

## To halt flooding

# OCC will dredge Ridge pond

Oakland Community College trustees have awarded contracts for dredging a pond at the Orchard Ridge campus in Farmington Hills and extending a roof at the Highland Lakes campus at Union Lake.

Both votes were 7-0. J.L. Construction of Pontiac was low bidder at \$21,000 for the contract to lower the level of the Orchard Ridge pond, excavate the silt and spread it over an adjacent area where it will be seeded and used as an athletic field.

"The retention ponds are repositories for water runoff from campus buildings, parking lots and the creek running through our property," said Sorrento Gormanian, director of the physical plant. He said the creek carries runoff from businesses and homes to the north and east of the campus.

"As heavy rains occur and runoff commences," Gormanian said, "the ponds perform their function by retaining large amounts of water until the natural processes of absorption and evaporation occur."

"These ponds have never been dredged and are now almost entirely displaced by silt. This renders them largely ineffective for any but the lightest runoff."

The results have been flooding of the plain, baseball field and downstream property.

AT HIGHLAND LAKES, a roof will be extended on the Community Activities Building to eliminate leaks and the need to shovel snow from a flat roof.

W.J. Stewart Contracting Corp. of Pontiac was low bidder at \$33,000.

"The inclined roof over the gymnasium-area shed snows onto the adjacent flat roof, causing great amounts of accumulation, which results in roof leaks," Gormanian said.

"Every winter since the building has been occupied, the campus has had to expend considerable effort to clear snow off the flat roof over the corridor."

The Stewart firm will extend the sloped roof from the gym over the corridor so that water will drain over the edge of the building.

In other business, the OCC board voted to buy a three-quarter ton truck and a van from low bidder Mike Savole Chevrolet, Troy. Total price is \$19,697. Both will be used in central maintenance.

GIFTS TO THE Orchard Ridge campus in the past two months include:

John H. Vesser, 25 books; Mr. and Mrs. Ben Wunsch, miscellaneous paintings and presentations; Renee Roth-schild, language instructor, 106 books; Lynn Bartlett, librarian, one book; Johanna Kobran, English and philosophy instructor, four books; Maria Scorfano, a reference book; Bernard Sherry, house plants and 21 books; Walter Westfall, psychology instructor, 12 books — all to the Learning Resources Center.

Dr. Jude Cotter, a decorative tree. Theodore Mann, music and fine arts instructor, 535 record albums, and Paul Ferris, humanities instructor, 50 copies of choral music — both to the music department.

Gary Groeller, a set of 600 slides, trays and matching audio tapes on the Detroit Marathon.

William Stuart, academic dean, 12 magazine issues to the culinary arts department.

AUBURN HILLS campus east of Pontiac received:

A diagnostic computer for the applied technology program from General Motors Corp. Three model cars for the art department from Chrysler Corp. Four calculators from Robert Powell.

Vocational journals for the library from George Mitchell. A refrigerator from A. Eschenburg. Miscellaneous cutting tools and mill supplies from Ash Gear and Supply Co.


HIGHLAND LAKES campus received:

From Ken and Barbara Jenkins, 35 floral arrangements and greenery; and from faculty member Al Ugelow, two dinner and concert tickets for students, both for the Elegant Music series.

From the Farmington Neighbors Club, \$25 to the Play Care Center, as thanks for a speech by Thomas Stone.

From Walter D. Ogilvie, 12 books.

From Pattie Sue Bond, a refrigerator for use in Levinson Hall.



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## OCC enrollment up 10 percent, softens state aid losses

By Tim Richard  
staff writer

Growing enrollment is saving Oakland Community College from some of the effects of state funding cuts.

"Nobody knows exactly why, but we're pleased to see it," OCC President Robert F. Roelofs told the board of trustees last week. "How long we can go on, I don't know."

Winter term enrollment is 25,197, an increase of more than 10 percent compared to a year ago, Roelofs said.

By campus, the number of students is: Auburn Hills, 7,998; Highland Lakes, 3,902; Orchard Ridge, 7,595 and South-east, 5,702.

"OUR ENROLLMENT is carrying us through. The last few students we accept are the least expensive because our fixed costs are covered," Roelofs said.

Gov. James J. Blanchard's state-of-the-state message was "quite kind to us" compared to the governor's Fiscal Crisis Council recommendation, he went on.

Blanchard recommended cutting state spending by \$225 million, which would translate to a cut of \$125,000 to \$145,000 for OCC, Roelofs estimated. In contrast, the Fiscal Crisis Council's recommendations, if adopted, would cost OCC \$650,000.

The college's current budget is \$33.8 million. The state has already held up some \$2 million in aid as Michigan's economic recession shrinks revenues.

There is a possibility the delay may become permanent, Blanchard said.

"IT'S PRUDENT not to count on it," said Roelofs.

"If not, where are we? Several years ago, we resolved to build up a cash balance of 10 percent of the budget, equal to \$3 million or almost one month of operations." OCC can dip into that cash reserve to tide it over, he said. But that will reduce the fund to \$1 million.

Although academic departments don't solicit funds, he said, they sometimes recruit to help enrollment.

Dr. Marion Rice, provost of the Auburn Hills campus, reported students signed up for 23 sections of robotics compared to 17 sections last fall.

ROELOFS SAID a widely publicized plan for a high-technology park adjacent to the Auburn Hills campus is "a long way off." County Executive Daniel T. Murphy revealed the plan a week earlier.

Roelofs said Comerica, the bank, holding company on whose board he serves, is planning a computer center there if it can persuade local governments to grant a 50 percent property tax abatement.

The Comerica center would employ 450 initially, and perhaps as many as 600, he said.

In answer to a question from Trustee Earl Anderson, Roelofs said most of OCC's technical courses involve computers, but there is no general requirement that every student have computer literacy.

## Career info on computer

Oakland County residents can use a computer-based system to help them make career decisions.

The system, called SIGI, is now available at Oakland Community College's Highland Lakes Campus, 7350 Cooley Lake Road, Union Lake.

Participants may sign up for a half-

hour orientation session on how the system works. Appointments may be made to use SIGI, which stands for system of interactive guidance and information.

Residents who don't attend the college must pay \$25 to use SIGI. For appointment information, call the Highland Lakes Career Center at 360-3069.

## Rowan at OU for Feb. 15 talk

Carl Rowan, noted journalist and broadcaster, will present a free public lecture at 2:15 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 9 in the Oakland Center Crocker at Oakland University, Avon Township.

Rowan writes a column for the Chicago Sun-Times syndicate and is a poet in "Agony and Company." He also has appeared on "Meet the Press" and gives a radio commentary called "The Rowan Report."

The recipient of numerous awards, Rowan has been named "journalist of the year." He received the George Foster Peabody Award for his television

special, "Race War in Rhodesia" and an Emmy for his documentary, "Drug Abuse: America's \$54 Billion Curse."

Rowan has served as director of the U.S. Information Agency, deputy assistant secretary of state, and as a member of the U.S. delegation to the United Nations and U.S. ambassador to Finland.

The lecture is sponsored by the Student Life Lecture Board and the Student Program Board in cooperation with the Black Awareness Month Committee.

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