

Gnau heads road commission for '83

John R. Gnau Jr. of Bloomfield Township, a member of the Michigan Republican Party finance committee, has been selected 1983 chairman of the Board of Oakland County Road Commissioners.

Gnau, 52, is president of Gnau, Carter and Jacobsen, Consultants, with offices in Bloomfield Hills and Washington, D.C.

THE THREE-MAN board establishes policies for management of a 2,500-mile countywide road system. Its 1983 budget is \$31.4 million.

His current term expires at the end of 1986.

The new chairman was a Bloomfield Township trustee from 1970-74 and a member of the Bloomfield Township Planning Commission from 1969-71. He served as Michigan chairman for Reagan-Bush in 1980 and on the finance committee of the Michigan Reagan for President Committee.

VOGT, 52, was chairman in 1982. He is beginning the fifth year of a six-year appointment as a county road commissioner. His term expires in 1984.

Gnau was chairman in 1976 and 1977, and was vice chairman in 1978, 1979, 1980 and 1982. He has served as an Oakland County road commissioner since January 1975 and is currently in his second six-year term by appointment of the County Board of Commissioners.

He is employed in cost accounting with General Dynamics Corp.'s land

systems division in Warren and is chairman of Unit 28, UAW Local 412, representing salaried, technical, office and professional employees at that division.

HOUGHTEN, 62, has been a road commissioner since 1977. He has been nominated by the board to a second six-year term through 1983.

Houghten, director of regional development with the Community National Bank of Pontiac, is chairman of the policy committee of the County Road Association of Michigan. In 1974, he served on Gov. Milliken's Tri-County Transportation Alternatives Committee.

Houghten, a former elected member of the County Board of Commissioners, was its chairman in 1975 and served as its finance committee chairman from 1971-74. He was the first chairman of the Council on Environmental Strategy of the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments.



John R. Gnau Jr. heads road board

Computers coming into homes soon

By the 1990s, there won't be a job that doesn't require at least some work with computers, according to a Michigan State University specialist.

Irene Hathaway, a specialist in MSU's department of family and child ecology says, "Everybody doesn't need one yet, and there will never be a computer in every home. But the growth of the industry is phenomenal and will ultimately affect the majority of families."

She says consumers need to make sure the equipment they buy today won't be obsolete tomorrow, since the home computer market is in a sustained growth pattern for the 1980s.

what they want their home computer to do and find out if there's appropriate software available, said Hathaway.

"The hardware is useless without the software, and consumers need to look into the capabilities of both before they buy," she said. "There may be nothing wrong with buying a cheaper system as long as the buyer realizes its limitations."

Hathaway said consumers also need to do some preliminary reading before going out into the home computer market. The books on computers are already out of date, so buyers should turn to monthly computer and consumer magazines and look at charts comparing the various equipment, she suggests.

The next step is comparison shopping. "It's much like the procedure was for buying a stereo about five years ago. You have to go to at least two or three stores, look at and work with the equipment if possible and talk to the salespeople," she pointed out.

Hathaway said potential buyers should also look at operation manuals to make sure they understand the language. "However, they should realize it's not going to be as simple as plugging the computer in and pushing a button. It's not like operating a toaster," she explained.

SERVICE CONTRACTS and warranties should also be examined, she says. "Especially if they're buying

more expensive systems, people may want to consider those retail outlets offering the best service contracts."

With new equipment coming out almost every day, Hathaway says it's unrealistic for buyers to believe their equipment will remain "state of the art" for long.

"Buyers need to buy when the time is right for them. Their ability to use the equipment will not be diminished by innovations that follow, but buyers may want to purchase equipment that can be adapted for future software innovations," she said.

No age group will remain unaffected by the computer age. "We've already seen an enormous expansion of the home video game market," she said.

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