \$7 million during the 1980 fiscal year, the EMU Office of Research Development (ORD) reported at the September Board of Regents meeting.

The \$7 million in grants represents a three-fold increase over last year's funding total of \$2.3 million. In contrast, the University received \$1.2 million in sponsored funding in 1977.

The fiscal year's total also represents 68 awarded grants, six less than last year. A total of 136 proposals for funding in 1980 were submitted to various sources, 13 less than the 1979 totals.

Some \$4.4 million of the \$7 million in funds supports two EMU projects in Swaziland and Yemen.

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