

# New home for police academy

By Kathy Farris  
staff writer

During the past five years, Oakland Police Academy has had five different homes. The moves were so frequent that coordinator Joel Allen stopped opening moving boxes and putting materials away.

Now that Oakland Community College's permanent, new \$1.7 million Criminal Justice Center is open, everything's finally got a place.

"It's just nice to have a home," Allen said. "There are boxes of things we just never emptied because we knew we were going to be moving again."

BASED ON OCC's wooded Auburn Hills campus east of Pontiac, the Criminal Justice Center opened in January.

Along with classrooms and office space, it features a shooting range named after Ralph Mosley, one-time Birmingham police chief and county commissioner who headed the program from 1967-1977.

The building is also attached to the community college's physical education building, where officers get physical training and learn defensive tactics.

Oakland Police Academy offers a nine-week police training program which officers attend after they are hired onto an area force.

While OCC offers criminal justice degrees, the academy trains only employed officers whose education is paid for by their departments.

THE CURRICULUM covers 370 hours of subjects ranging from criminal law, evidence, confessions and firearms, to courtesy and ethics. One week is devoted to "Advanced Driving Techniques."

The program has been expanded over the years to include a night program dealing with practical problems. Through role-play, seasoned officers show how to handle different situations.

Started in 1955 out of concern by local police chiefs over lack of formal training, the program originally dealt with the basics needed to start a law enforcement career. With departments

hiring people with more education and the increasingly complex nature of police work, today's program is more sophisticated.

Allen said his program aims at turning out "thinking" officers who are very flexible.

"This isn't a stressful academy like some. It's an educational setting," explained the former Detroit policeman who also was South Lyon's police chief and mayor.

"There is never a domestic complaint that's the same because the people and circumstances don't duplicate. So we try to give our students as much information as possible so they can think and make decisions. We must have thinking people."

Special Stress Awareness Nights are also offered for police officers' families so that they can better understand what to expect from the work.

"OFTEN OFFICERS tend to internalize and are not likely to communicate with their families. They might be upset and take out their aggression on them," Allen explained. "If they don't understand, they might take it personally."

While many new recruits are coming onto the job with college degrees in criminal justice, the Oakland Police Academy still has to dispel some false notions about police work.

"A lot of people get their ideas about law enforcement from TV. So we have to get them to try to be more realistic," Allen said. "It's not high-speed chases all the time."

Always adding to the academy program, the coordinator would like to add weeks to the basic coursework. "We're covering the right material, but I think we need to add a few more hours so we can be more detailed," Allen explained.

He is pleased about a new law under which 45 of every traffic ticket fine goes into training police officers.

"When money is tight, training is unfortunately one of first things to go," said Allen, who regrets that some departments never send officers back for advanced education.

"But it's a real service to the communities. They're getting trained officers who know their roles and how to serve the community."



staff photographer

Joel Allen, coordinator of the Oakland Police Academy, is pleased that \$5 from every traffic ticket is used for police training.

## Diabetes classes aimed at children

A series of six classes on diabetes will be held from 7-9 p.m. Thursdays beginning Oct. 20. The free classes will be in the Oakland County Health Division, 27725 Greenfield, Southfield.

The classes are designed for the school-age child and his or her family members. They are taught by a registered dietitian and public health nurses.

Topics to be discussed include the nature of the disease, dietary management, medications and suggestions for coping with everyday problems.

Those wishing to attend should preregister as classes are limited. To preregister, call the Oakland County Health Division, Health Education and Nutrition Services, 858-1394, or 845-1160 ext. 81394.

Birmingham  
Designer Shoe

3 DAYS ONLY  
Thursday, Friday, Saturday  
October 6-8

ENTIRE STOCK  
OF LADIES

- Andrew Geller
- Evan Picone
- Evins
- Vaneli
- Sesto Meucci
- Charles Jourdon
- Palizzio

