

OCC spiffs up image, paving

By Tim Richard  
staff writer

Oakland Community College is pumping \$163,000 of improvements into its own image as well as the parking lots and pavements at its four campuses.

A promotional brochure, which in past years had featured only green and black on newspaper, will be printed in full color on heavier stock. Some 390,000 copies of the 32-page course listing are due in Oakland residents' mailboxes before the fall semester. Banta Press won the contract with a bid of \$52,677.

"It cost only \$4,000, or one cent a copy, more" than the old two-color brochure, said Anthony Jarson, vice chancellor for business.

"Full color sticks with the customer, is kept longer and creates a more favorable impression," added George Curtiss, who heads the college relations office.

IN OTHER business, the OCC board awarded these contracts:

- Replacement of brick pavers on the four-year-old Royal Oak Campus to a non-slip surface: \$61,622, Concord Cement, Farmington Hills.
- Repair of the cracked roadway in parking lot F on the Auburn Hills Campus: \$18,130, Harabedian Co., Troy.
- Repairs to service road connecting north and south parts of the Highland Lakes Campus: \$13,125, Keway Construction Co. Inc., Linden.

• Tunnel and electric room waterproofing for 60-year-old buildings on the Highland Lakes Campus: \$12,924, Heineman and Lovett Co. Inc., Detroit.

COMERICA Bank will pay a monthly rent of \$800 for its automatic teller on the parking lot of the Highland Lakes Campus. The bank had offered \$400, but former trustee David Hackett last month objected that fee was too low.

The board approved rates for rental of college rooms to local school districts. Rates per instructional credit hour are \$37.50 for a classroom, \$75 for a supervised classroom with audio-visual equipment and \$100 for a laboratory with supervision or audio-visual.

Chancellor R. Stephen Nicholson this week announced Gov. Blanchard has signed a community colleges appropriations bill giving OCC \$12.9 million, up nearly 10 percent over the current fiscal year.

GIFTS TO OCC accepted by the board included:

- A 1985 Buick from General Motors for the Auburn Hills automotive service program.
- Some 150 books to the Highland Lakes library from three donors.
- Sixty-four books for the Orchard Ridge library from three donors.
- Scholarship funds totalling \$650, including \$800 from the OCC Foundation.

House finch here from Hollywood

By Timothy Nowicki  
special writer

AT A SMALL family gathering in Dearborn last week, I identified a male house finch singing on a wire. This bird arrived in southeastern Michigan within the last 5-10 years.

In 1940 California cage-bird dealers sent shipments of illegally trapped house finches to New York for sale as "Hollywood finches."

Shipments were stopped, but some birds escaped. Native of the western half of the continent, the escaped birds managed to survive the change in climate. By 1943 they were nesting on Long Island.

HOUSE FINCHES nest in a variety of places — tree cavities, low shrubs, tin cans and old swallow nests.

My aunt, who lives near Eastland Shopping Center, had one nesting under her awning last year. Ellie Cox of the Oakland Audubon Society has been documenting their dispersal in the metropolitan Detroit area.

Nesting occurred in 1982 in downtown Detroit. They can be seen in such suburbs as Livonia, Grosse Pointe, Birmingham, Lathrup Village and many more.

House finches are about the size of house sparrows, also introduced into

New York in 1850. Males have bright red on their crown and upper parts; their backs are brown; the sides of their bellies streaked. Females are brown and heavily streaked.

SONGS OF house finches are a pleasant, high-pitched warble, much more interesting than the chirp of the house sparrow. They are attracted to a variety of seeds and food sources, both in summer and winter.

During winter, however, one of their close relatives from the north may visit your feeder, too. Purple finches, which look similar, have a strawberry coloration and unstreaked sides to help you distinguish between them.

House finches have adapted well to the urban environment. They appear to be following in the footsteps of the house sparrow, but hopefully, they won't become pests, as the sparrows did.



House finches, about the size of sparrows, escaped from New York cages in 1940 and now are nesting in the Detroit suburbs.

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