

# Empire comes to rescue

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American Federal and Metropolitan will operate as separate Empire divisions until technical operations and computers can be linked together, according to Paul A. Willax, president of Empire.

"As soon as we can combine the technical and computer operations of Metropolitan with our existing Big E (Empire) network, customers will be able to interchangeably use any of our local branches," he said.

Willax added that all of Metropolitan's officers and staff will be integrated into the existing operations.

Last week's transaction gives Empire about \$6.3 billion in assets with 119 offices nationwide. Prior to the deal, Metropolitan had about \$396 million in assets with 11 offices in Michigan. Empire had approximately \$5.9 billion in assets with 108 offices in

Michigan, New York, Texas and Florida before the merger. Seventeen of those offices were in Michigan.

Skyrocketing interest rates, which have troubled all of the state's thrift institutions in the past three years, were to blame for Metropolitan's dilemma, according to Elder, formerly president of Metropolitan. Only two of the 53 savings and loans in Michigan showed profits in the first half of 1982.

A businessman from Ohio had tried to buy Metropolitan last year but failed when he couldn't get the concessions he sought from the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation.

Empire of America, FSA was formerly the Erie Savings Bank in Buffalo and has its administrative headquarters there. Its federal charter as a savings and loan association is in Southfield, where its official corporate office is located.

# Council studies garbage woes

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But city attorney Paul Bibeau said he had "no negative reaction to what I've heard" and that the suit would be unaffected by the proposed council action.

"Our policy meets constitutional muster. As to

whether it's 100 percent equitable, that's a policy decision. If you want to change it, that's your prerogative," he said.

Whether the city has the specialized equipment it needs to pick up refuse on private roads is an unanswered question, said city manager Lawrence Savage.

# Stop sign advocates win fight

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"This is something that concerns me greatly — it kind of cuts me that the assumption here is that the engineering and city staff are not concerned about children's safety. Most of us here have children who are going to school."

"What we've done is recommend safety measures based on widespread criteria."

"This is an awfully tremendous amount of re-

sponsibility for parents, as well as the city, to have to shoulder."

Stop signs will be installed at east- and west-bound Lamar at Hayes Street; north- and south-bound Springbrook Drive at Lamar Street; east- and west-bound Lamar Street at Tuck Road; and east- and west-bound Fink at Tuck.

Council said it would investigate in one year to see if the new stop signs are effective.

# Graduates finding jobs

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Graduates employed in jobs related to training earned an average of \$5.06 an hour, according to the survey. Graduates who were working in fields

unrelated to their training reported that their average pay was \$4.20 an hour.

The lowest pay mentioned in the survey, \$3.78 an hour, was earned by nursing assistant program graduates.

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