

Decisions!

Solid waste at crucial stage

By Pat Murphy
staff writer

Today is "Decision Day" for Oakland County Commissioners on the solid waste plan.

At today's board of commissioners meeting, officials are scheduled to address core issues of the \$470 million solid waste program, the most expensive project in county history. Among the issues included on today's agenda, specifically or implied, are:

- Shall the issue of bonding the solid waste program be put to a vote of the people?

Most observers thought the issue was dead, that commissioners would sell limited obligation bonds that do not require a vote of the people.

But one agenda item calls for using general obligation bonds that require a vote of the people. "I still think that's the way to go," said commissioner Donn L. Wolf, R-Farmington Hills.

The earliest vote would be in November, a costly delay.

- If commissioners do not call for a vote, will they incur the wrath of tax foe Richard Headlee who has threatened to sue unless voters are consulted?

- Should the so-called 641 plan, the legal blueprint for the solid waste plan, include an expanded landfill in Rochester Hills? An expanded Marlow Landfill, operated by Browning-Ferris Industries in Rose Township?

- Should the waste-to-energy incinerator in Madison Heights be scrapped, with unrecyclable trash from Birmingham, Troy and other southeastern communities sent to the \$175 million incinerator in Auburn Hills?

WITH ALL these issues, commissioners have engaged in heavy lobbying involving some quiet horse-trading.

One of them is Mark Chester, a Republican whose district includes parts of Troy, Royal Oak and Madison Heights. He's trying to muster enough votes to get rid of the Madison Heights incinerator, a move many residents support, but city governments oppose.

"Do we really need two incinerators?" Chester asks.

By the middle of the week, Chester said he has 10 of the 14 votes needed to kill the incinerator. "But there's also at least 10 votes committed to keeping the Madison Heights incinerator in the 641 plan."

"Some commissioners simply haven't made up their minds yet," he said.

Commissioner Donald E. Bishop said he is trying to line up enough votes to block expansion of the expanded landfill in Rochester Hills.

That landfill belongs to SOCHRA (Southeast Oakland County Resource Recovery Authority) which handles trash for Troy, Birmingham and 12 other cities.

Those cities want the landfill expanded because it will economically accommodate waste that can't be recycled or burned.

But Rochester Hills residents are opposed. Mayor Billie Ireland has threatened legal action.

With all the political considerations, today's meeting is expected to be lengthy and heated. And there's always a possibility that commissioners will not act on some matters while delaying others.

WHATEVER commissioners do, however, could impact the August primary election, particularly if voters believe their commissioners didn't do a good job for their respective areas.

At least five commissioners have primary opposition — Bishop; Susan G. Kuhn, whose district includes Clawson and part of Troy; Donald W. Jensen, Birmingham; Roy Rewold, Rochester and Lake Orion; and Thomas A. Law, West Bloomfield.

Rewold, chairman of the board of commissioners, is an architect of the solid waste plan and is committed to it. He and County Executive Daniel T. Murphy believe the plan will resolve Oakland's trash problems well into the next century.

But even Rewold isn't sure how today's meeting will come out. "Most of these issues could go either way," he said.

Asked if he has the votes (14) to adopt the 641 plan using limited obligation bonds, Rewold said, "I sure hope so."

Even though everyone realizes the importance of today's meeting, there remains a distinct possibility that commissioners may not reach a consensus and the solid waste plan will, as one official put it, "simply fall apart."

"These are crucial issues and we are already behind schedule," said James M. Brennan, the county's director of program evaluation and operations analysis.

ANY MAJOR delays — such as putting the bonding issue to a vote — would throw the county's timetable even further off schedule, he said.

The entire \$470 million solid waste program could 'fall apart.'

— Oakland County official on today's board meeting

"And delay, of course, means more money."

Peter Christiano, a Southfield City councilman and former city administrator, said costs for the solid waste program are already so high that cities in the southwest part of the county are having second and third thoughts about participating.

"Why should we use the county's recycling and incinerator (with tipping fees of about \$63 per ton) when we can get rid of it elsewhere for half the price?" asked Christiano.

Christiano is not an official spokesperson for RHRASC, the Resource Recovery and Recycling Authority of Southwest Oakland County.

Children of alcoholics helped by pilot program

By Ryan Tulak
staff writer

Oakland Family Services is one of three agencies nationwide that is testing programs to help adult children of alcoholics develop parenting skills they didn't see when growing up.

"Discovering Normal: A Parenting Program for Adult Children of Alcoholics and their Partners," a six-week program begun early this month, has been teaching 15 participants about alcoholism, child development and communication.

"Most of us learn parenting skills from role models — most of them parents," program director Donald Pipes said. "If the parents are alcoholics, many children don't see an adequate role model. They learn not to trust, not to feel, and not to talk about feelings."

The program teaches parents to awaken feelings dormant since

their childhood and to see feelings in their kids they might be neglecting.

"We want to teach parents to tune into their own child's feelings and paraphrase them," said Irene Bush, who created the program at the Children of Alcoholics Foundation Inc. in New York.

"But first we have to teach them to get in touch with their own feelings, which is much more difficult for children of alcoholics than for others."

THE PARENTS — including some from West Bloomfield, Pontiac and Waterford — say role playing with their kids helps develop emotional stability. "The whole purpose is to create new role-models for effective parenting. A lot of them ask, 'Am I doing it right?'" Pipes said.

