

Facelift continues at county airport

By Doug Funke
staff writer

latest major improvement at the facility in the southwest corner of Troy — should be finished by Oct. 1.

That's the word from J. David Van-

derVeen, manager of aviation for Oakland County.

"Inside will be a waiting area for passengers and pilots, an operations office where pilots will file flight plans and get weather information, a pilots' lounge, a small vending area and restrooms," VanderVeen said.

Cost of the terminal building, parking lot and access road is \$200,000, VanderVeen said. The county will pay \$175,000, the state \$25,000, he said. The new terminal building is in an industrial park off Industrial Row south of Maple and east of Coollidge. The old terminal building, located on Maple Road and now vacant, had been leased from Rockwell International.

Airport operations have been headquartered since June 1 in a maintenance hangar leased by Lentini Aviation and the Oakland-Troy Airport Management Company.

CHRIS LENTINI, 34, is the president of both enterprises. He was granted a 20-year contract by the county to manage the airport in June of 1983.

"Airport tenants know we're here and we're very slowly getting known in the transit community," Lentini said.

Lentini agreed to provide for the maintenance hangar, located next to the site of the new terminal building, when he applied for the airport management contract.

His private aircraft company is primarily in the business of leasing airplanes and arranging charters, Lentini said. This is his first experience managing an airport.

"It looked like a big progression for us," Lentini said. "I wanted to expand the business, market it. Become a ser-

vice center, not just charters. That's what this allows."

"This is something I've always wanted to do," he added. "This could easily keep me consumed for the next 15 years."

VANDERVEEN seems just as pleased, terming Lentini's performance "excellent."

Several other safety features have been added to the Oakland-Troy Airport during the past year.

New landing lights were installed along the 3,800-foot runway last November and a location beacon on a 54-foot-high tower was erected earlier this summer.

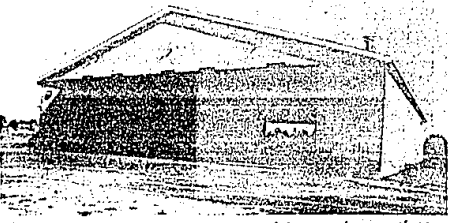
The runway lights are illuminated from dusk to 11 p.m., Lentini said. After that hour, pilots of approaching aircraft activate the runway lights by radio remote control.

The beacon is constantly illuminated from dusk to dawn.

"That all makes it easier to find the airport," Lentini said.

Oakland-Troy has no control tower or air traffic controllers.

Last August, an Avon Township man-



Planes have been serviced in a new maintenance hangar since February.

and his family crash-landed in a Birmingham field when he couldn't find the airport. The pilot later said he couldn't activate the runway lights with his microphone. No one was seriously injured.

Lentini acknowledged that not all of the runway lights were working at the time. However, he said those which were working checked out the next day.

There have been no complaints since the new runway lights were installed, Lentini said.

Only one more major project remains at the Oakland-Troy Airport — construction of hangar space for nine more planes. VanderVeen said he's hoping work can be completed yet this year. He estimated the cost at \$150,000.

Nursing home purchased

Continued from Page 1

If the hospital treats the patient for less, it can keep the profit. If it costs more, the hospital must absorb the loss.

"DRG's have really caused hospitals to shorten lengths of stay," said Russ Tuttle, director of community relations at Botsford. "The problem is that there just is not enough nursing home beds."

"With our own nursing home, we would have a more direct line for placing our patients," Farrell said. "It's more of a relief valve for Botsford."

A patient who has been discharged but still needs some level of care has the option of entering a nursing home.

"We will be helping out Botsford. But we are not going to become a Botsford facility," Farrell said, adding patients will have the choice of where they will go for extended care.

Unlike a home for the elderly, the Farmington Nursing Home is a "skilled nursing home," Farrell said. Farmington Nursing Home staff can provide residents "with a higher level of medical care."

FARRELL HAS a "dream list" of programs that could be established for the elderly on the 30-acre wooded site. But for now, sweeping changes are not planned for Farmington Nursing Home, she said.

Faced with the prospective pricing system, though, one idea under consideration is creating a "sub-acute" or short-term area in the nursing home.

Beds designated as short-term would be for patients who are between needing some type of care and being well enough to be on their own.

Because Medicare pays only a certain amount of the total cost for diagnosis and care, "the hospital is losing money keeping that person in the hospital," Farrell said.

Although the Farmington Nursing Home has not participated for the past few years, application has been made recently to participate in Medicare, she said.

Medicare will pay 100 days of nursing home care. After that, a nursing home resident becomes eligible for Medicaid.

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PUBLIC NOTIFICATION VOCATIONAL/TECHNICAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Each year the Farmington Public Schools offer Vocational/Technical programs at Farmington (FHS), Harrison (HHS), North Farmington (NFHS) High Schools and at the Southwest Area Vocational Education Center (SVOVEC) in Walled Lake. Within the district a shuttle bus transports students from their high school to another building. No class time is lost.

These programs are designed to prepare youth for a broad range of employment and training opportunities. They are offered under the guidance of certified instructors, counselors and cooperative education coordinators. The curriculum is technologically up to date, the equipment is representative of the "state of the art" in business and industry and the laboratories are of optimum size and appropriately designed.

If a program is offered at SVOVEC and at the home high school, students are asked to enroll in the home high school for the first year and then transfer to SVOVEC for the advanced program during the second year. Students attend SVOVEC from 8:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Buses leave each high school at 7:30 a.m. and return at 11:00 a.m.

Listed below are the programs being offered this year, their location and the criteria for admission:

PROGRAM	LOCATION	PRE-REQUISITE
Clerk Typist	HHS	1 Semester Typing
Marketing	FHS - HHS - NFHS	NONE
Medical Skills	FHS - NFHS	NONE
Societal Procedures	All Schools	1 Year Typing
Auto Mechanics	All Schools	1 Semester Auto Mechanics or Auto Care
Architectural Drafting	FHS - HHS - SVOVEC	1 Semester General Drafting
Engineering Drafting	FHS - HHS - SVOVEC	1 Semester General Drafting
Electronics	FHS - SVOVEC	1 Semester Electronics
Machine Shop	NFHS - SVOVEC	1 Semester Metals Technology
Printing	FHS - SVOVEC	1 Semester Photo Print
Advanced Display	SVOVEC	NONE
Auto Body Repair	SVOVEC	NONE
Cosmetology	SVOVEC	NONE
Data Processing	SVOVEC	NONE
Dental Office Assistant	SVOVEC	NONE
Diesel Mechanics	SVOVEC	NONE
Floral Design - Sales	SVOVEC	NONE
Food Services	SVOVEC	NONE
Greenhouse Management and Landscaping	SVOVEC	NONE
Medical Office Assistant	SVOVEC	NONE
Welding	SVOVEC	NONE

For specific information about these programs, you may call the Guidance Office at the respective building, Farmington High School (474-8155), Harrison High School (477-3315) and North Farmington High School (828-0212).

In keeping with the Farmington Board of Education policy on non-discrimination, students have equal access to all vocational programs regardless of race, religion, handicap, color, sex or national origin. In addition, the lack of English language shall not be a barrier to admission or participation. For General information about these programs, contact Earl D. Baumgart, Director of Vocational & Career Education, 32520 Shattuck, Farmington (477-1200). Inquiries concerning equal opportunity on the basis of sex should be directed to Donald Hines, Title IX Coordinator, 32500 Business, Farmington (477-4329). Questions concerning equal opportunity for the handicapped should be directed to Mary Lou Ankala, Special Education Supervisor at 32405 Alameda, Farmington HHS (477-6378).