

Cost cutting is county challenge

By JACKIE KILLEN

"In government, thrift is income." Oakland County Executive Daniel T. Murphy delivered the happy message in his Jan. 22 state of the county address, maintaining the phrase should be the motto in the biennial year.

"The greatest test of our new county executive form of government was in the area of spending," Murphy said. "Inflation pushed costs up so relentlessly that, for individuals, families, business and government alike, only firm, disciplined control could hold spending in line with income."

"We have adopted the basic premise that government can only give what it has first taken away," he said. "New programs, no matter how vote-catching, won't be implemented until after they've passed the toughest cost-benefit analysis."

"Overpromising and underachieving, the bane of American politics in every election year, won't prevail as long as I am county executive."

Murphy said the administration will concentrate on:

- A program to prevent flooding in low areas and the entire Clinton River.
- A breast cancer screening program.
- A jail improvement program that may include expansion of the Oakland County Law Enforcement complex and Trustee Camp.
- Further implementation of the Comprehensive Employment Training Act to combat unemployment and improve job skills.
- A Community Development Act rehabilitation program that will upgrade as many as 1,000 homes a year and stabilize neighborhoods throughout Oakland County.
- A Court and Law Enforcement Management Information System to continue to improve law enforcement, especially on the municipal level.
- Programs to help senior citizens.
- Active participation in decision-making processes in Washington and Lansing to insure citizens receive a fair return on their state and federal taxes.

The final area of concentration, said

Murphy, will be administration of the Oakland County Road Commission.

"It's a well known, carefully documented fact that the road system under the jurisdiction of the commission falls far below acceptable standards," Murphy claimed. "Despite the passing of the road commission reduced its 1974 construction budget by 6.12 per cent, compared to 1973, even though expected revenues increased more than 4 per cent."

A bill calling for abolition of the Oakland County Road Commission will soon be submitted to the Michigan Legislature at Murphy's request. The bill, he said, places administrative responsibility with the county executive and policy setting with the Oakland County Board of Commissioners.

Oakland County voters, Murphy said, are virtually powerless to correct the problems of the road commission. Appointed members aren't accountable to the public and the commission is a kingdom unto itself," he said.

The same day Murphy delivered his address to the Oakland County Board of Commissioners, the new Democratic majority on the board introduced a resolution calling for increased cooperation and economy in government operation.

"The resolution calls for a new spirit of cooperation between the county's drain board, public works department and road commission," said Lawrence Perneck, D-Southfield, chairman of the board of commissioners' finance committee.

This effort will reduce the need for hiring outside consultants, engineers and negotiators and reduce our unemployment compensation costs. Similar talents of employees within departments will be used when there is a shortage."

PERNECK SAID he will request hearings involving each of the affected departments. Alex Perloff, D-Southfield, new chairman of the county board, said he supports the concept of the resolution and indicated it would be the first in a series of actions the Democratic majority hopes to present and have implemented in 1976.

Murphy, however, is determined to abolish the county road commission. If the legislative course fails, he said, he would lead an effort to have the proposal placed on the ballot as a countywide referendum.

By assuming full administrative responsibility for county roads, he said, "I will cut more than \$300,000 off the out of the present road budget and convert that into muscle to improve the road system."

Murphy also called for a new realm in social spending programs and enhancement of local control over local affairs.

"If the need arises, the administration will vigorously fight any attempt by any legislative body or government agency to usurp the powers of the 43 local units of government in this county."

WCCC offers communication for one credit

Anyone suffering from a "failure to communicate" can do something about it. A course titled "Improving Your Communication Skills" will be offered by the Wayne County Community College Services Program from Feb. 5 to March 25.

The class will meet 7:30 p.m. Thursday evenings at the Northwest Multi-Purpose Center, 18180 Meyers in Detroit. Tuition is \$11 for the eight-week session.

Anyone interested in enrolling for the second course should call the Community Services Office at 943-6888.



Smiling in the Arizona sun are Mr. and Mrs. Charles C. Blalock of 2910 Quail Hollow, Farmington. The couple were vacationing in the Del Webb resort-retirement community, Sun City. Behind them is the world's tallest sandail.

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Brodhead meets local residents

U.S. Rep. William Brodhead (D-Detroit) and his district office staff members will meet with city and Hills residents, Saturday, Jan. 31, in Farmington Hills Community Library auditorium, 3300 Liberty, between 1 and 3 p.m.

This is the second open house which Brodhead has had in the area.

"This open house is part of a continuing effort to remain in close contact with residents of the 17th Congressional District," Brodhead says.

"This exchange allows me to represent the views of my constituents more effectively when important issues are considered by the House of Representatives," he says.

Brodhead represents the 17th district which includes Farmington, Farmington Hills, Redford Township, Southfield and Latrup Village.

FIRST FEDERAL NOW HAS SOMETHING ELSE YOU CAN USE: EXTRA TIME ON FRIDAY.



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