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Erin Tallent, Mary Adams, Terry Evaria and Mark Warren discuss an upcoming proposal prior to a commissioners' meeting. (Staff photo by Jannan Ghannam)



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Murphy calls veto his strongest tool

By JANAN GHANAM

What's the first impression that comes to the mind when county government is mentioned? Addressing Oakland County high school students during Student Government Day, Tuesday, Daniel T. Murphy, Oakland County executive, said most people think of the water, fire and sanitation departments being under the auspices of the county.

"On the contrary," said Murphy, "those departments are not run by the county but by individual cities and municipalities."

At the morning meeting in the board of commissioner's auditorium, Murphy told the 66 students and their sponsors that Oakland County is unique in its form of government because it is the only county in Michigan—out of 82—that has an elected county executive.

"The people of Oakland County had the option of an appointed county manager or an elected county executive to run the county's affairs," said Murphy.

He explained that citizens chose to elect a county executive to run the everyday operations from hiring and firing to vetoing the board of commissioner's actions.

The difference between an executive and manager for county government, Murphy told the "commissioners for a day," is that a county executive provides people with two sides of a story.

"The county executive is responsible to the people," he said, "whereas an appointed manager's responsibility is only to those who appointed him."

He explained that the executive's most powerful tool is the right to veto any of the commission's actions.

A two-thirds vote of the commission is needed to override the veto, he added. A county manager would not have this right.

Murphy went on to explain that county government is commonly referred to as a "creature of the state" because it is both a legislative and administrative body, being ruled by the state yet ruling the cities.

"We make local ordinances as long as they are not in conflict with present municipal or state laws," said Murphy.

Murphy said he hoped students would leave Student Government Day with a deeper understanding of how the county operates, its functions and responsibilities.

"And most of all," Murphy said, "I hope you know who your local county commissioners are."

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SENIOR HOUSING PROTESTED

Fears of setting a spot-zoning precedent and of a loss in property values have prompted a group of Farmington Hills residents to oppose rezoning 10 acres of church property for use as a senior citizens' housing complex. Opposition forces say approval of the rezoning request could legally obligate the city to approve other such requests.

HERITAGE HOMES

Oakland Township's 18th century architecture will be illustrated in "Heritage," a booklet picturing the history of 25 century-old homes. A map in the booklet will designate the locations of 93 homes built in 1877 or before. The photographed homes were chosen by residents at a public hearing on the basis of architecture or historical significance. The booklet will be available to the public in late June. Colored slides of the 93 homes and other past or present historic township landmarks will be shown at 8 p.m. May 28 in Baldwin Elementary School in Goodson. The Oakland Township Historical Society, which put together the booklet, is sponsoring the public showing.

COUNCIL MEMBERS RECALLED

Four members of the Orchard Lake City Council were recalled Tuesday, leaving the city with two councilmen until Gov. William Milliken appoints at least two replacements until the next election.

Recalled were Mayor Gene Hendrick, Mayor Pro Tem Mel Ryan, Treasurer Kay Baker and Frances Gadd.

The recall campaign, headed by fellow councilman Everett Casey, stemmed from the quarter's approval of a controversial planned residential development zoning UP FOR GRABS.

Five West Bloomfield School District residents will compete for two seats on the school board in the June 14 election. Seven will vie for two seats on the Walpole Lake School Board.

Filing deadline was Monday.

POLICE RESERVES

Patrolmen in the Troy Police Department are refusing to allow civilian police reserves hired by the city to ride with them on a voluntary basis. The reserve program, which was to begin Monday, was

cancelled suddenly by the department after uniformed patrolmen declined to accept their civilian partners. One disgruntled patrolman called the reserves "scab labor."

TRY FOR TOWNSHIP TAKEOVER

A slate of Republican candidates, most of them from Beverly Hills, will attempt to takeover the Southfield Township Board at the Aug. 3 primary election.

Beverly Hills officials have been upset in recent years that the village has not been receiving the federal money that it believes it is entitled to. They money has been going to Southfield Township directly.

Thomas Kauchek, Beverly Hills Council president, believes the money should be going to the three villages within Southfield Township: Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms and Franklin.

In an attempt to make changes in Southfield Township, the Beverly candidates decided to run for office.

Runaway shelter plans open house

The Sanctuary runaway program is celebrating its second birthday with an open house for the public from 1:30 p.m. May 2, 1978, at 240 W. Ten Mile, Pleasant Ridge, near the Zoo.

The open house will provide an opportunity for the public to see a runaway shelter, hear about the Sanctuary's program, and meet the staff, board and volunteers.

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