

# Official: If SMART fails, transit authority needed

By PAT MURPHY  
STAFF WRITER

Even if voters in suburban Detroit reject the proposed tax hike for SMART — as some predict they will — Oakland will still need a transit authority, according to the chairman of the county board of commissioners.

"If the millage goes down — and SMART goes bankrupt — we will need the authority big time," board chair Larry P. Crake, R-Waterford, said Friday after attending the first meeting of the newly formed, philosophically split transit authority.

Ironically, that means Oakland would not have a transit authority at a time the county very much needs one, Crake said.

That twist developed because county commissioners — in their concern about creating a government monster — stipulated any new transit authority would cease to exist if the SMART millage proposal fails in Oakland.

Crake is aware of the irony, and he's prepared to act on it. "If SMART goes bankrupt, Oakland will need some agency to look after the county's interests," he said. "That would likely mean

the county would appoint a new transit authority to look after its interests. Maybe we'll appoint the same people."

Oakland doesn't contribute money directly to SMART, Crake said. But the county's share of gasoline tax revenue, about \$2 million annually, is funneled through SMART that distributes so-called municipal tax credits to communities that use them for local transportation needs.

West Bloomfield, for example, uses \$41,000 in tax credits to provide van and bus service for senior citizens. Birmingham, Beverly Hills, Southfield, Troy and other communities generally use municipal tax credits for local transit needs.

Without SMART, the county would need another way to send out state and federal funds accruing to the county or its individual communities, he said.

Crake made his remarks Friday after attending the first meeting of the authority Thursday afternoon.

The authority's five members and three alternates had been appointed earlier that morning at the regular meeting of the board

of commissioners. The five members are Roy Remold, Rochester Hills; Donald A. Zieman, West Bloomfield; Louis H. Schimmel Jr., Waterford; William Baldrige, Royal Oak; and Patricia Paruch, also of Royal Oak.

The authority is philosophical about the success or failure of the SMART vote. "But from what I hear," he said, "it's in trouble from the start."

SMART employees, in the meantime, Friday announced a press conference for 11 a.m. today at the system's Royal Oak office where drivers, mechanics and others were scheduled to talk about the payless paydays they are facing.

SMART will run out of cash with which to meet payroll, according to interim general manager Michael E. Duggan, who is also a Wayne County deputy executive.

But those employees have agreed to continue to work, Duggan said, on the presumption that once SMART gets its message out, voters will understand the importance of SMART and approve the millage. Workers would then get back pay, Duggan said.

That's about 15 days after voters in Macomb and Wayne counties will have voiced their decision on a tax hike for SMART. They'll vote on May 23.

If the millage passes, Oakland's transit authority will oversee SMART for the county board. If

the millage fails, the existing authority would go out of business, Crake said, and another authority would be appointed to assure that Oakland got its share of the assets of the defunct SMART.

Crake said he will not speculate about the success or failure of the SMART vote. "But from what I hear," he said, "it's in trouble from the start."

SMART employees, in the meantime, Friday announced a press conference for 11 a.m. today at the system's Royal Oak office where drivers, mechanics and others were scheduled to talk about the payless paydays they are facing.

SMART will run out of cash with which to meet payroll, according to interim general manager Michael E. Duggan, who is also a Wayne County deputy executive.

But those employees have agreed to continue to work, Duggan said, on the presumption that once SMART gets its message out, voters will understand the importance of SMART and approve the millage. Workers would then get back pay, Duggan said.

That's about 15 days after voters in Macomb and Wayne counties will have voiced their decision on a tax hike for SMART. They'll vote on May 23.

If the millage passes, Oakland's transit authority will oversee SMART for the county board. If

## Authority OKs language

At its first meeting Thursday, the newly appointed Oakland Transit Authority approved the ballot language for the June 6 election on increasing property taxes by .33 mills to raise operating revenue for SMART.

