

What plan? — County board wants to know

By Dave Jurga
Staff writer

Oakland County Commissioners want more time to ponder the effects of a new economic strategy

plan for the tri-county area. The new plan could have a major impact on future economic development in Oakland County, and 26 of the 27 county commissioners signed a resolution saying they and their

cities, villages and townships need time to analyze just what that impact could be. The plan calls for a world trade center in Detroit. It favors redeveloping and reinvesting in older, established cities which already have roads, water, sewers and concentrated residents, instead of the "urban sprawl" pattern, which wastes tax money for new infrastructure while depleting rural landscapes.

During a stormy Republican caucus meeting with County Executive Daniel Murphy and his staff Thursday morning, several county commissioners lamented over their lack of notice about this economic plan drawn up by the Big Four — county executives from Oakland, Wayne and Macomb and mayor of Detroit.

"Again the commissioners are

being put into the position of, this is coming from Oakland County and the commissioners don't even know about it," said Anne Hobart, R-Milford.

MURPHY SAID it wasn't his plan. "It was put together by the units of the four counties. We were an active participant. This came out of the business community and the people that work with them in the local units."

Initially, commissioners were faced with a resolution to turn down the plan.

"I'd hate to see the thing go down the drain without enough discussion," said John Olson, R-Huntington Woods.

"All we're doing is talking about the goals and objectives of the new plan and whether they're consistent with those of SEMCOG," said Donald Jensen, R-Birmingham. "I have a

difficult time killing this now before hearing from our constituents."

"Not everyone is on the same part of the learning curve," said John Pappageorge, R-Troy. "It makes sense to me to pause, for one, don't want to vote up or down on this now."

Commissioner Richard Skarritt, R-Milford, said the plan was "not in the best interest of Oakland County." Later, though, he offered the resolution to delay the commission's decision, which was referred to a commission subcommittee.

MURPHY AND the rest of the Big

Four had recently asked the SEMCOG (Southeast Michigan Council of Governments) to issue a simple declaration that the plan didn't conflict with SEMCOG's own seven-county development plan. Instead, SEMCOG also decided to spend a month studying it.

Commissioner Nancy McConnell, R-Bloomfield Hills, asked the administration to figure out how much of its time was spent on the plan, to find out how much Oakland County money went into it.

SEMCOG will schedule a meeting the week of May 8 in Oakland County to discuss the plan, Murphy said.

Exchange program applications ready

Nacel Culture Exchanges is accepting applications for area students interested in spending the summer with a family in France, Germany, Spain and the Ivory Coast.

The homestay program gives students, ages 13 to 18 and with two years of foreign language, a chance to live the culture and speak the language, according to Evelyn Prince, state coordinator for Nacel.

"Unlike a tour," she said, "a homestay is a meaningful way to learn first-hand about everyday life by becoming part of a family."

Students in the first session of trips to France, Spain and Germany will depart July 3 and return July 31. The second session to those countries runs from July 24 to Aug. 21. Departure for the Ivory Coast is June 7, with return on July 1.

Michigan students can depart from either Detroit Metro Airport or Grand Rapids. Cost is \$1,295 for France, Germany or Spain and \$1,785 for the Ivory Coast. A scholarship is available for families who previously hosted or who will host a Nacel exchange student for four weeks this summer.

Pascal LeVigoureux, director of the Nacel Hosting Programs in France, recently issued a special invitation to Michigan teenagers to join French families to celebrate that nation's Bicentennial this summer.

MORE THAN 1,700 French families are inviting students to France, said LeVigoureux at a press conference in Detroit.

Other summer foreign study programs offered by Nacel include:

• A four-week stay in either Cambridge, England or Dublin, Ireland. The program is open to students who have completed grades 11 or 12. Students live with families and follow an enrichment course of literature, history and lifestyle.

• A three-week summer program in Paris for beginning French students who have completed grades 7, 8 or 9. Students take morning classes and take afternoon field trips and weekend excursions.

For more information about traveling abroad or hosting students, call Prince at 626-6641.

Students need host families

Vivalangues USA, a non-profit student exchange program, is seeking host families for 60 French students for a four-week stay beginning either June 29 or Aug. 1.

These English-language French students will be between the ages of 14 and 20. They bring their own spending money and are covered by medical and liability insurance. Each group of 30 students is accompanied by an adult chaperone, who must also have a host family.

Host families need only provide a bed and a willingness to share their home and American culture. It is not necessary to speak French.

