

takes the edge off comments from SMART critics.  
 Oakland County Commissioner Tom Law, a Republican whose district includes Pleasant Township, is pleased with the changes SMART has made. So are voters in the community who approved the SMART millage in August. Buses are expected to start running in November.

"They are working with local units of government, trying to work out what their needs are and what routes are going to be most beneficial," says Law. "They are willing to give them the benefit . . . Let them have a track record. Let them have a chance to do what they say they're going to do."

Annie Bussey wishes this decision would've occurred last year. Bussey's car broke down two

weeks ago and she has had to commute via bus from her home in Detroit to her job in Bloomfield Hills Township everyday. But because of the COVID-19 pandemic, public transit services have yet to kick in, so Bussey has to find a ride out of their community and get dropped off at a city that does offer bus service.

"I wouldn't take the bus if it were a choice," says another woman in Bloomfield Hills Township and they don't have a bus line. I don't have a choice," Bussey said.

Kaufman says communities that are cutting back on services are depriving their residents and their business sector employees of public transportation.

"They're missing out on what the large majority of voters realized was important," Kaufman said. "Public transportation is an essential component of a thriving

economic area. It is the human thing to do for those people in our society who without public transportation have no way of getting around."

### A SMART approach

Customer service has been the key to SMART's recent success, says David Kaufman, transportation manager with the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT). "I think SMART is doing a very, very good job in trying to meet the dominant needs of the population," he said. "They've really been listening to their customers. Mr. Kaufman, under the direction of the board, has been very responsive to his customers' needs."

SMART isn't enough for communities like Rochester and Rochester Hills who have no imminent plans to provide SMART ser-

vice in their communities.

Oakland County Commissioner John Garfield, a Republican who represents the District, says he will be present before the service. Rochester and Rochester Hills just don't need SMART, he says.

"I had a report by SMART of the businesses in Rochester Hills and it was very good," he says. "I had three businesses that really imported people for work."

"It wasn't really meaningful for our businesses and the ridership at that time was 122 people," he says. "Those people (SMART) could not identify how many originated in Rochester Hills or were just passing through," Garfield said.

Additionally, seniors in the Rochester Hills area can get transportation services through the Older Person's Commission. Garfield said the communities

and beyond the realm of what was reasonable." And she would not sign a waiver releasing the committee from responsibility should any of the information be made public.

"When you consider that truth is always a defense, it makes me wonder why they want a waiver?" she questioned.

■ 'When you consider that truth is always a defense, it makes me wonder why they want a waiver?'

**Leslie Logan**  
Oakland County Circuit  
Court candidate

rather than circuit court, she offers that it's the same set of court rules. Probably half her clients are probate and domestic relations cases, she says. And she represents three financial institutions.

Her most memorable case, she says, was her very first jury trial. She thought she was fully prepared. But then a witness didn't show up and everything that could go wrong went wrong. She quickly learned, she says, that preparation is only part of the job; you also have to expect the unexpected.

Logan has another hurdle, other than her non-incumbency. Her husband, an attorney who formerly worked for Kmart, has been arraigned on criminal charges in federal court as part of a nationwide fraud investigation in the retailer's real estate department.

He has pleaded not guilty to all counts. "I think it's meritless. I think he will be cleared," she says.

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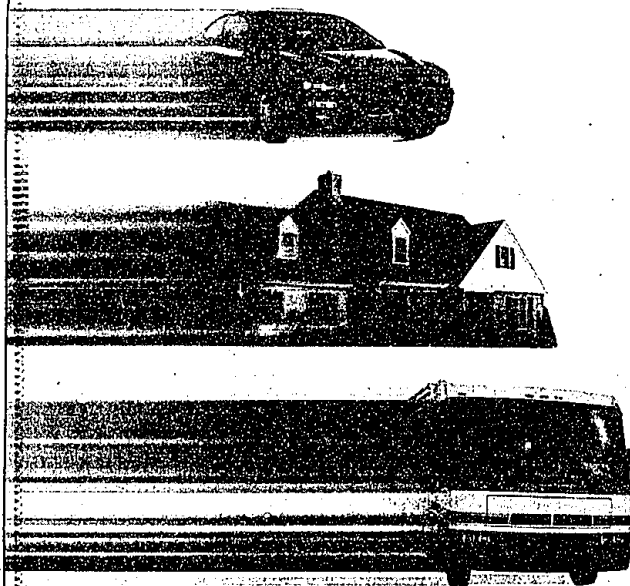
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