

Oakland asks chance to decide prison site

By Tim Richard
staff writer

A split board of commissioners is asking the state for one last chance to pick a regional prison site in Oakland County.

The board is seeking to end a four-year controversy between local units and the state Department of Corrections.

"I think we're playing to an audience, to the balcony, to the peanut gallery," argued Commissioner Dennis Aaron, D-Oak Park, who opposed the resolution.

"I'm not in favor of getting into a lot of work and having the state say it's not acceptable," added Commissioner Anne Hobart, R-White Lake.

THE 16-8 decision was a victory

for freshman Commissioner Ruth Johnson, R-Holly. State officials are eyeing a former private school in her district as a possible prison site.

Two Republicans, Hobart and Nancy McConnell of Bloomfield Hills, joined six Democrats in opposing the request. McConnell's district includes a corner of the city of Pontiac.

Two Holly residents, Roger Welsh and Larry Charest, told commissioners the state has turned the site selection process into a "disaster" by "changing the rules" and ignoring its own criteria.

COUNTY EXECUTIVE Daniel T. Murphy, a Republican, and many board Republicans favor locating a prison on state-owned property north of Clinton Valley State Hospital and near the County Service Center.

With such a site, Murphy said, a tunnel could be constructed to conduct prisoners to and from court appearances and the jail. It would save the county \$500,000 a year in transportation costs and reduce the chance of escapes. The tunnel could be integrated into a new court addition on the drawing boards.

Democrats and the city of Pontiac vehemently oppose that site, arguing the old city has been "a dumping ground" for undesirable state facilities. Relatives fear for the safety of mentally ill patients in the state hospital.

Residents of Auburn Hills, Holly and prospective rural sites have argued just as vehemently that prospective sites in their areas fall to

meet state criteria

THE BOARD resolution adopted Thursday asks the state to give the county board decision-making authority and 120 days in which to work.

It noted that for four years the Corrections Department and its consultants "have reviewed and explored various sites for this prison location and have been met with local community opposition and demands for local input into the decision process."

HERE, ACCORDING to a 1984 Corrections Department memo, are the criteria for a 550-bed regional prison:

- "Essential: Within one-half hour of population centers being served."
- "Access to utilities; sewage disposal can be provided."
- "10-20 acre urban location; 40-acre suburban/fringe."
- "Year-round access road."

The 16-8 decision was a victory for freshman Commissioner Ruth Johnson, whose district includes Holly Township, where state officials are eyeing a site. Pontiac doesn't want a prison, arguing the old city has been "a dumping ground" for undesirable state facilities.

- "In area not already adequately served by major state prison."

Important:

- "Reasonable acquisition cost."
- "Reasonably buffered by site or style of construction from homes and retail businesses."
- "Low negative impact on environment, compared with sites in area."

- "Short commute for staff."
- "No excessive air pollution."
- "Desirable."
- "On land already state-owned."
- "Public transportation accessible."
- "Proximity to civilian hospital."
- "Approximately level terrain."
- "Adequate fire protection locally available."

Crime foes

Thompson backs Blanchard's bills

By Wayne Peal
staff writer

Gov. James Blanchard's pledge of support to President George Bush apparently extends to local Republicans as well.

Newly elected Oakland County Prosecutor Richard Thompson, a Republican, said he looked forward to working with the state's Democratic governor on a series of anti-crime measures proposed by Blanchard.

Greater use of court-supervised wiretapping, Blanchard's most controversial proposal, would receive more support from Republicans than from Democrats, Thompson predicted.

"I think he's going to have more trouble with that among members of his own party," Thompson said.

The governor announced a variety of crime-fighting measures Tuesday during his State of the State message. Blanchard's proposals included a state anti-drug coordinator, multi-county grand juries and new laws to allow the state to seize drug dealer assets.

"I APPRECIATE what he's trying to do," Thompson said. "He's proven that he's a friend of law enforcement."

Blanchard and Thompson met briefly Tuesday during a crime-fighting seminar at Michigan State Police Headquarters, Livonia.

There, Blanchard told an audience of law enforcement professionals and county prosecutors he also plans to use state money to finance county jail construction.

