

# Oakland in new population class

By TOM LONERGAN

Oakland County's 1980 census count will likely be more than 1 million.

But how that will benefit the county in Lansing and Washington during the next decade remains to be seen.

The county is expecting no immediate increase in state or federal aid. The overall impact of the population exceeding 1 million, based on the latest preliminary census count released by the U.S. Census Bureau, should be minor.

"That's the way it looks to us," said Michael T. Niemann, director of the county Public Information Office.

"We don't know of any (federal aid) formulas that use one million as a major number," he said.

STATE LAWS have been passed specifically for Wayne County, up till now the only Michigan county with a population over a million. Wayne's preliminary 1980 census count is 2,324,697.

The laws allowed only Wayne to establish a civil service commission and a county general hospital among the major provisions, Niemann said.

It's unlikely Oakland would do either once the census counts become law in 1982, following reapportionment.

In lieu of a civil service commission, Oakland has a merit system approved by voters in 1976. "There really isn't a need for another general hospital" in the county, Niemann said.

What effect Oakland's one million people will have on such regional boards as the Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority (SEMATA) is uncertain.

"We don't pretend to have the last word on this," Niemann said. "We don't yet know all the laws . . . rules and regulations that fit this."

REPRESENTATION on the 15-member SEMATA board is set by state law. Detroit has five members, all appointed by the mayor, Wayne County has three, all appointed by the Wayne County Board of Commissioners, and Macomb County two, appointed by its county board.

Oakland County has three, one picked by the county board and two by community caucuses and the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) General Assembly. SEMCOG is a regional planning agency which has a governing body comprised of local government representatives.

One negotiation issue in the proposed merger between SEMATA and the Detroit Department of Transportation (DDOT) is that the board make-up be based on the one-man one-vote apportionment principle.

OAKLAND COUNTY'S 1970 population was 997,871. The 1980 preliminary count represents an 11.6 percent increase.

The 10 largest communities, with their 1980 estimated populations and 1970 figures are as follows.

CITY	1980	1970
Pontiac	76,270	85,279
Southfield	75,492	69,285
Royal Oak	70,795	86,238
Troy	67,003	39,419
Warren	65,765	59,123
Farm Hills	57,922	48,694
Avon Twp.	44,773	24,513
Westland Twp.	42,458	42,788
W. Bloom Twp.	41,934	28,563
Mad. Heights	35,211	38,599

— Michael T. Niemann, public information director

volunteers

The Oakland County Volunteer Bureau, a program of the Volunteer Action Center of United Community Services, has weekly listings of volunteer opportunities. Further information about these and other volunteer needs at more than 200 agencies may be obtained by calling the Bureau at 642-7272. Any non-profit organization needing volunteer assistance may also call the bureau.

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SPEAKERS - Women are needed to help with a new breast/uterine cancer education effort being conducted in Oakland County by the American Cancer Society. The program, "Straight Talk," needs women 18 and older to talk with women about the importance and methods of early detection of cancer. All necessary training is provided.

CLERK - The city of Southfield Human Resources Department is in need of 2 persons 21 and older with some previous experience in office work. Duties would include typing and filing, recording of sales and similar information. Persons should be courteous, efficient, neat in appearance, and have legible handwriting. A commit-

ment of four-eight hours a week for a six-month period is required. Training is provided.

WISE MEN - Volunteers who are sympathetic to the problems faced by travelers are being recruited by Travelers Aide Society. Duties include working at either Metropolitan Airport or the Greyhound Bus terminal, Detroit, to provide information and assist in crisis situations. Training is provided.


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