Area officials differ on local Chrysler impact

It may devastate Highland Park. But news that Chrysler will move its world headquarters to Auburn Hills should hardly have surprised

tillis snould hardly have surprised anyone, according to officials in Oakland County. "It certainly wasn't unexpected," and Billie Ireland, mayor of Ro-chester Hills, an adjacent commu-nity whose roads are already clogged because of area develop-

ment.
Ireland expects roads connecting
Chrysler's new world headquarters

her community — will be jammed because of additional traffic.

"Our roads are also

she sald.

Even so, according to Ireland, any problems should be workable. "We've always had a good relation-ship. I think we can work any prob-

Not so optimistic was Sue Ann Douglas, a member of the Rochester City Council. The area (including Troy and Bloomfield Hills) already

matters worse.

The chairman of the Road Commission for Oakland County, however, doesn't agree. The roads and infrastructure surrounding the future alte of the new Chryster World Headquarters were expanded when the automaker built its \$1 billion technical center, notes Lawrence Littman, a Troy resident. Expansion then will accommo-date the additional traffic generated

by the new jobs, he said.

Auburn Hills Mayor Robert W.

Grusnick said problems associated with additional traffic congestion

will be more than offset by the poal-tive aspects of the Chrysler move. In the early 1980s, when the auto-maker announced it would locate its new technical center in Abburn Hills, numerous restaurants and other aupport businesses moved into the area, Grunnick said. "But they never lived up to pectations," he said, referring to the anticipated aurge of business. "That will likely change." Like other Oakland area officials, Grusnick and he sympathizes with

Grusnick said he sympathizes with Highland Park, a community that has seen most of its industrial tax base evaporate since its glory days in the 1950s and 60s, "But I think the move was inevitable."

the more was inevitable.

Although he was not surprised by Chrysler's decision, Grusnick said he—like others—was shocked by the timing, "I got a call from Chrysler about 11:45 mm. Wednesday, saying the company was making a major announcement at noon."

substantially more business in Oakland County, the mayor said. "The original plans (for the tech center) included a supplier's park," where those doing business with the automaker might relocate.

Those plans were dropped, but Grusnick said he looks for a revival.

That possible revival fits into what County Executive Daniel T. Ing a major announcement at noon."

That possible revival fits into the county Executive Daniel T. Murphy said will likely result believed to learn that Chrysler was not leaving Michigan.

Chrysler's relocation could mean try," Murphy said Thursday.

My word! Patterson, Howe agree to upcoming debates

BY PAT MURPHY STAFF WRITER

Yoters will get the chance to see Elizabeth "Betty" Howe and L. Brooks Patterson go head-to-head

after all.
Within days of saying no, debates ware scheduled between the two candidates vying to be Oakland County's next executive. Republi-cans announced Friday there will be

cans announced Friday there will be twp joint discussions.

The first is scheduled for Sept. 28 at the Royal Oak American Legion Hall, while the second is slated for Oct. 1, sponsored by the Southfield Town Optimist Club.

"I was never ducking her," Patterson said Friday. "I've debat-



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ed some of the best, including (noted attorney) F. Lee Bailey and done well. I'm certainly anxious to debate Ms. Howe."

debate Ma Howe."

Tom Scott, Howe's press secretary, suggested public pressure forced Brooks — and the Republicans — to debate. "Betty has received numerous invitations to dehate... and accepted every one. It was Patterson who declined."

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Among those organizations at-tempting to arrange a debate is the League of Women Voters who invit-ed Patterson and Howe to debate at the offices of Continental Cablevi-

There is no word about televising the debates on Sept. 28 or Oct. 1. Debate between Patterson, the former Oakland County prosecutor, and Howe, director of the Michigan

Department of Labor under Gov. James Blanchard, promises to be spirited . . . even possibly informative.

"But nobody ever wins — or together things" and Parterson.

"But nobody ever wins — or loses — those things," said Patterson. "They're media events."
Oddly enough, the man Patterson hopes to succeed agrees. "Debates very seldom shed any light on the issues," according to Daniel T.

Murphy, who faced numerous challengers since being elected Oakland's first county executive in 1975.

"But they're a good way for voters to get to know the candidates," said Murphy who retires after this year. One Republican activist said Patterson was feeling pressure to debate from women within the par-

ty."A lot of women who support Brooks wanted him to debate," said Marcelle Montante, an ardent Re-publican who finished second in the GOP primary in the 12th County Commission District.

"We think he'll be a terrific coun-ty executive," said Montante of West Bloomfield. "But he should at least debate her.



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