

# Commissioners approve nursing care facility

By ROBERT KIPPER

OAKLAND COUNTY—After four years of squabbling over the county hospital issue, there were few commissioners with anything more to say Thursday when the project came to a final vote.

The majority of commissioners, aware that the outcome was a foregone conclusion by that point, stayed quiet until the roll call.

Then, voting 22 to five, the commissioners agreed to build a \$2.3 million extended nursing care facility—settling the emotional issue in compromise.

WHAT WILL be built is much less than the multi-million dollar facility that several commissioners wanted at one time, but much more than abandoning health care services altogether, as some commissioners once advocated.

Not actually a hospital, the new facility has been described by one commissioner as "a very high level nursing home." It would house 120 beds, a pharmacy, an x-ray facility and a small lab. There will be no emergency facilities or operating room.

Commissioner Joseph Montante of Orchard Lake (R-28) said he expected the new facility to open by the fall of 1975.

ONCE OPENED, the facility will replace the present county hospital, parts of which are 50 years old. Commissioners have already approved \$170,000 toward renovating the old hospital into a county office facility.

The hospital issue has been before commissioners since at least 1972, when the state health department found the hospital below code. While the hospital continued operation under

a provisional license, commissioners debated what if anything should be done.

At one point, a plan for a new hospital with as many as 200 beds was advanced. At another time, when commissioners considered relocating the health facility, it looked like a year-old nursing home near Providence Hospital in Southfield might be purchased.

BY LAST WEEK, however, there was only one alternate plan still being considered: purchasing the Woodside Medical facility, on Woodward in Pontiac, and remodeling it to suit county purposes.

SUPPORTERS of the Woodside plan argued it could provide more space for less cost than building a new facility. Thursday, however, that

idea was tabled after little discussion, and commissioners adopted the \$2.3 million plan.

Paul Kasper of Bloomfield Hills (R-23), a persistent critic of the county hospital, was one of the few commissioners still ready to argue.

He said the \$2.3 million figure was misleading. Since the facility will be financed with county-sponsored bonds over a 30-year period, Kasper said, the actual cost of the facility will be \$5 million before the bonding period ends.

OTHER COMMISSIONERS argued that selling bonds was the most practical way and added that, with interest rates going up, the sooner the financing period begins the better for the county.

Dale C. Burley of Hazel Park (D-9), a leading supporter of the hospital, criticized Kasper for worrying so much about expenses.

"I'm surprised he (Kasper) doesn't demand that the county jail make a profit," Burley said. He accused Kasper of trying to "make a profit off the sick and needy" in the county. Except for that exchange, however, Thursday's discussion was mild.

AFTER THE FINAL vote was taken and the issue settled at last, one commissioner signed in a combination of relief and amazement: "Four years!"

Other commissioners applauded and smiles broke out on the faces of the longtime hospital supporters. Burley, getting in a final dig at his opponent on the issue, suggested that Kasper "eat crow" for lunch.

Commissioners voting against the medical facility, in addition to Kasper, were: Wallace Gabler of Royal Oak (R-12), Henry Hoot of Troy (R-14), Patrick Nowak of Farmington (R-25) and Richard Vogt of Berkley (R-17).

# County counters SEMTA plan

By ROBERT KIPPER

OAKLAND COUNTY—The 20-year master transit plan of the Southeast Michigan Transportation Authority (SEMTA) came under attack last week by Richard Wilcox, chairman of the Oakland County Board of Commissioners.

Wilcox, who opposed the cost and the piecemeal implementation schedule of the SEMTA plan, offered his remarks Wednesday at a county-sponsored mass transportation symposium that brought officials of more than 40 communities together to hear federal, state and regional mass transit proposals.

Wilcox urged that a less expensive and less complicated transit scheme be adopted, one he also said could be implemented much quicker than the multi-staged SEMTA proposal.

UNLIKE SEMTA's plan—which calls for 75 miles of subway and expanded railroad commuter service in addition to conventional bus lines—Wilcox's proposal asks strictly for expanded bus service.

He proposed that a 270-mile network

of bus routes be set up. According to estimates of county planners, such a plan could be established for \$400 million without raising local property taxes, Wilson said.

The SEMTA plan, Wilcox said, could require that between 1.25 and 2 mills be levied against property owners just to raise the \$500 million needed for phase one in the tri-county area.

The county proposal, besides increasing the number of buses by 3,000 contains only minor changes from conventional bus service.

It would create exclusive lanes for buses on freeways and preferential lanes for them on major roads in the region.

This would enable buses to travel at nearly comparable speeds to that of SEMTA's proposed subways, Wilcox said.

WILCOX called the county plan "a realistic and cost effective" solution to the region's transit needs.

He compared the SEMTA plan to "building a pyramid" and said it would be expensive because the area has been dominated by the automobile and lacks an alternate trans-

portation habit, because the entire region could not be adequately served by a fixed subway line, and because of the need to provide a system at a reasonable cost without increasing taxes.

The board chairman's remarks followed a presentation by Ross Childs, acting general manager at SEMTA. Childs, who outlined the SEMTA proposal, estimated total implementation would cost \$5.9 billion over a 20-year period.

## Registration to continue

Prentice Ryan, admissions counselor at the Oakland Community College (OCC) Orchard Ridge Campus, said today, "There will be a late registration period, without penalty, through Thursday (Sept. 12) for those students who were unable to register Sept. 3, 4, or 5."

