

Count 'em!

County census may hit 1.1 million

By Philip A. Sherman
staff writer

The next census is expected to show Oakland County's population increased by 60,000-100,000 residents during the last decade, bringing the total to 1.1 million, according to David Hay of the county's planning department.

The federal census, celebrating its bicentennial, is taken by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census. The census will be taken next April Fools Day.

"We're still expecting Oakland County to be a high-income county," Hay said. However, he expects the population center, now in Bloomfield Township, to continue moving north.

"IT MOVED NORTHWEST during '70-'80 and we're expecting the center to continue moving north, but I don't know if that will be northwest or northeast," Hay said.

"The federal government handles most of the details for the census. Hay said his role is neither direct nor indirect, but rather one of technical support.

County planner David Hay is expecting the census to show that the county population center has moved north from the 1980's center, Bloomfield Township.

"We'll do a local review in late fall, make sure the home count is accurate and make sure the address list is complete," he said. "I would expect the rate of decrease for persons per household is slowing."

Statistics are not equal between housing and persons per household. For example, during the last decade, Hay said, Birmingham gained 500 housing units, but lost 4,481 people. Troy had the highest residential gain (28,000) while Royal Oak had the highest loss (15,000).

FOR THAT SAME period, Troy also had the highest housing gain (11,078) while Ferndale sustained the highest loss (218 — Hay speculated they were torn down). Housing

counts include single family homes and apartments, Hay said.

Hay said in the past the county has hired helicopters and photographers to confirm housing counts. "We've also had people come in to actually count the rooftops for marketing reports and programs," he added.

"Probably the most important thing to know is that the census is confidential," Hay said, citing several cases where the IRS or other law enforcement agencies failed in bids to collect census information for criminal cases. He added that questionnaires, already approved by members of Congress, also are being printed in several languages to ease the information gathering process.

Little known facts about Oakland

Oakland County is known locally and nationally as a prosperous area with a growing population, the worst traffic gridlock in Michigan and as the corporate headquarters for Kmart, Federal Mogul, EDC and the Pontiac Motor Division.

But everyone knows that. However, according to David Hay at the Oakland County Planning Division:

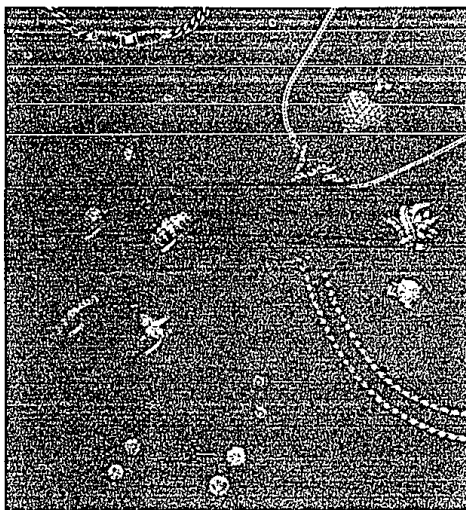
- The annual payroll earned in the county exceeds \$11.4 billion.
- There are 31 community newspapers.
- During the last decade, Oakland grew more than 99 percent of counties nationwide.
- Fifty-five percent of the foreign firms in the metro area have offices in the county.

Despite all this, the county still is half-rural and has more than 400 lakes, 50,000 acres of recreation areas, nine county parks, eight state parks, and three metro parks.

Using population figures as a guide, Oakland is the second-largest county in Michigan and ranks 25th overall for the country.

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Register now for OCC science camp

Registrations are being taken for the "Science Sampler" camp scheduled for Aug. 7-11 on the Highland Lakes Campus of Oakland Community College.

The camp, designed for youths 5-11 years old, highlights one area of science discovery each day of the

five-day program. It is conducted by the professional staff of the Living Science Foundation.

Youngsters will have personal encounters with a variety of animals on Science and Nature Day.

The camp meets Monday through

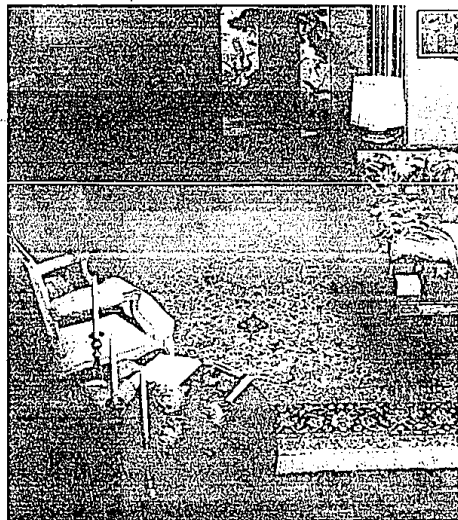
Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the campus. The fee is \$195 and space is limited.

To register or for further information, please phone 350-3041.

The Highland Lakes Campus of OCC is at 7350 Cooley Lake Rd., Union Lake.

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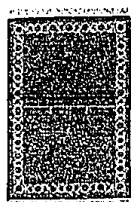
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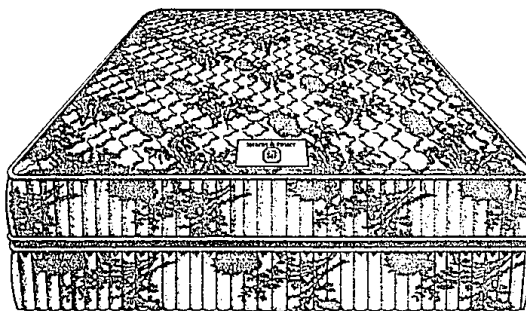
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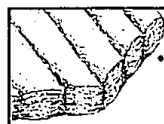
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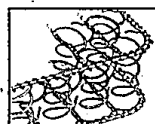


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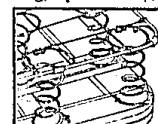
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