\*650 pairs available

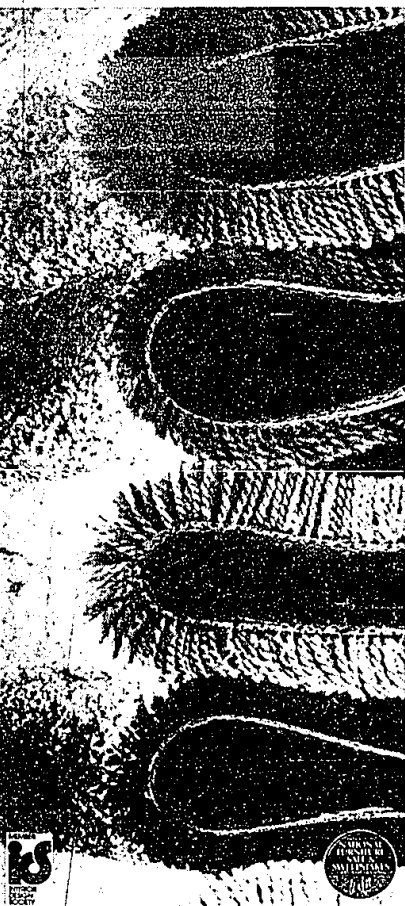
\$49.90

Compare to \$120.00

Birmingham Designer Shoes

163 N. Woodward • Across from Crowleys  
Birmingham • 642-3255  
Open Thurs. & Fri. til 9:00 p.m.

## Wiggs leaves you feeling great from heel to toe.



Our entire collection of Lees carpet 20% off.

For ten days only, you can save on every Lees carpet we sample. That means a range of exciting colors to choose from, and a wide selection of styles, from Saxony Plush to Multi-Level to Twist to Level Loop, all guaranteed to enhance any decor. Of course that also means the kind of fine quality and rugged durability that made Lees famous.

Don't miss your chance for top-tapping savings on Lees carpet and other beautiful, top-quality home furnishings, only at Wiggs.

September 30 through October 9, you'll find special sweepstakes sale tags on selected items throughout the store. Be sure to register for the National Home Furnishings Association Sweepstakes.

Spend your fall at

Wiggs

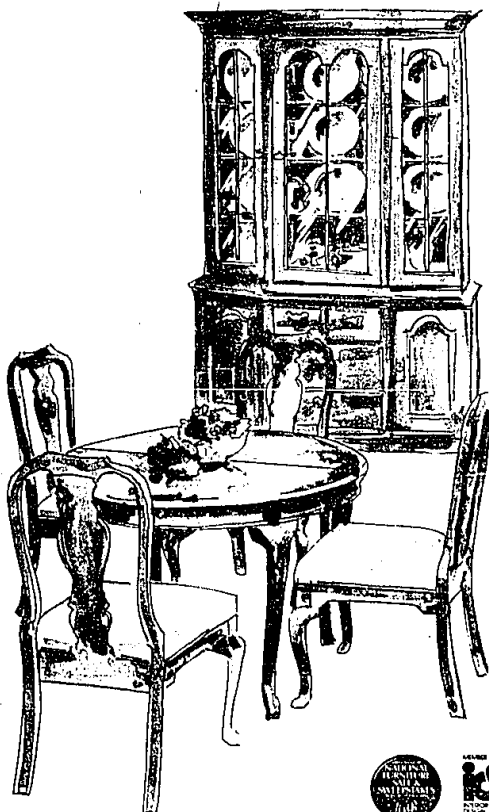
MasterCard, Visa, Wiggs Charge.

4080 Telegraph Road, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48303

646-7370

Hours: Mon. Thurs. 9:30-9:00, Tues. Wed. Sat. 9:30-5:30

## Wiggs presents furniture fit for a king at a price that's a royal bargain.



This 7 piece dining group \$2188 for one week only.

Reminiscent of the distinct furnishings that once graced English manor homes, this dining set is just \$2188 at Wiggs. Crafted from richly grained oak, each piece features a lustrous hand rubbed "antique oak" finish. The china cabinet offers elegant display opportunities, and the table, joined by Queen Anne side chairs, extends for guests. Other dining and bedroom pieces are also available, as well as occasional tables and wall units to enhance your living room. Treat yourself like royalty this week at Wiggs.

September 30 through October 9, you'll find special sweepstakes sale tags on selected items throughout the store. Be sure to register for the last three days of the National Home Furnishings Association Sweepstakes.

Spend your fall at

Wiggs

MasterCard, Visa, Wiggs Charge.

4080 Telegraph Road, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48303

646-7370

Hours: Mon. Thurs. 9:30-9:00, Tues. Wed. Sat. 9:30-5:30