"This is an educational process to let them know it's OK to feel

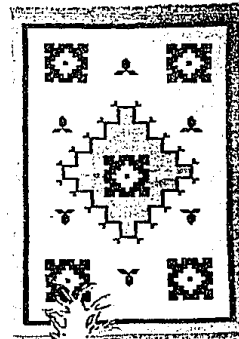
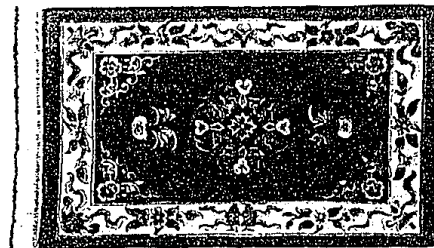
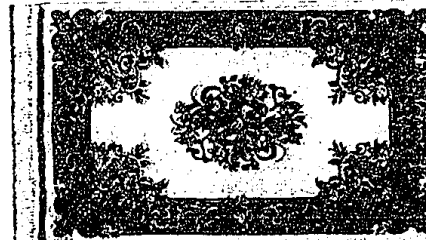
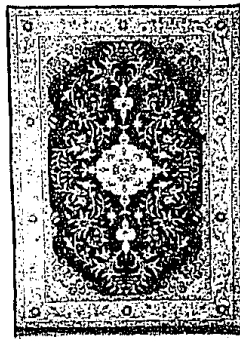


Donald R. Pipes

rage, to feel sad, and to feel happy. But it's about what you do with that feeling. It's not OK to feel angry and hit a child."

The parents practice the skills they see in the program, as "homework assignments," then come back to discuss their experiences with the group.

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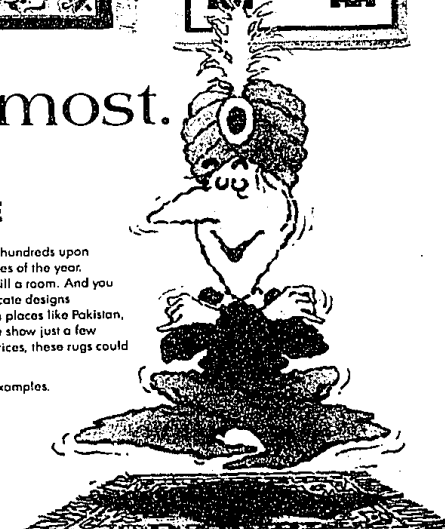
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Dhurrie, 4'x6', reg. \$215, sale \$99.

Oriental Rugs at Hudson's Warehouse
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HUDSON'S

OCC searching for chancellor

By Ryan Tulak
staff writer

Oakland Community College has begun receiving applications from people who hope to succeed departed chancellor Stephen Nicholson.

OCC also finalized a 24-member selection committee to review applications and suggest a short list of candidates to the school's board of trustees.

The applications have "just started coming in," said Jim Tatum, part of the consulting team hired to help find a successor to Nicholson who earlier this month left to take an administrative post with a technical college in the Middle East.

Tatum himself is a trustee for Crowder Community College in Missouri.

David Ponitz, another consultant who is president of Sinclair Community College in Dayton, Ohio, said he expects between 75 and 125 applications before the July 20 deadline.

The consultants are expected to screen the applicants and narrow the field to about 15 before submitting a list of finalists to the search committee by Aug. 20.

The committee will again screen the candidates and reduce the field even further before recommending candidates to the OCC board of trustees.

ACCORDING to a June 13 advertisement in the Chronicle of Higher Education, applicants should

The new chancellor should be announced in November and on campus early next year.

— Richard Thompson
acting OCC chancellor

have a doctorate degree as well as being able to present "evidence of a successful teaching" background.

The ad also specifies that candidates have "successful experience as a community college president or senior administrator in a multi-campus district or complex organizational structure."

Each committee member may examine any application in August.

The committee, which includes three board members, is expected to conduct extensive background checks on finalists before September, and possibly interview them in October, according to interim OCC Chancellor Richard Thompson, who is also chairman of the committee.

The new chancellor should be selected and announced in November, said Thompson, and arrive on campus early next year.

The committee, approved by the board, includes two campus presidents, two deans, five faculty, and no students. It recently elected Alvin M. Association president Edwina Delbridge.

Science for women

The University of Michigan brought nearly 80 ninth grade girls to Ann Arbor the past two weeks for the second Summerscience Program to encourage them to pursue science careers.

The program, ending Friday, is designed to encourage women in fields like chemistry, engineering, physics, natural resources and space science where women have historically been under-represented, said Linda Sue Davis, director of the university's women in science program. About 11 percent of those employed in the sciences are women, she said. "There are too few role models and sex-stereotyping persists," Davis said. "Kids still visualize the lonely, homely woman scientist who has

no family and no fun in life."

Among the area youngsters who participated in the program is Laura Anderson of Rochester Hills.

As part of the program, she and other participants analyzed magic marker ink and food dye using thin-layer chromatography. They also tested water samples for oxygen levels, built radios, tested and purified drinking water, made permeable polymer capsules for drug testing and cancer research and designed and tested gliders in a wind tunnel.

They saw a robotics demonstration and frequently used computers to conduct experiments.

In the evenings, the girls attended science career panels and debated scientific ethics.