The language must be approved by the Oakland County Election Commission, which rules on all the content of ballot proposals.

Here's the ballot language as approved by the authority Friday:

"Shall the limitation on the amount of taxes which may be imposed on taxable property in the Oakland County Public Transportation Authority area be increased by 33 cents (\$0.33) per thousand dollars (\$1,000) (0.33) of the taxable value on all taxable property

in the Authority area for three (3) years, 1995, 1996 and 1997, inclusive, for the purpose of providing funds for the support of a public transportation system serving the general public within the Authority area? It is estimated that 0.33 mill in 1995 levied throughout the County would raise approximately \$10.2 million in the first calendar year of Levy."

The ballot language — as well as the transit authority itself — face other challenges, however, from Michigan Taxpayers Union Inc., whose chairman, Bill McMaster, a Birmingham businessman, insists the authority and the ballot proposal are unconstitutional.

## Authority members' backgrounds varied

The newly appointed Oakland County Public Transportation Authority is rich with experience. Here's a list of its members and their backgrounds, as culled from resumes submitted to the Oakland County Board of Commissioners:

■ Roy Remold, chief executive officer of Frank Remold and Son Inc., a construction company in Rochester Hills. He is a former mayor of Rochester and was a Republican county commissioner for 11 years. For seven of those years, he was chairman of the board of commissioners before retiring from the board in 1992.

■ Donald A. Zieman, a West Bloomfield engineer and consultant who retired from the General Motors Corp. Truck & Bus Group in 1987. Zieman is a member of the West Bloomfield Planning Commission and a past president of the West Bloomfield Republican Club.

■ Louis H. Schimmel Jr. of Waterford, the executive director of the Municipal Advisory Council of Michigan, an investment research firm. In 1992, Schimmel was appointed by Gov. John Engler to the Michigan Public-Private Partnership Commission, which submitted an extensive report for "Improving Service Delivery and Increasing Efficiency in State Government." In 1982, Schimmel was appointed by then-

Gov. William G. Milliken to the Michigan Economic Development Authority.

■ William Baldrige, a retired Royal Oak city manager.

■ Patricia Paruch, an attorney who practices from the Troy office of Kemp, Klein, Umphrey & Endelman. She is a former Royal Oak mayor.

Paruch is the only authority member nominated by Democrats.

## Court to rule whether addict can sue store

By TIM RICHARD  
STAFF WRITER

A former Westland man and his Southfield attorney could collect \$1.9 million if the Michigan Supreme Court rules a drugstore contributed to the man's drug addiction.

John J. Orzel, 37, now living in Garden City, is "psychotic and permanently schizophrenic," attorney Larry A. Smith told the high court last week. Orzel, a former General Motors factory worker who taught karate to Detroit police, will require lifelong care and intermittent hospitalization, Smith said.

They want Scott Drug Store, once located on Grand River in northwest Detroit, to pay a Wayne Circuit Court jury award. The jury put the figure at \$3.8 million, but a judge cut it in half, reasoning that Orzel's own "criminal activity" in taking illegal drugs contributed to his mental destruction.

Orzel himself said during his trial: "I sort of became a product of society. My environment was drug you know, infested, so I became like the rest."

He has been in Northville State Hospital, Providence, Oakwood and other hospitals 12 to 14 times from 1982 to 1986.

"There is absolutely no evidence that Orzel ever obtained Desoxy from Association of Insurance Companies, added in an amicus brief, that Orzel "cannot maintain a cause of action for damages arising out of plaintiff's own illegal, intentional and wrongful conduct."

"There is no exception to the rule that a plaintiff may not bring an action to recover damages for injuries that result from plaintiff's own intentional wrongdoings," Kallas said.

A state Court of Appeals panel last year ruled for Orzel, saying his criminal activity should not bar his suit.

Smith admitted Orzel was "no angel" but contended the drug store was part of a system that fed his client's habits.

