

Planners have data

County knows 'what's out there'

By Suzie Rollins Singer
staff writer

Need a street map of Oakland County? How about an aerial photo of your community?

Want to know what portion of the county has the most industrial zoned property or where the wetlands are? If your mind is craving for data, call or visit the Oakland County Planning Division at 1200 N. Telegraph in Pontiac.

Phillip Dondero, division manager, said planning employees are happy to share their information with the public.

"WE SEND OUT hundreds of letters to developers and real estate people telling them about the information that's available here," Dondero said. "Let's say someone wants to develop

some commercial property but they don't know where to go. They can come here.

"We'll talk to them, go through our computerized land file and tell them where all the commercially zoned property is in Oakland County."

Using computers, the planning division keeps tabs on where new banks are being built, as well as the numbers of residential, industrial and commercial building permits issued each year.

COUNTY PLANNERS say their duties differ from municipal planners because they have a "larger scope."

"We have 61 governmental clients. We're not responsible for telling local units how to plan. We'll tell them what's out there...like where the natural resources are, like flood plains and wetlands," he added.

Occasionally, cities tap county planners for ideas to revitalize their communities. Presently, department architects are working with Walled Lake officials on a rough design of a new downtown area.

"Walled Lake city commissioners met with us and discussed their ideas to have a nautical theme for their new area. We gave them suggestions about what we thought would work, had our architect draft some preliminary designs and are turning the designs over to them," he said.

"We won't do any more work than that, because if they like the rough sketches, they can hire people from the private sector to do the work," Dondero added.

IN A JOINT project with Royal Oak,

county planners designed renderings to remodel the city's Farmers Market.

In addition to assisting in planning projects, Dondero's employees like pointing out difficulties between municipalities.

"We want to avoid boundary conflicts. Sometimes one city is proposing an industrial area right across the street from another city's best residential section, so we try to explain the differences before they turn into big problems," Dondero said.

As part of its data collection duties, Dondero also sends a representative to the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) meetings. The representative makes concise reports on how the group's decision affects local communities.

Vision test offered pre-schoolers

Vision testing is being offered by the Oakland County Health Division for all pre-school children who will be starting school in Sept. 1982.

The screening will be available at both the Southfield Health Department,

27725 Greenfield, on May 18 and 25 and June 1; and at the Pontiac Health Department, 1200 N. Telegraph, Pontiac, on May 19 and 26 and June 2.

Hours will be 9-11 a.m. No appointment is necessary. There is no charge.



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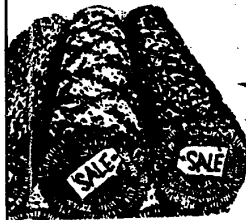
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