

GOP places Clarkson back on parks panel

Now that the Republicans run the show in Oakland County, the Board of Commissioners ousted Charles R. Shafer from the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority Board and replaced him with James Clarkson.

In an 18-9 party line vote, Republican commissioners reinstated Clarkson, who was unseated when Democrats controlled the board for a year in 1976. Clarkson had served 12 years on the HCMA board, a five-county agency which operates 11 metroparks, including Kensington and Stony Creek.

CLARKSON, president and chairman of First Federal Savings and Loan Association of Oakland, was elected to a six-year term which ends May 15, 1986.

Shafer is chairman of Michigan National Bank-Oakland.



James Clarkson gets old job back

Over Children's Village County exec, judges clash

By Suzie Rollins Singer
staff writer

Future control of Oakland County's Children Village may be decided by a court.

That will happen if County Executive Daniel T. Murphy and the Probate Court judges can't work out an agreement over who should operate Children's Village.

"I'm going to put some things in writing that says why I believe I should operate the village and what I think some of the responsibilities of the judges are," Murphy said.

"The judges have agreed to get back to me in about three weeks. But in the meantime, I'm leaving things status quo until our discussions are over," the executive added.

LAST WEEK, Murphy told a Republican county commissioners caucus he would inform the judges that he is taking over the juvenile facility soon.

Forget it, said the judges. If Murphy wants to run the village — a function

of Probate Court for the past 40 years — then he'll have to sue them for it.

"He (Murphy) does not have the constitutional or legal right to run the village," said Probate Judge Eugene Moore.

"There's nothing he can do to operate it. If he wants to take it over, he's going to have to sue us for it," he added.

MURPHY ARGUES that because the \$15 million budget for Children's Vil-

lage and Camp Oakland falls within the executive's budget, administering them is his responsibility.

"The Probate Court is operating that facility out of the executive's budget," Murphy said. "I'm going to operate it, and if the judges don't like it, they can go to court."

Even after the meeting, Moore once again contended Murphy has no legal right to operate the village.

"We're not giving up jurisdiction. We're going to try and reach a compromise with Murphy, but we're resisting a takeover," Moore said.

MURPHY IS seeking transfer of village operations under Public Act 139, under which Oakland voters adopted the unified form of county administration. Children's Village management is within the Institutional and Human Services Department, he said.

Murphy contends the village is not used to capacity and is not cost efficient.

The four probate judges disagree. They say that because they hear the juvenile cases and order placement into

Children's Village, they should follow the cases through by operating the village.

They admit the facility isn't always filled but don't think that's a problem.

WHILE MOORE admitted that the village budget has been under Murphy since 1975, Murphy said that only since 1980 has he been responsible for its finances.

"The budget has been that way (within the executive's purview) since 1975, but the judges have been running Children's Village for 40 years," Moore said.

"It's very clearly a sham," the judge added.

The judges requested the meeting Tuesday with Murphy to discuss the future of Children's Village, Moore said.

"We asked for the meeting, and then we read in the paper that he's saying 'Go jump in the lake,'" Moore said.

"He's wrong. The people in Children's Village are hired by the court. We've signed contracts with their union, and they're our employees."

"The court will continue to operate Children's Village," Moore said.

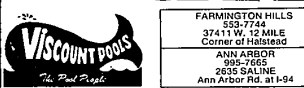
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