

# Garden time

## Some convicts will grow produce instead

By Dave Varga  
staff writer

Shoplifters and burglars are now being sentenced to garden. Instead of sending convicts to hang out license plates at the big house, some Oakland County judges are allowing "non-dangerous" convicts to work at a new community garden growing tomatoes, green peppers and squash. Their harvest will help feed others at the Oakland County Jail.

THE PROGRAM isn't for all convicts, only certain non-dangerous felony offenders like burglars or thieves or misdemeanor offenders like drunk drivers or shoplifters, McAleer said.

THE GARDEN will be on a two-acre plot of county property on Brown Road near the Oakland County Animal Shelter and just northeast of the Palace in Auburn Hills. It's a joint program between the county's Cooperative Extension Services and Court Community Service Division, which serves the Oakland Circuit Courts and the four divisions of 52nd District Court.

*"It doesn't take much supervision because if they don't cooperate they end up in jail."*  
— Robert Anderson  
circuit judge

vegetable garden," said Wayne Nierman, director of cooperative extension services. Cost to the county will be just under \$10,000, based on expected revenue and costs.

## Roll Call Report

WASHINGTON — Here's how area members of Congress were recorded on major roll call votes in the week ending May 5.

**FREE-MAIL ISSUE:** By a vote of 174 for and 231 against, the House defeated legislation (HR 1149) allowing members of Congress to mail copies of the Constitution bearing their name to all households back home. The bill sought to ease franking, or free-mail, rules to permit the one-time mass mailing at a projected cost of \$10 million.

House a bill (HR1385) to begin federal of the Martin Luther King Jr. Federal Holiday Commission and keep the panel alive until 1994.

**HOUSE:** The bill authorizes \$300,000 annually for the panel's job of promoting the national holiday honoring the slain civil rights leader. The commission has been operating since 1984 on private contributions.

King's legacy are "worth \$300,000 a year. In fact, far more."

Opponent Jesse Helms, R-N.C., said "It is so easy (for senators) to spend somebody else's money, and you can make it so virtuous."

**THE 1990 BUDGET:** By a vote of 263 for and 157 against, the House approved a fiscal 1990 congressional budget resolution that envisions \$1.17 trillion in spending, \$1.07 trillion in revenues and a deficit of about \$59.7 billion.

The measure (H Con Res 106) will guide House and Senate action on individual spending bills for the year beginning Oct. 1, and prod Congress toward Gramm-Rudman-Hollings deficit reduction goals. It also states congressional and presidential priorities for defense, foreign and domestic programs.

Lacking major tax increases or spending cuts, the House budget was widely viewed as a status quo plan that repeats the congressional pattern of pushing tough fiscal decisions into the next year.

Dan Rostenkowski, D-Ill., voiced support of the measure even though "we lacked the political will on both sides of the aisle to bite the bullet."

Opponent Bill Schuette, R-Mich., called the plan "a coverup for inaction, postponing for tomorrow... real deficit reduction."

Members voting yes supported the fiscal 1990 budget plan. Michigan members voting yes included Parsell, Hertel, William Ford, Levin and Broomfield.

**BUDGET FREEZE:** By a vote of 30 for and 393 against, the House rejected a budget substitute seeking greater deficit reduction primarily at the expense of domestic programs.

The amendment by Rep. John Kasich, R-Ohio, sought a 1990 deficit of \$9.1 billion rather than the \$97.7 billion targeted by the congressional budget resolution (above). It sought to curb Medicare outlays and block inflation-adjusted increases in certain non-entitlement domestic programs, and reaffirmed the defense spending freeze already a part of the resolution.

Members voting yes supported the substitute. Michigan members voting no were Parsell, Hertel, William Ford, Broomfield and Levin.

**OIL IMPORT FEE:** The House voted 49 for and 373 against to reject an alternative fiscal 1990 budget; proposed by Richard Gephardt, D-Mo., that sought to increase federal revenue by \$9 billion annually by levying a fee on imported oil. About \$2.2 billion of the yield was to have been applied to deficit reduction and the remainder to domestic initiatives such as anti-drug and anti-poverty programs.

Members voting yes supported a federal fee on imported oil. Michigan members voting no were Parsell, Hertel, William Ford, Levin and Broomfield.

**SENATE KING HOLIDAY PANEL:** By a vote of 90 for and 7 against, the Senate sent to conference with the

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