

OCC altering in Southfield

Book store, offices, new classrooms due

By Tim Richard
staff writer

It's less than a decade old, but the Southfield Campus of Oakland Community College is facing alterations.

The OCC board last week awarded H. L. Coriveau Construction Inc. of Mount Clemens, low bidder, a contract for \$68,500 for work to be done by the winter semester. The project is in two parts:

- Demolishing an existing shower-locker room complex and combining it with an adjacent storage area for a full-time, full-service bookstore.

- Converting classroom 125 into two offices, a conference room and a secretarial area.

Dr. James Davis, president of the Southeast Campus System of which

the Southfield building is part, said a large, 900-square-foot classroom already has been converted into three smaller classrooms, and plans are being made to remodel two others.

"I've never seen classrooms this size in a college," said Davis, who has been president of two Illinois community colleges and a two-campus college in the state of Washington before coming to OCC in 1986.

"An average class size is 550 square feet," agreed Chancellor Stephen Nicholson. "We could go to smaller ones very effectively."

The Southfield campus houses many allied health programs. It's on Nine Mile, north of Northland Center and next door to Providence Hospital. OCC has many affiliation agreements with area hospitals for on-site training of students.

In related business, the OCC Board of Trustees last week approved agreements with five other hospitals for the training of mental health social worker students from the Auburn Hills Campus. The hospitals are Madison Heights Community, Harveynock, Pontiac Osteopathic, In County Community and Crittenton.

"YOU ARE trustees of \$250 million worth of land, buildings and equipment," Chancellor Nicholson told the board.

Pointing to an audit of OCC's books by Ernst & Whinney, Detroit CPA firm, Nicholson noted the cost of all assets is \$122 million.

"That's at original cost. Present replacement cost would be double that," the college's chief executive said.

Buildings cost \$83 million, equipment, \$24 million, land \$3 million, among other items.

OCC offers programs at six locations: Auburn Hills Campus, Highland Lakes Campus, Orchard Ridge Campus, Southeast System (Royal Oak and Southfield), and a Pontiac Center (vacant quarters).

Hills Campus land for widening of Squirrel Road is bogged down, college officials reported.

"There are legal problems with the right of way," said Anthony D. Jarson, vice chancellor of business.

The Oakland County Road Commission wants to turn Squirrel into a boulevard in the area north of M-50 freeway leading toward the Oakland Technology Park and abutting the OCC campus.

There also is a money problem over the paving of Featherstone, the two-lane east-west road on which the Auburn Hills Campus is located, between I-75 and Squirrel.

"The city of Auburn Hills said it has no funds to pave Featherstone," Nicholson said. "This board has paid for the paving of Featherstone. This board has been a good neighbor. If the board had placed a (traffic) burden on the road, the board was willing to pay for it."

Auburn Hills is among the areas — along with Troy and Rochester Hills — feeling an economic explosion due to the growth of high technology industry during the '80s. The county road commission called Oakland's road needs due to economic expansion at \$740 million over 16 years.

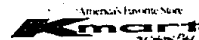
A series of bills to raise motorist fees and allow local option road taxes is winding its way through both houses of the Michigan Legislature.

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Kuhn asks teeth for erosion law

By Tim Richard
staff writer

being combed by the board's finance committee.

SECOND. THE four-term drain chief will ask the Michigan Legislature for a new legal enforcement tool to carry out his responsibility under the soil erosion law.

"Basically, developers apply for permits to move soil," Fredericks explained. "There's no policy for enforcing the law except on a complaint-by-complaint basis."

"We're considering asking for a law based on the weed control ordinance of several cities. If they (owner of weedy lots) fail to act, you

cut the weeds and bill them."

Such a procedure, said Fredericks, an attorney, would avoid long trips to Circuit Court over injunction requests to be decided by a judge with little interest in soil erosion.

THE SOIL erosion powers of the drain commissioner apply to industrial and commercial developers, he said.

They don't apply to county road commissions, which police themselves under different laws, or cities, which deal with county extension offices.

Fredericks reported to the county

board's General Government Committee, chaired by Richard Skarritt, R-Milford. That panel endorses or opposes changes in state laws affecting counties.

After giving Kuhn and Fredericks a sympathetic ear, the panel asked them to report back for an endorsement of their legislative request.

While the new soil erosion inspectors are likely to be on duty during 1988, Fredericks was uncertain Oakland officials could command the attention of both houses of the Michigan Legislature late in the year to win adoption of the proposed enforcement tools.

Nature has its own 'crashes'

THE RECENT dive of the stock market is not the topic of this article, but it reminded me there are crashes that occur in nature, too.

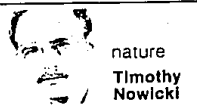
Throughout the years, plants and animals in an area have developed close associations and relationships with each other.

Plants provide shelter and food for many animals and are not often killed by their natural neighbors. Branches serve as platforms for bird or squirrel nests. Hollows in trees protect animals from foul weather and provide a safe place to raise young. And leaves feed animals directly or indirectly.

ANIMALS in the same area are able to co-exist with each other, even if one eats the other.

Over time they have developed methods to insure the survival of enough of the individuals to maintain the population.

If a greater number of fox are found in an area, they soon reduce the number of rabbits. When the number of rabbits gets below a certain point, fox numbers decrease be-



nature
Timothy Nowicki

cause they cannot find enough to eat. After a period of time the reduced number of fox allow the rabbit population to increase again.

Populations of animals often fluctuate, but there are built-in checks and balances that help to keep the dynamic system balanced.

IF MAN interferes with this balance, however, severe consequences may result.

In the early 1900s, hunters killed all the predators from a region out West known as the Kaibab Plateau. Cougar, wolf, bobcat and coyote were intentionally killed in an effort to increase the deer population.

About 6,000 deer were found in the area initially. After the predators were eliminated, the deer population

increased to about 60,000 to 70,000.

Two years later two-thirds of the population died, and 14 years after that die-off, the population dropped to 10,000 animals.

Without predators, which are part of the system, the number of deer

increased so much that there was not enough food for them all.

Natural populations of animals fluctuate like the stock market and hermites, but usually do not crash — unless there is an uncontrolled influence like the hand of man.

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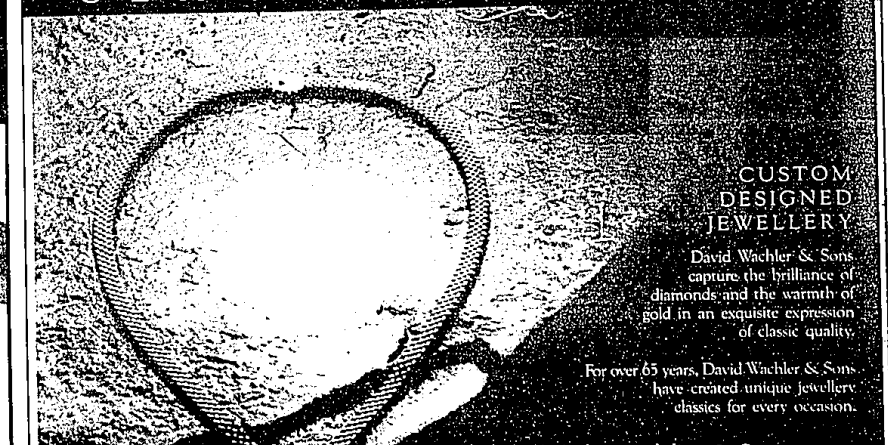
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