Students who have need of counseling assistance in selecting the courses of their choice before registration are directed to the Counseling Center in "M" Building, where help is available on a first-come, first-serve schedule from 9 a. m. through 5 p. m. daily, excepting Friday closing at 5 p. m.

An extensive number of courses are still available to both part-time and full-time students.

The Orchard Campus is fully accredited and offers courses for students wishing to transfer to a university. Of special interest are the courses designed to prepare students for immediate employment: secretarial training,

business courses, computer sciences, and commercial art.

RYAN EXPLAINED another Orchard Ridge benefit: "With senior colleges and universities raising tuition and fees, OCC classes are now a great bargain." Tuition for students is only \$10 per credit.

He also noted that a comprehensive Child Play Center is available during the day at Orchard Ridge. Parents with children can take classes and leave their children (ages two and one-half to six) in a professionally-supervised facility.

Information on late registration and counseling may be obtained by calling the Orchard Ridge Campus at 476-9400, Ext. 280.

**The BALLOON MAN**  
THE ULTIMATE FUN RAISING AND PARTY CO.  
FAST SELLING Food Raising Products  
from fast-selling helium balloons, buttons and funny T-shirt deals to custom-printed souvenirs. Consignment is available. Decorate your next party with inexpensive helium balloons!  
We offer good service & low prices!

16103 W. Seven Mile Detroit 273-5555

**FREE ADULT CAREER FORUM**  
SEPT. 23-26 — 7-10 P.M.  
CALL TO RESERVE A SPACE  
FREE OU 15TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION  
SUN. SEPT. 29, 11 A.M.—7 P.M. JUST COME!  
Evening Noncredit Diploma Programs  
And Courses Begin Sept. 30  
Call For A Course Brochure And To Register  
CONTINUING EDUCATION  
OAKLAND UNIVERSITY • 377-3120

**PRESERVE THE BEAUTY AND VALUE OF YOUR BRICK HOME!!!**  
**CORLISS BRICK CLEANERS**  
will PRESSURE CLEAN, then SEAL your brick with a clear acrylic coating (absolutely INVISIBLE when dry)  
**CALL 474-8160**  
Our 50th Year—Your Assurance of Quality

**BUY DIRECT AND SAVE**  
COMPLETE PRE-HUNG DOOR UNITS—INTERIOR & EXTERIOR FROM \$26<sup>95</sup>  
INCLUDES TRIM AND HARDWARE • PRE-FINISHED AND UNFINISHED • Limited Supply of Second Down. We're pre-paying at tremendous savings  
**TRIMZIT CO.**  
2000 Winner St. Walled Lake  
624-2115 Mon. - Fri. 8-5

**Carpet Cleaning Special \$24<sup>95</sup>**  
YOUR LIVING ROOM & HALL BEAUTIFULLY CLEANED FOR ONLY...  
EACH ADDITIONAL ROOM \$10<sup>00</sup>  
Prices include free soil retardant treatment to guarantee your carpet stays cleaner longer.  
This is part of what steam cleaning took out of a carpet right after it had been shampooed by professionals  
Upholstery Cleaning Special  
SOFA only \$30 CHAIR only \$15  
Velvets included  
**RADIANT** CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANERS  
SPECIAL SENIOR CITIZENS DISCOUNT  
CALL 425-6030  
OFFICES IN • LIVONIA • WESTLAND • SOUTHFIELD

## More aid available

A larger amount of financial aid is available to the part-time student than ever before at the Orchard Ridge Campus of Oakland Community College.

"Every year more low income adults have successfully upgraded their employment opportunity at Orchard Ridge, but many have faced the disappointment of learning that the educational expense is available only to those who are full-time students," said Mary McCullom, director of financial aid and placement.

"Providing such aid for part-time students is a breakthrough for low income adults with too many family responsibilities to attend full time," she added.

In addition to the usual monies available, this year the Faculty Association's Scholarship Fund has provided new student aid monies.

Inquiries will be taken at 476-9400, ext. 226.

## Adult center slates courses

Courses indoors and outdoors; mornings, afternoons and evenings; weekdays and Saturdays are all described in the 56-page fact catalogue of the University Center for Adult Education (UCAE).

Most courses begin the week of Sept. 23 in Detroit, Dearborn, Ann Arbor and Southfield.

Sponsored by the University of Michigan Extension Service and the College of Lifelong Learning of Wayne State University, UCAE has many course areas including the humanities, behavioral sciences, languages, health and physical culture, film and photography, communications and public relations.

Registration in person or by mail is now going on.

For a free copy of the UCAE catalogue or for registration information telephone 577-4665 in Detroit or 763-4321 in Ann Arbor.

**We help to keep Roger Penske in the driver's seat.**

Roger Penske doesn't race anymore. But he's still in the driver's seat running his car, truck, tire, leasing and insurance businesses. And, of course, the world-famous Penske Racing Team, and the Michigan International Speedway.

And when he needs financial help, he turns to a DETROIT BANK-er. That's a good suggestion for you, too. Especially if you're buying a new car. We make it easy to get in the driver's seat. When you're ready to buy, we're ready to loan.

DETROIT BANK & TRUST

you ought to know a DETROIT BANK-er.