Commissioners approve nursing care facility

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 aban-doning health care services altogeth-er, as some commissioners once advo-cated.

Not actually a hospital, the new fa-cility has been described by one com-missioner as a "a very high level nurs-ing home." It would house 120 beds, a pharmacy, an x-ray facility and a small lab. There will be no emergen-cy facilities or operating room.

Commissioner Joseph Montante of Orchard Lake (R-26) said he expected the new facility to open by the fall of 1975.

ONCE OPENED, the facility will reonce opened, the facility will re-place the present county hospital, parts of which are 50 years old. Com-missioners have already approved \$170,000 toward renovating the old hos-pital 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 290 beds was advanced. At another time, when comissioners considered relocating the health facility, it looked like a yearold nursing home near Providence Hospital in Southfield might be pur

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

SUPPORTERS of the Woodside plan argued it could provide more space for less cost than building a criticized Kasper for worrying so new facility. Thursday, however, that much about expenses.

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 \$3 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 country.

the county.
Dale C. Burley of Hazel Park (D-9),

"I'm surprised he (Kasper) doesn't demand that the county jail make a profit," Burley said. He accused Kas-per 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 sighed 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 funch.
Commissioners voting against the medical facility, in addition to Kasper, were: Wallace Gabler of Royal Oak (R-12). Henry Boto of Toy 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 Commis-

the Oakiana County Board or 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

posals
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 pro-posal asks strictly for expanded bus

He proposed that a 270-mile network

of bus routes be set up. According to estimates of county planners, such a plan could be actablished for \$400 million distribution without raising local property need to provide a system at a reasonate cost without increasing to a reasonate cost without increasing taxes. Wilson said.

The SEMTA plan, Wilcox said, cold require that between 125 and 2 mills be levied against property owners just to raise the \$500 million needed for phase one in the tri-county continued to the second provided and the second property of the second provided property of the second provided property of the second provided p

The county proposal, besides in-creasing the number of buses by 3,000 contains only minor changes from con-ventional bus service. It would create exclusive lanes for buses on freeways and preferential lanes for them on major roads in the resion.

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 less effective because the area has been dominated by the au-tomobile and lacks an alternate tran-

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

The county symposium was designed to prepare local officials for participation in solving the region's transit problems. It was deliberately held prior to SEMTA'S Sept. 19 public bearing in OsBMTA'S Sept. 19 public bearing in OsBMTA'S Sept. 19 public hearing in OsBMTA'S Sept. 19 public hearing in OsBMTA'S Sept. 19 public hearing in Cabarla transit plan. At Wednesday's symposium, the State Highway and Transportation Department, the U.S. Transportation Department and the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) also presented transportation plans.

Registration to continue

Prentice Ryan, admissions counselor at the Oakland Community College (OCC) Orchard Ridge Campus, and today, There will be a late registration period, without penalty through Thursday (Sept. 12) for those students who were unable to register Students who were unable to register Students as the Students who were the course of the 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 am. through 8 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 accided wishing to transfer to a university. Of special interest are the courses de-signed to prepare students for immedi-ale employment: secretarial training.

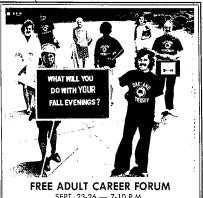
business courses, computer sciences,

DUSINESS COUTSES, COMPUTER SCIENCES, and COMMERCIAL TRYAN EXPLAINED another Orchard Ridge benefit: "With senior colleges and universities raising tuition and fees, OCC classes are now a great bargain." Tuition for residents is only

bargain." Tultion for residents is only sloper 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 neahalf to six in a professionally-supervised facility.

Information on take registration and courseling may be obtained by calling the Orchard Ridge Campus at 476-9400, Ext. 230.



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

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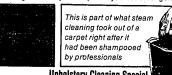


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More aid available

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 Marry full-time students," said Mary McCullom, director of financial aid and placement.

and placement.

"Providing such aid for parttime 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; week-days and Saturdays are all described in the 56-page fall catalogue of the University Center for Adult Education (UCAE).

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

ored by the University of Mich-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, behavioral sciences, languages, possible view of the College of the C

registration in person or by mail is now going on. For a free copy of the UCAE cata-logue or for registration information telephone 577-4665 in Detroit or 763-4321 in Ann Arbor.