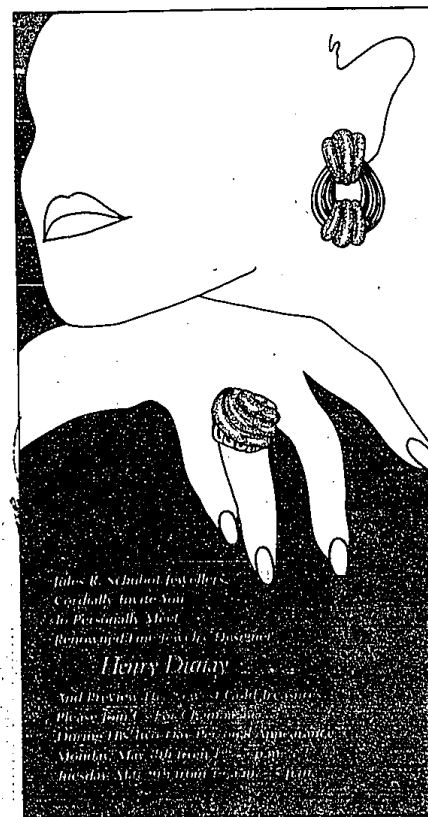
American students, with two years of language, may also spend four weeks with a family in France or Spain under the Vivalangues program, with priority given to students from families who participate as summer hosts.

For more information, call 641-8694.

Computer course at OU

Oakland University will host a computer course on Intermediate WordPerfect from 8:30-8:30 p.m. Wednesdays, May 3-24, at the Rochester campus.

view WordPerfect 5.0 basic skills and learn more advanced functions like dual document editing, outlining, and inserting headers and footers.

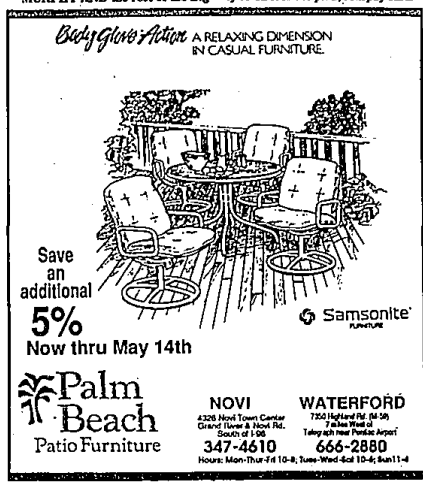


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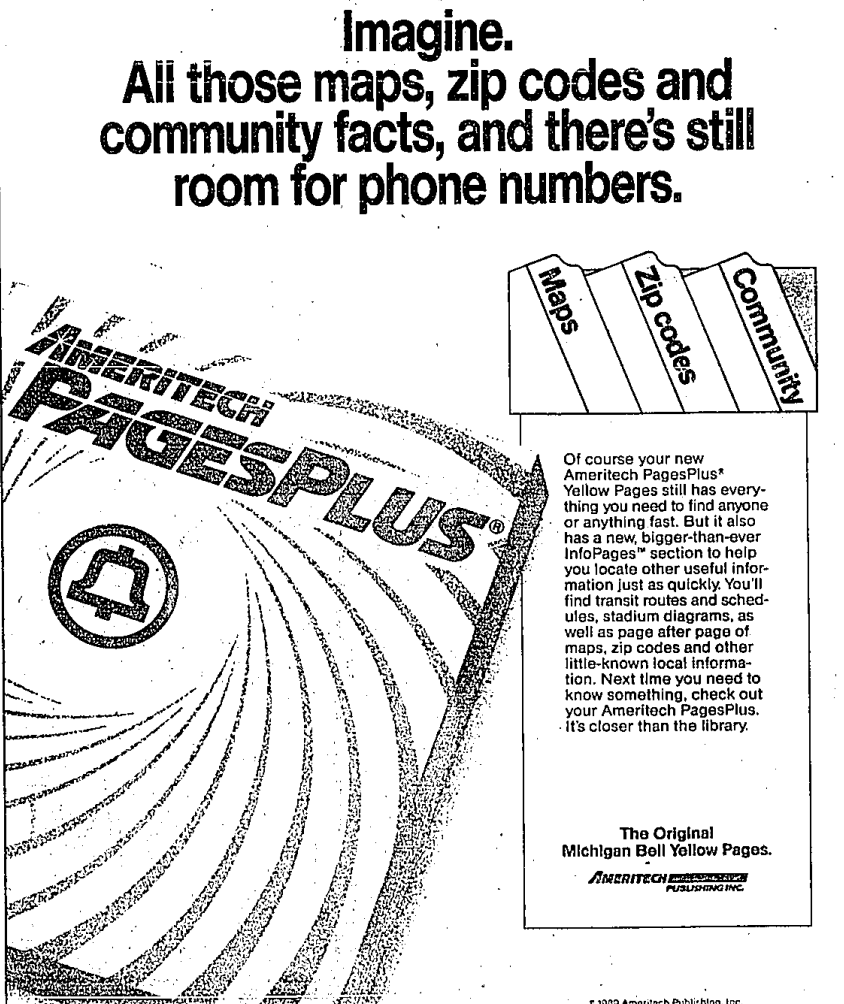
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