

OAKLAND JOURNAL

Oakland Journal is a roundup of Oakland County news and notes collected from government, school, civic, community and neighborhood sources. Please write: Oakland Journal, c/o Oakland County Editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009. Our fax number is (248) 644-1314.

STATE FAIR

Attention, Oakland County residents: Michigan's State Fair remains open through Labor Day. One of the highlights will be a mobile, full-service Secretary of State branch, making its first visit to Detroit since being unveiled in Lansing on Aug. 7. The mobile office is located near the Dodge Pavilion on Wolverine Way. The 24-foot-long trailer features the design of Michigan's popular Great Lakes Spendor license plate along with the Michigan coat of arms. A variety of services will be available, ranging from voter registration to driver license and plate renewals. The Secretary of State will have an exhibit on the history of the State Fair in the Coliseum.

HEALTHY LAWN CLINIC

Lawn care clinics will be offered from 7-8:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 4, at the Troy Parks and Recreation Community Center, 620 W. Big Beaver Road, and from 9-11:30 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 6, at the Southeastern Oakland County Resources Recovery Authority Demonstration Gardens, 3910 W. Webster Road, Royal Oak (between Coolidge and Greenfield). SOCCRA is offering the Troy presentation in cooperation with the Oakland County Michigan State University Extension and Metropolitan Detroit Landscape Association. To register, phone (248) 288-5160 weekdays. The Royal Oak open house format will feature table displays and workshops, presented by SOCCRA and the MSU Extension Service. To register, call (248) 288-5160. Both clinics are free and open to the public.

ZOO CHIEVES RECORD

The Detroit enjoyed record-breaking attendance for the month of July as 270,319 visitors flocked to the 125-acre park, marking a 13 percent increase over July 1996 attendance. This is the third consecutive year the zoo has experienced such growth. Zoo officials expect overall annual attendance in 1997 to hit an all-time high of more than 1.2 million visitors. The record is due to educational exhibits new to the zoo, such as Dinosauria II and the Wildlife Interpretive Gallery and improved facilities, according to zoo director Ron Kagan.

The zoo is open at 10 a.m. 362 days a year, and it is located at the intersection of 10 Mile and Woodward Avenue, just off I-696 in Royal Oak. Regular admission is \$7.50 for adults; \$5.50 for senior adults age 62 and older and students; \$4.60 for children ages 2 to 12; and free for children under age 2.

OCC SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

The following students received scholarships in varying amounts for the Fall 1997 semester: Gary Baran, Auburn Hills; Susan Joseph, Beverly Hills; Laurie Chinnoch, Birmingham; Jacqueline Sharp, Bloomfield Township; Michelle Betts and Candy DuBoard, Clarkston; Carol Lucas, Jacquelyn Pesta, Thamer Shins and Nabil Tobia, Farmington Hills; Catherine Carroll, Andrea Gorski and Cinda Lemond, Lake Orion; Both O'Dwyer, Oakland Township; Emanuela Ghitas, Heather Matthews and Keith McQuirter, Rochester Hills; Heather Malone and Sima Savarani, Rochester Hills; Jason Johnson, Bahr, Karmo, Saoson Shau, Anita Stephens and Helen Whitfield, Southfield; Laura Broski, Beverly Dixon and Claudt Younan, Troy; Jennifer Lesnek, Walled Lake; Debbie Burrill, Goring Nies and Joe Turner, West Bloomfield.

COMMISSION APPOINTEES

Melanie Myers of Lathrup Village and Elizabeth Pezzetti of Bloomfield Hills were appointed by Gov. John Engler to serve on the Michigan Women's Commission. Their terms expire July 15, 2000. Myers is first vice president of First Chicago NBD, and Pezzetti is a partner in the law firm of Dickinson, Moon, Van Dusen and Freeman. The commission studies the status of women throughout the state; stimulates attention to critical problems confronting women as wives, mothers, home-makers and workers; and makes recommendations of ways to overcome discrimination against women in public and private employment and civil and political rights.

MANUSCRIPTS CRITIQUED

Manuscripts and poetry will be accepted for critique through Wednesday, Oct. 1, by the Detroit Women Writers for the 36th annual writers' conference, scheduled for Oct. 17-18, at Oakland University in Rochester Hills. Fee is \$48 for individual critique, \$38 for workshop critique. Both will be conducted on Friday, Oct. 18. For submission guidelines, for a brochure or to register, call the College of Arts and Sciences Continuing Education Department at (248) 370-3125 or E-mail gjboddy@oakland.edu.

On Saturday, 40 concurrent sessions will cover all types of writing and how to deal with agents and publishers. Featured speaker at the Saturday luncheon will be Betty A. Prashker, executive vice president and editor at large of the Crown Publishing Group, a division of Random House. Fee for the Saturday conference is \$75 with optional luncheon \$95. Friday's workshop is \$38.

Fund aids war on drugs

To help stop the flow of illegal drugs into Oakland County, local law enforcement groups were awarded \$405,926 under the 1997 Byrne Memorial Grant program, announced state Senators Bill Bullard (R-Highland) and Matt Dunaskies (R-Lake Orion) and Mike Bouchard (R-Birmingham).

The awards are named after Edward Byrne, a young New York City police officer who was killed in the crossfire of a drug-related shootout while on routine patrol in 1974. Congress then passed legislation which allocating the Byrne Memorial money each year.

The funds are used to help prosecute illegal drug manufacturers and suppliers and to educate youths about the dangers of illegal drug use.

"This grant program is a critical part of the war against drugs in our Oakland County communities," Dunaskies said. "Supporting these anti-drug projects and law enforcement programs is important if we are to ensure

safe neighborhoods county-wide."

Grant awards include:

■ Zero tolerance drug testing — \$161,789 to establish a new project for the community release of offenders, who agree to drug testing and other program requirements.

■ Multi-jurisdictional task forces — \$89,127 to continue this project designed to integrate state and local law enforcement agencies with prosecutors. The Narcotics Enforcement Team, Citizen's Grand Jury and other law enforcement agencies will work to identify, investigate and prosecute major drug traffickers.

■ Prosecution — \$179,009 to help target and destroy major drug distribution networks operating in Oakland County. A special assistant prosecuting attorney will be assigned to grand jury investigations and prosecution of major drug traffickers and drug-related homicides.

Bullard said that in addition to these grants, Highland township's D.A.R.E. Program was

also awarded \$18,576 for the continuation of its services.

"The D.A.R.E. Program provides an invaluable service in helping to keep illegal drugs away from young people and out of our communities," Bullard said. "It is important funds be made available to help fight against illegal drugs and I appreciate the efforts on both the federal and state level to do just that."

Bouchard, a former police officer, said the drug enforcement and prosecution projects are also the key to the success of anti-drug efforts.

"Statewide, these programs have been proved highly successful," Bouchard said. "Financial support is essential to ensure continuation in the fight against drugs."

The Byrne Memorial Grant Awards are funded by the federal government and administered in Michigan yearly by the state Office of Drug Control Policy.

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Womencenter hosts open house

The Womencenter at Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge Campus, will offer a variety of fall seminars for women. The Womencenter, a college facility providing educational and supportive resources for area women, is located at 27055 Orchard Lake Road, just south of I-696 in Farmington Hills. For information about programs at the center, call (248) 471-7602.

A 5-week seminar on career options for women begins Wednesday, Sept. 17. Cost is \$50. It will meet in Room 308 in the campus' J Building from 10 a.m. to noon.

The Womencenter will hold its Annual Open House from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in J Building - Room 308. The community is invited for refreshments, information on Womencenter programs and services, and to meet the staff.

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