

# Branching out

## New \$2.5-million home asked for 3 libraries

By Kathy Parrish  
staff writer

Three cramped Oakland County libraries may get to spread out in brand new quarters.

Oakland County commissioners have been asked to build a Law and Government Library in the county complex in Pontiac.

The 30,000-40,000-square-foot facility would combine the Oakland County Law Library, Oakland County Government Library, and Oakland County Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Full of research materials, the libraries are all open to the public.

Also housed in the proposed \$2.5 million building would be Oakland County Bar Association, Legal Aid, Mediation, Court Watchers, Oakland University Paralegal Program, and the Oakland County Library Trustees Association.

"THIS WOULDN'T change the nature of the libraries," said George A. Googasian, president-elect of the Oakland County Bar Association. The Oakland Township resident is a lawyer who practices in Bloomfield Hills.

The new building would give the specialized operations more room and make them more efficient, Googasian said.

"And this would make them more accessible to the public," he said. The Law Library is now on the fifth floor of the County Building and the Government Library across the street in the Executive Office Building. Farmington Hills Branch Library houses the Oakland County Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.

The Law Library attracts a wide range of people, including many who are researching litigation, he said.

"We have a litigation-oriented society.

"It's a public library and receives public use, but because of where it is, people don't feel free to go there."

OAKLAND COUNTY Treasurer C. Hugh Dohany, who served on the three-person committee that worked on the project, suggested the library be paid for by taxes.

Raising the property tax rate .02 mills (two cents per \$1,000 of state equalized valuation) would raise \$300,000 a year. Other library revenues would come from leasing space, mediation fees, penal fines, and appropriations by the Oakland Bar Association and other groups.

Each year, the Oakland Bar Association turns over to the Law Library \$70,000-\$90,000, part of what it receives from mediation services.

Dohany told commissioners they could either put the tax to a vote or raise the tax rate themselves since the

county is below its taxing limit. Dohany, who is a member of the County Library Board, also asked the commission to reorganize the five-member board as appointments come up. The proposal called for one member to represent both the courts and Bar Association.

OBJECTING TO the proposal was Republican Commissioner John Olsen.

"If I was home in Huntington Woods reading about this in the paper, I'd think it was very, very expensive facility to house a law library for lawyers who work at the court," Olsen said.

Approving the project, attorney Alexander C. Perinoff, D-Southfield, suggested his fellow commissioners also look into adding more space for the county courts.

"They're packed — especially the Probate Court area. Court expansion should be part of our planning.

## UF lifts curb on new charities

The United Foundation board of directors has ended a five-year moratorium on the admission of new agencies.

The action means non-member organizations providing health and human services may apply for funding. Currently 127 charitable organizations receive money through the UF's annual Torch Drive campaign.

"The re-establishment of an open admissions process will permit the United Foundation to be more flexible and responsive to community needs," said UF Board Chairman Roger B. Smith, chairman of the board of General Motors Corp.

"This will help respond to new and emerging needs of our community."

THE MORATORIUM was imposed in 1980 during a period of recession and high unemployment. The slow growth in the metropolitan economy led to an extension of the moratorium. Smith said \$500,000 was built into last year's goal to fund new agencies anticipating the lifting of the moratorium. Because of the success of the 1984 Torch Drive, UF is now able to respond

to new requests. Nearly 100 organizations have already indicated an interest in receiving support.

A letter of inquiry to request applications should be addressed to the Agency Relations Department of United Foundation at 1528 Woodward, Detroit 48226. Deadline is May 10.

IN OTHER action, the board approved:

• An allocation of \$453,000 to United Community Services of Metropolitan Detroit (UCS) to fund summer programs for youth.

• A purchase of service agreement of \$250,000 a year for three years with the Northwest Activities Center, located in northwest Detroit in an area of high long-term unemployment.

• Approved four emergency and two general fund grants totaling \$92,352 to six UF agencies. Among recipients were Lutheran Child and Family Services, Macomb Family Services, YMCA of North Oakland County and Catholic Social Services of Oakland County.

## Glass seeks to hold helm of union

James Glass, president of Michigan AFSCME Council 25, the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, the largest public-sector union in the United States, has announced his candidacy to retain the presidency of his union.

Glass made his announcement in a series of meetings with supporters in Lansing, Flint, Southfield and Ann Arbor.

"In an era when trade unions are under fire, I am proud to have served as the chief officer of our union in Michigan, where we have grown in strength and stature," he said.

AFSCME will hold an October convention in the Dearborn Hyatt Regency Hotel. Terms are four years.

Glass also serves as an officer of the Michigan AFL-CIO, the Detroit Metropolitan AFL-CIO, the Michigan Democratic Party and the First Congressional District Organization.

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