

OCC windfall — \$20 million

By Dave Varga
staff writer

Oakland Community College will be getting a windfall — approximately \$20 million in new money from selling portions of its property on the Auburn Hills campus.

"You know how you say, 'I've won the lottery and now I have to wait.' We're salivating," said Sandra Ritter, chairwoman of the OCC board.

Unlike big lottery winners who buy frivolous items, OCC will invest the money and only spend the interest.

"It is the college's intention to use this income for capital resources and improvements," said R. Stephen Nicholson, OCC chancellor. "It will enable us to meet about 50 percent of our planned future need."

That will mean more computers and class space at the college's five campuses.

APPROXIMATELY \$2 MILLION of the money will be invested with the interest paying for new scholarships for students.

The biggest chunk of the new money, \$13 million, was announced last week. It will come from the unexpected sale of 67 acres to the UAW-GM Human Resource Center, a not-for-profit training and education organization that built an administrative headquarters at the Auburn Hills campus in 1986.

At that time, UAW-GM used the OCC land with the agreement that the 75,000-square-foot building would deed back to the college after

20 years. It's that property and building, northeast of the I-75/M-59 interchange, that the corporation will buy.

At the OCC board meeting Thursday, trustees voted 4-1 in favor of the sale, with trustees Ritter, Norma Ross, Edith Gonzalez and Douglas Wakefield in favor and David Hackett opposing. Not voting were trustees Judith Wiser, who was out of the room during the vote, and Margaret MacTavish, who was absent.

SOME BOARD members were unaware of the impending sale.

"It was a surprise," Wiser said Friday. "I hadn't even heard about it. It's amazing, a \$13 million sale and a board member just finding out about it last night."

Ritter said she was informed by telephone call several days before the vote and she assumed other board members were notified.

At the UAW-GM center Monday, representative Howard Erickson said, "The two sides have agreed in principle to the sale." The new property will "provide for anticipated future growth," Erickson said.

That likely will include new buildings for the UAW-GM center, OCC and UAW-GM will close on the sale within two or three months.

THE REMAINDER of OCC's new money will come from the already agreed-to sale of a right of way for a new roadway to the city of Auburn Hills for \$2 million and a section of land to a private developer for \$5 million. That land is on the northeast corner of campus, near Featherstone

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— Sandra Ritter
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and Squirrel roads.

Trustees considered earmarking use of that \$7 million. A proposal to set aside the \$5 million for capital projects failed to get four votes.

However, board members did approve setting aside the \$2 million into investments so the profits can be used for yearly scholarships for OCC students. That approval was 4-2, with trustees Ritter and Ross against it.



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OCC offers credit for its tour of China

"Contemporary Life in China" is the title of a June 30 to July 19 tour being offered through Oakland Community College for college credit in history.

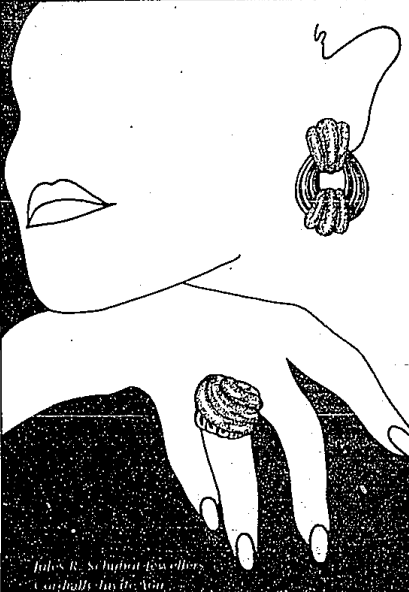
OCC professor, William Samples, M.Ed., will lead the tour through three nights in Shanghai, China's largest and most populated city. It continues through Nanjing, Wuxi, Suzhou, six nights in Hangzhou (Marco Polo's 'paradise') and Xi'an, ending with three nights in Beijing and a chance to visit the Great Wall.

Participating students will earn three credit hours in "Topics in History."

"OCC believes that international education is an essential component of the community college mission," said George Keith, academic dean at the Royal Oak Campus of the college. "If our students are going to compete successfully in the global village, they need to experience firsthand other environments and cultures."

Keith said other tours scheduled are a five-week summer Spanish language program in Spain and the fall semester in Oxford, England.

Complete information about the tours may be obtained by contacting Keith at 987-5710.



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