

# New chief says city, SEMCOG will cooperate

By Tim Richard  
staff writer

If Detroit Mayor Coleman Young won't talk to suburban officials face to face, the city council is willing.

"I'm asking SEMCOG staff to arrange meetings with the outlying communities for Detroit council members," said Detroit councilman Clyde Cleveland as he became chairman Friday of the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments.

"We see a much-needed dialog between Detroit and our neighbors in all directions," Cleveland said. Young, in his 17th year as mayor, never has attended a meeting of the 150-member SEMCOG, a seven-county regional planning agency run by local elected officials. In some of his five inaugurations, including this year's, he has called for cooperation with neighboring communities.

CLEVELAND MOVED up to the chairmanship after Milton Mack Jr., a Wayne County commissioner from the city of Wayne, decided against seeking the traditional second one-year term. Mack is seeking another term as county commissioner. Cleveland lavished praise on Mack

for "sticking his neck out on the Detroit incinerator." Mack argued for state reopening of the trash burner when nearby residents and what Cleveland called "single issue zealots" wanted it shut down for air pollution.

Mack's farewell address also emphasized "comprehensive policy making" for the environment as opposed to "single issue" advocates. And Cleveland suggested SEMCOG set up a program to train local officials in how to deal with "single issue advocates who want us to make a decision for them without regard for the entire community."

In its elections, SEMCOG picked Gerald McCaffrey of Macomb County as first vice chairman, setting him up to succeed Cleveland. McCaffrey is a member of the Macomb Intermediate Board of Education and the first official from his county to achieve a top position in SEMCOG since the early 1970s.

Other vice chairs are Martha Hoyer, Novi council member; Richard Rudnicki, Livingston County drain commissioner; and E.A. Jackson Morris, supervisor of Pittsfield Township in Washtenaw County.

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AN EXPECTED battle over 30-year population projections flared out as a handful of delegates cast token votes against the Regional Development Forecast.

"By the year 2010, there will be 5 million people, 2 million households and 2.5 million jobs in southeastern Michigan," said Gail Kneiss, Grosse Pointe Farms councilmember and chair of the DataCenter Advisory Council.

The SEMCOG report predicted Detroit still will top the 1 million mark in the current census but shrink to 854,000 in 30 years, though most politicians disagree.

Dissenting votes were cast by Troy, South Lyon, Dearborn and Ypsilanti.

"SEMCOG is forecasting 71,000 and change," said Troy Councilmember Randall Husk. "Our own data indicates close to 80,000."

"We agree with SEMCOG on the number of households, but we disagree on the number of persons per household, they say 2.68. We say 2.4."

Other communities also believe there have been population turn-overs as young families replace retirees.

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expansion in the outlying suburbs. "We're going down a road that's going to be very, very expensive," he said. If current development continues, the eight-lane I-75 freeway through Oakland County will have to be expanded to 16 lanes.

Meanwhile, SEMCOG has started a three-year study to calculate the cost of public infrastructure — roads, water, sewer and utilities — if migration to the outer suburbs continues.

The study was precipitated by the argument over a 2-million-square-foot megamall proposal in Auburn Hills. SEMCOG staffers, Detroiters and officials of outlying cities such as Southfield and Rochester fear megamalls will soak up huge amounts of state and federal money for infrastructure, leaving them with underused capacity and empty stores.

## Local hosts sought for teen exchange

Host families are needed for more about 100 French or Spanish teenagers, mostly boys, who are coming to Oakland County in July to experience the American style of living.

The teenagers will begin coming to Oakland as early as July 2, with most stays ending the week of July 29. A second group of teenagers will visit from July 29 through Aug. 25.

Their visits are coordinated by Nacel Cultural Exchanges, a nonprofit agency that promotes personal contact as a means of promoting international understanding.

Nacel is the largest summer home-stay program between the United States and Europe, sponsoring more than 80,000 student visits

since 1969. About 2,500 of those student visitors have come to Michigan.

Host families are not required to speak a foreign language. Most of the visiting teens have already had from four-to-eight years of English.

Families are expected to provide food and lodging and to include the visiting teenagers in family activities. The visitors have pocket money and are insured.

The ideal host family has teenage children, said Jeanne Henderson, one promoter of the program in Oakland County.

Additional information on the program is available through Henderson, 642-0924, or through Evelyn and Julian Prince at 626-6641.

## OCC board meets Thursday

A revision to a policy on a drug-free workplace and a student retention study will be part of the Oakland Community College Board of Trustees agenda beginning at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, June 28, in the board

room of the George A. Bee Administrative Center, 2480 Opdyke Road, Bloomfield Hills. The board invites the general public, college staff and students to attend its meetings.

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