As an eighth-grader in a St. Peter and Paul Catholic school, Orzel drank alcohol and used marijuana, LSD and meclizine, among other substances. By ninth grade he was on PCP and "angel dust." Orzel had a brief marriage during which he lived in Westland and consumed hashish and cocaine, according to Harland's brief.

Orzel got off drugs, earned a 2.7 grade point average by the time he graduated from Cody High in 1976, and earned a black belt in karate in less than two years, Smith's brief said.

When Orzel worked for GM Hydramatic in Ypsilanti, co-workers introduced him to Desoxy. Orzel in August of 1981 began going to Figure 8 Weight Loss Clinic, where doctors gave him prescriptions. A co-worker's family owned the clinic.

Orzel had the prescriptions filled at pharmacies in Redford, Inkster and Detroit. Attorney Smith said Scott personnel knew the drug was for weight loss and could see that Orzel, at five-feet-10, 160 pounds, needed no such drug.

Harland said Desoxy's side effects were hallucinations, especially when Orzel popped 10 to 15 pills a day instead of the pre-

scribed one — more evidence his problems were self-caused.

Smith said Figure 8 personnel wrote out blank prescriptions for Desoxy, leaving the name and address blank. "Figure 8 was really in the prescription business," he said.

Smith said Federal Drug Enforcement Administration officials investigated Scott Drug "due to its status as the number one purchaser of Desoxy in the nation" and made seizures there. The store was closed down.

Orzel's original suit also named Abbott Laboratories, Figure 8, two of its doctors and another drugstore. Figure 8 went out of business about the time Orzel's suit was started. Court records indicated those defendants settled their cases for undisclosed amounts. Only the Scott Drug case is before the Supreme Court, which tries to rule within a year after hearing oral arguments.

Smith said Orzel, whose name means "eagle" in Polish, today can do nothing but go to church, take walks, smoke and eat. He hears gunshots, bombs, foghorns and Morse code signals; thinks he's a prophet; believes the Russians are coming; and believes he knows a man who is Hitler.

## Entrepreneur offers wacky games, classes

By MARY RODRIGUEZ  
STAFF WRITER

There was the birthday party where kids made sandwiches on their heads with ingredients such as whipping cream and canned pumpkin pie filling. That was followed by a game of smash the egg with the paddle.

Another summer party during a light rain included a rousing game of beach baseball in the mud.

A 60th birthday party featured an adult twist on a game of musical chairs. Men took the seats; women took their laps.

If any of those scenarios appeal to you, Bruce Wineman of Redford is the man to call.

The Redford entrepreneur runs Fit & Fun for Kids, a four-year-old company offering wacky birthday party games, fitness classes

for children, and day camp.

"Actually, I got started by offering private swimming lessons in West Bloomfield and Farmington Hills," said Wineman, 29, who grew up in Oak Park.

"From there I started to teach classes at the Farmington YMCA. Now I do fitness for kids programs in nine cities. I do a session for 3- to 5-year-olds and another for kindergarten to fourth-graders."

The programs are offered through community education and parks and recreation programs. He doesn't currently teach a class in Redford.

"I got started with this because I enjoy working with kids," said Wineman, who has a degree in child development from Oakland Community College. He has seven

classes left before earning a degree in community recreation from Eastern Michigan University.

Business is picking up. "I've made more money the first two months of this year than I did the entire first year of operation."

A birthday party package — for two hours of activity, for up to 15 guests — during the birthday honoree's costs \$100. That might include games of rubber chicken basketball and playing with a parachute.

Wineman offers age-appropriate prizes for guests, such as Ninja Turtle cards or Pogs or comic books.

For additional charges, he'll bring along machines for making snow cones, cotton candy, popcorn, drinks and cake.

"I tailor the activity to the age group. I can do a lot of active games for the entire length of the party."

