

Aging vehicles may stall county snow removal

Snow and ice control on Oakland County roads may be more of a problem this winter.

"Equipment breakdowns could be more frequent than usual, causing delays," said Richard Vogt, chairman of the board of Oakland County Road Commissioners.

"Our fleet of trucks, graders and their accessories is over-aged in comparison to previous years," he said.

"Since 1980, we haven't been able to replace road equipment at the normal pace. We were forced to cut the replacement budget to 50 percent in 1981 and to 19 percent in 1982," he added.

The sharp declines of state-collected gas and weight taxes have meant the road commission budget has gone from \$1.6 million in 1979 and 1980 to \$805,875 in 1981 and \$305,225 by the end of this year.

Earl Rogers, engineer-manager of the County Road Association of Michigan, recently released data indicating that road commissions throughout the state are suffering the road equipment replacement problem.

Rogers said that the 83 county road commissions "normally should spend \$28 million annually to keep truck fleets and machinery at standard operating levels. But in 1980 they spent only \$21 million and that was cut further to just \$11 million in 1981."

Gandhi photo exhibit visits Troy

A free photographic exhibit entitled "Mahatma Gandhi's Message in America" will be on public display Oct. 2-8 at the Bharatiya Temple, Adams at South Boulevard, Troy.

This display, held in connection with the 113th anniversary of the birth of Mahatma Gandhi, the great Indian patriot and spiritual leader, contains more than 50 panels (2 X 4 feet) depicting key events in the life of this major 20th-century humanitarian, as well as other memorabilia and items relating to his message of peace and brotherhood.

Originally mounted in the Smithsonian Institution during the 1969 celebration of the centenary of Gandhi's birth, this exhibition is now under the sponsorship of the Gandhi Memorial Center, Washington, D.C.

The Display will open at 8:30 p.m. Oct. 2 with a brief ceremony and a short address by Carlo Coppola, professor and chairman of the Area Studies Programs, Oakland University. Coppola is an internationally known specialist in Indian Studies and author of several books and numerous articles, translations, reviews and other publications dealing with various aspects of cultural and literary history of South Asia.

The exhibit will close Oct. 8, with an 8 p.m. address and a slide show on the life and times of Gandhi by Shrimati Kamala, director of the Gandhi Memorial Center.

Exhibit hours are 8:30 to 10 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 2; 2-6 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 3; and 6 to 10 p.m. Monday, Oct. 4, Wednesday, Oct. 6, and Friday, Oct. 8. Groups wishing to view the exhibit during daytime hours may arrange for such special tours.

The exhibit is being sponsored locally by the Bharatiya Temple, the India League of America, the Physicians of India Association and the Area Studies Programs, Oakland University.

For further information, contact the OU Area Studies Programs at 377-2154.

County commissioner sizzles over high cafeteria costs

By Suzie Rollins Singer
staff writer

Deficit spending in the county's cafeteria is being blamed on two things — mismanagement and high rent.

Oakland County Commissioner Lawrence Pernick, D-Southfield, charges that Glen Dick, central services director, overbuys supplies.

"The people in charge of operating the business (the cafeteria) are running a business — one which would be bankrupt if they owned it," Pernick said.

But Dick disagrees. He said the \$100,000 annual rent the Board of Commissioners charges the cafeteria puts the food service budget in the red. The rent charge was imposed about three years ago, he said.

"It's impossible to operate in the black and pay rent. We've told the commissioners this many times, but they don't listen. If we didn't have to pay the rent we'd break even," Dick said.

THE CAFETERIA. In the basement of the court house building, serves employees and the public who are in the building on county business. As of Dec. 31, 1981, records show it had a \$181,971 deficit.

Pernick plans to recommend to the commissioners' finance committee Oct. 14 that a private firm take over the cafeteria operations.

"I would like to see if we can get an outside caterer to take over the operation completely and pay us a franchise fee," he said.

"I don't think we need to be typing up \$100,000 in machinery and losing money," he added.

Dick said the county once tried Pernick's suggestion but without satisfaction.

"From 1968-77 an outside firm ran the cafeteria. Part of the arrangement was that the county supplied all the equipment. If the vendor made a profit, then the county would get its share to buy new equipment. But the vendor never made a profit," Dick said.

"So when we took it back we had to spend \$100,000 to upgrade the equipment," he added.

Dick explained that the cafeteria is just a service to people in the building and was never intended to be profitable.

"We have no evening or morning meals; we just serve during the lunch hour. The only way for us to make money is to raise prices, and then we wouldn't be competitive with other area restaurants," he said.

To alleviate the large deficit, Dick said he is cutting down on purchasing and working with a study committee to determine if it's more economically feasible to combine the food service purchasing for the entire county than to buy separately for the medical facilities, Children's Village and the employees cafeteria.

"We've got duplication in food services, and if we can eliminate that we'd be in better shape," he added.

OCC hosts unemployment conference

A one-day unemployment conference will be held at the Orchard Ridge campus of Oakland Community College on Saturday, Oct. 9.

Unemployed workers throughout the metro-Detroit area are invited to attend free.

Entitled, "Where do we go from here?", the conference will stress career opportunities and coping with unemployment.

The program will run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in H-Building. Free lunches will be provided.

Participation is limited to 2,000 persons, so advance registration is required by calling 478-4425 or 478-9400, Ext. 276, 277 or 278.

Psychologist Sonya Friedman will deliver the keynote address. Other guest speakers include psychologist Joan Greenfield and attorney Beverly Daniels.

Lectures, discussions and workshops will continue throughout the day. They will deal with using stress positively, effective time management, money management, career awareness, positive thinking, legal and medical concerns and job preparation.

Information on career retraining, financial aid, student job placement services and Michigan's economic outlook also will be available.

City wants employers who will train

Southfield Community Placement is looking for Oakland County employers willing to take advantage of its OJT (on-the-job training) program.

Employers will receive 50 percent reimbursement of gross wages paid. The program enables employers to train qualified applicants and opens the door to additional tax credits after the initial training.

For further information, call 354-9127.

Park sets landscape day

The latest products and techniques in the landscape-horticulture industry will be discussed at the Green Tree Council Field Day for Landscape and Turf Industries.

It will be Oct. 14 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Addison Oaks County Park, on West Romeo Road, nine miles north of Rochester.

Interested persons must preregister by calling Greg Patchan at 858-0887 or Phil Goulding at 858-0171.

The price is \$5 per person, which includes lunch.


Participants will attend lectures and view product and equipment demonstrations.

Video course offered at OU

A videotaping workshop for beginners is being offered by the continuing education division at Oakland University on Saturday, Oct. 16.

The workshop runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuition is \$35. To register, call the continuing education office at 377-3120, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. weekdays.

The workshop will offer an overview and hands-on experience with video cameras, cassette recorders and other equipment for individuals interested in videotaping for personal, commercial and educational purposes.



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