"They (counties) need the help, and also we can't afford them sending people to the state prison system — people that would normally be in jail for a short period of time," Blanchard said. "It would save us money."

Blanchard also called for uniform sentencing, as a way to free up space in state prisons and county jails.

"This year we're taking separate vacations"

When we go away on vacation, mom prefers to stay at a HCR Healthcare Center. She receives the medical attention she needs, visits other residents, and feels secure and comfortable.

If someone you love needs short-term nursing care, visit the HCR Center closest to you and find out how both of you can enjoy better vacations.

Call for reservations today!

Dorvin Convalescent & Nursing Center
29270 Morlock
Livonia, MI 48152
(313) 476-0555

Georgian Bloomfield
2975 N. Adams Road
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48013
(313) 645-2900

Plymouth Court
105 Haggerty Road
Plymouth, MI 48170
(313) 455-0510

University Convalescent & Nursing Home
28550 Five Mile Road
Livonia, MI 48154
(313) 427-8270

HCR
HEALTH CARE RESOURCES

Answers abound
at our Estée Lauder Computer Clinic, this Wednesday and Thursday. Hear how innovative Skin Defender neutralizes environmental irritants, helps restore skin's appearance to smoothness, firmness. A healthier look. And, get a Personal Profile Printout from the Estée Lauder Beauty Computer. Main Level, Somerset Mall. For an appointment: (313) 643-8700, Ext. 3236

**BONWIT
TELLER**



SHOP SOMERSET MALL, SUN. 12-5 MON. THURS. FRI. 10-9 TUES. WED. SAT. 10-6 (313) 643-8700
USE YOUR BONWIT TELLER CARD, AMERICAN EXPRESS VISA OR MASTERCARD

GOP women meet Friday

The Oakland County Council of Republican Women's Clubs will salute volunteers at its 29th annual meeting, beginning at 10:30 a.m. Friday, Feb. 17, in Kingsley Inn, 1745 N. Woodward, Bloomfield Hills.

Guest speaker will be Dr. Weldon E. Peters, noted Lincoln scholar, who will present stories, artifacts, music and slides about the 16th president. New officers also will be elected.

Reservation information is available from Eleanor Whitson at 646-5228.

O&P Classifieds work!

DuMouchelles FEBRUARY ESTATE AUCTION

Featuring American antique furniture, hanging lamps and accessories from the estate of Marquette Dork, an extensive jewelry collection formerly belonging to a prominent Grosse Pointe resident; American Indian beadwork belonging to a Plymouth, Michigan collector; Important oil paintings from a Grand Blanc, Michigan collector; and Antique Chinese ceramics from the collection of the late Governor G. Nennen Williams and Mrs. Williams of Grosse Pointe, Michigan.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1989, 7:00 P.M.
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1989, 11:00 A.M.
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1989, 12:00 noon

Exhibition begins Friday, February 10, 1989, 9:30-5:30 p.m., and continues daily through Friday, February 17, 12:00 noon. Special preview Wednesday, February 15, 9:30-5:30 p.m.

Illustrated catalogs available at the gallery for \$8.00, postpaid \$10.00, express mail and overseas \$11.00. Annual subscriptions \$30.00. Call or write for a free illustrated brochure.

Monique Dawson (British 1895-1973). "Running Before the Wind," 20" x 24"

Over 1400 fine offerings
FREE VALET PARKING ALL AUCTION DATES

DuMouchelles

409 E. Jefferson, Detroit, Michigan 48226
(313) 963-6255 or 963-6256 (Across from the Ren Cen)
Fine Arts Appraisers and Auctioneers since 1927

**chudiks
sweetheart
sale**
it's our storewide
Valentine's
Day sale

**50% to 75% off
furs & fashions**
Now thru Tuesday, February 14 only.
You'll find furs, coats, suits, dresses, sportswear, Ultrasuede® fashions, handbags, jewelry and accessories... all at 50% to 75% off.
All sales final. Prior sales excluded.
open Monday thru Saturday 10 to 6, Monday thru 9
Use your Visa, MasterCard or American Express

chudiks
Or Birmingham
294 East Brown Street
647-1300
free price parking