Wineman started the day camp part of his business in December. Offered at CMI Health & Tennis club in Southfield, it operates when children are off school for vacations during summer and throughout the year. The next session is scheduled April 17 to 21. Fitness and arts and crafts are offered.

Although he works solo on other enterprises, employees are hired to help with the camp.

Most of the parties he does are in the Bloomfield Hills to Huntington Woods area. Wineman would like to add clients.

For information, call 1-800-474-2244 or (313) 633-1559.

## Taxing time returns; mailing tips offered

Residents who wait until the April 17 deadline to mail their income tax returns, have until midnight to deposit them at the Farmington Post Office if they are to bear the "Tax Monday" postmark.

Postmaster John Szepalek advised checking the collection schedule to be sure the next pick-

up will meet the deadline. If in doubt, call the post office at 583-3910.

To make sure tax returns arrive at the proper IRS collection box, check the time of the Postal Service offers the following tips on mailing returns:

■ Use the return envelope, if supplied, or type the address and include the ZIP Code.

■ Don't wait until the last minute, and deposit mail early in the day.

■ Before you drop your return in the collection box, check the time of collection. The times are listed on the face of the box.

■ Affix the proper postage. First-class is 32 cents for the first ounce and 23 cents for each additional ounce.

■ The IRS will not accept postage due mail. The delay in processing the short paid piece may result in an IRS penalty for late filing.

■ For information on where tax forms are available, contact your local IRS office.

**Christian Singles Network™**  
Dedicated to bringing Christians together

For more information, see our full page ad in every Monday and Thursday classified section of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers!

**STEPPIN' OUT...**  
Sunday, April 23rd  
for the 7th annual  
**MS WALK.**

Join 5000 fellow Metro Detroiters putting their best foot forward to help the over 15,000 Michigan families affected by multiple sclerosis.

Routes in Birmingham, Grosse Pointe, Dearborn, Monroe and Ann Arbor.

Call 1-800-247-7382  
Can we count on you?

**THE MS WALK**  
THE NATIONAL MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY

**Local Hair Enhancement Pro's Offer Hollywood quality Results**

Do you want a product that can do more for your looks than even cosmetic surgery? What are these revolutionary new hair enhancement products everyone in Metro Detroit is talking about?

People ask the following questions:

1. Is it comfortable?
2. Is it easy to put on?
3. Is it lightweight?
4. Is it undetectable?
5. Will it match my own color, texture and hairstyle?
6. Does it look natural?
7. Can I have more hair in a particular area?
8. Can I have highlights?
9. Can I have longer hair?
10. Is it affordable?

And the answer to every question is YES!

Raydiance newest salon in West Bloomfield provides 100 percent custom made hair additions for women and men. "It used to be that only movie stars and celebrities had access to a product like this," said Lisa Raydiance, President and longtime wearer. "We work with women and men helping them achieve a beautiful and natural look with out sacrificing their active life styles."

"Our team of consultants are very knowledgeable concerning all the options available for hair restoration and enhancement. We provide that beautifully finished look that just can't be achieved with off-the-shelf or mail-order products."

Raydiance hair additions are easy to take care of and are undetectable to even the most experienced hair stylists. Each piece is custom made as to hair style, texture, color and exactly what the individual's particular needs are. The Raydiance hair additions are not wigs and they are not extensions of hair weaves which can permanently damage the hair. They are easy to wear, lightweight and create a truly natural appearance.

"The Raydiance I wear has been terrific!" said Anita Kusin, a Raydiance client for more than 10 years. "It matches my own hair so completely, I have never worried about anyone knowing it's an enhancement."

Raydiance is located at 5799 West Maple Road, West of Orchard Lake Road, in the Professional Village West Bloomfield. For additional information and a free, private consultation at their new West Bloomfield "Beauty Suites" call:

**810-855-8845**

Full Salon Services  
Eyebrow, Skin and Nail Care  
Private Beauty Suites

**Raydiance**  
More flexibility for hair fashion!