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# Will OCC peddle the Bee?

By TIM RICHARD

No sooner had Oakland Community College trustees put the finishing touches on agreements for a Royal Oak mall campus than they began discussing what to do with part of the main office site in Bloomfield Hills.

Trustee David Hackett of Avon Township suggested selling the old George A. Bee mansion on the central site and banking the funds for expansion in northeast Oakland County, perhaps around Rochester.

Trustee Suzanne Reynolds of Waterford favored trying to use the five-bedroom mansion as a conference center or archives.

There being no consensus, the board set up a committee to explore what to do with the mansion. It will include Hackett, Ms. Reynolds and Trustee Barbara Willing and college vice president W.H. Nikkel.

OCC acquired the Bee mansion and 11 acres of land in 1965 as an administrative headquarters from which it currently operates its four campuses. An administrative office building was put up, and the mansion became the residence of the first president, John Tirrel.

When Dr. Joseph Hill became president in 1968, he declined use of the mansion. So has his successor, Robert Roelofs, who became president in 1978. The mansion sits vacant overlooking Odyke Road in Bloomfield Hills.

Hackett pointed out, "We're bound by agreement (deed restriction) to use it

as a residence only. There might be a change of heart by the community. Unless we do use it, it's a white elephant."

And so the committee will begin by exploring the possibility of getting the deed restriction lifted.

In a straw poll, vice chairman Earl Anderson was with Ms. Ritter in wanting to use it as a conference center. Chairman Lila Johnson and Trustee Sandra Ritter leaned toward selling it.

PRESIDENT Roelofs said it would take six months to a year to determine whether OCC should think of a fifth campus in northern or northeastern Oakland County.

Hackett saw "a growth pattern to the north" in favoring expansion.

Ms. Ritter, however, pointed to a possible "trend back to the city (Detroit), with high gasoline prices and all. What's the use of buying property in this area?"

The committee on which they will

both serve will consider putting the Bee mansion on the market if lifting the deed restriction proves impossible.

IN EARLIER action last week, the OCC board approved two agreements toward building its "superblock" campus in the city of Royal Oak.

They involved declaring a 130-foot wide strip of college property as surplus and giving the city a three-option to purchase it.

In return, the city will close a part of Center Street and two parallel alleys between Seventh and Lincoln, an area currently occupied by the "storefront" campus.

The new mall campus will cost about \$15 million to \$20 million. Construction is expected to start in fall.

The Royal Oak site would be one of three in OCC's so-called "Southeast Campus System." It will house general

educational and cultural programs.

The other two sites are: 1) Southfield, on Nine Mile near Providence Hospital where nursing and science programs are to be housed in a new building next year, and 2) Madison Heights, where law enforcement personal security programs are to be housed.

THE ROYAL OAK City Commission, after much initial controversy, put its seal of approval on the package agreement Aug. 27. The vote was 6-0.

Besides agreeing to vacate a street, the city also required the college to provide adequate parking, sidewalks and landscaping. City planners were also instructed to review OCC's site plan and traffic patterns.

OCC had also explored a site at Nine Mile and Woodward. But President Roelofs reported back, "To use it, we would have to go four stories high, and that's not the way to go. And parking would be a problem."

## Troopers blitz speeders

Michigan State Police have begun issuing tickets to drivers who exceed a speed of 60 miles per hour on the state's highways.

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Gerald H. Hough, director of the Michigan State Police.


"Speeds between 55 and 60 will not be ignored either," Milliken said. "Col. Hough says that troopers will be checking all speeds above 55 - possibly resulting in verbal warnings."

Federal guidelines call for compliance of 70 percent by early September of this year. Non-compliance could cost

offending states federal funds for various highway programs.

"State police also will be reminding motorists that 55 not only saves lives but conserves energy, too," Milliken said.

From 1974 through 1978, the average state traffic fatality count was 1,933 compared with an average of 2,257 for the preceding five years.



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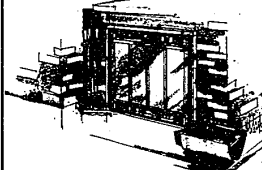
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