

Oxford leading site for county landfill

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THE ERROR that changed the ranking involved a buffer zone between the actual landfill and the site borders. It was first questioned by Cubbage.

Returning from a visit to the Highland site, Cubbage went over maps of the proposed sites, and noticed a discrepancy between what he saw and figures on the map.

"The data base indicated a greater buffer than the site actually had," said Jo Spear, project manager for the consulting firm Rogers, Golden and Halpern. "Instead of 372 percent of buffer space, it was actually 59 percent."

A second error was discovered by committee member JoAnn Van Tassel at the Aug. 17 meeting when the leading site candidates were named.

The error, which showed a candidate site too close to human habitation, resulted when the wrong formula for the data was entered in the computer at the consulting firm.

The error that changed the ranking involved a buffer zone between the actual landfill and the site borders.

However, correction of that error didn't change the site ranking, Walls said.

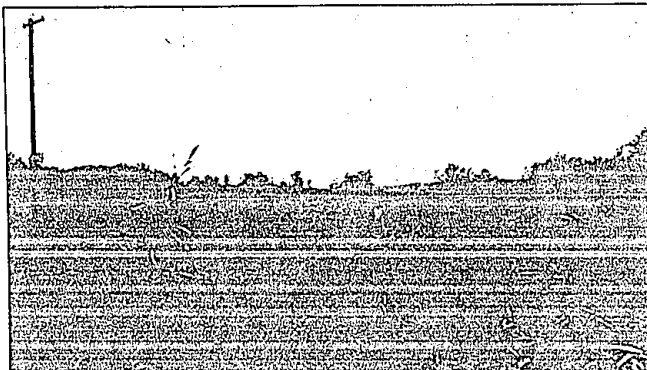
THE COUNTY was set to begin simultaneous test boring for soil samples at the Oxford and Highland sites, which were only 0.35 percent apart in the ranking before the buffer zone error was discovered.

Now, Regan said, there will be several more meetings before the site committee makes a recommendation to the board of commissioners to go ahead with test drilling. The committee will go over all data the consultants gathered, as well as information brought in by residents at the sites.

The new second place candidate site straddles the Oxford-Addison townships border. It is bounded by Oakwood Road to the north, Homer Road on the east, and comes within 1,500 feet of Delano Road to the west.

Existing land use on the site is recreational (a golf course), agricultural, residential and horse-breeding. "We believe in the process without waiver," Regan said of the much-touted blind selection process the committee used to choose the sites.

"But we also need a good information base, and we need time" to let the process work, she said.



Still the prime contender for the Oakland County landfill are these 1,047 acres west of Lapeer Road (Route 24) currently devoted to agricultural, low density residential, industrial and institutional uses.

Every community has kids at risk—Blanchard

By Tim Richard
staff writer

Gov. James Blanchard picked "a very special school" to stage the signing of Michigan's \$2.5 billion school aid bill, emphasizing the small items to improve quality rather than the megabucks.

This focuses on at-risk children, wherever they are — "From Westland, Detroit, Saginaw, Marquette or Bloomfield Hills. Every community has children at risk, some more than others," the governor told a crowded library in Vandenberg Elementary School, in Wayne.

"The principal, teachers and parents worked more closely together here to develop a plan to improve the school, to enhance this very library, to involve the community in goals for the school," said Blanchard.

THE GOVERNOR'S helicopter created a mild sensation as it landed in the playground for the Wednesday morning ceremony, in which he signed House Bill 4336 into law. Besides a healthy 7 percent boost for K-12 schools in an era of 5 per-

cent inflation, the bill contains a batch of specific measures to give schools incentives to improve.

Among them: \$2 million for redesigning schools to improve student performance, \$2.5 million for "school improvement plans" that will be publicized to the community, and \$5 million in achievement incentives in math and reading.

"There are a growing number of children from disadvantaged families where, if we don't intervene early before they get to school, we're afraid they'll never — ever — succeed in school, stay in school, have a good job to have a good life," said Blanchard.

HIS STAFF spent several days picking the ideal school for the signing. They finally settled on the racially mixed, blue-collar neighborhood school south of Michigan Avenue that had used trickle-down university grants to improve reading skills (see related story).

Blanchard told the youngsters he grew up in a less-than-affluent suburb called Ferndale and gave away boxes of ceremonial pens.

Rep. Justine Barnes, D-Westland,

and Sen. George Hart, D-Dearborn, along with officials from the school district and two cities and teachers, crowded the back of the room, applauding when the governor said, "In seven years, we've raised education (funding) 89 percent while the rate of inflation has increased 25 percent."

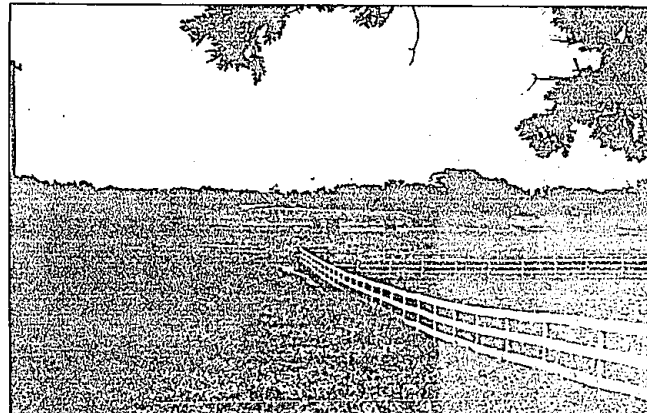
But his real message was school improvement to make the state more competitive in a world economy.

"WE'VE HAD to redesign our factories. Now we need to redesign our schools — to give teachers and administrators power to decide how best to teach kids. "Not everybody learns at the optimum rate by sitting in a classroom for six hours a day in 45-minute segments. There are a lot of other ways — field trips, hands-on experience, student involvement, writing papers, participating in plays and debates."

"There are a lot of measures (of school success) besides just test scores — reducing dropouts, reducing teen pregnancy, increasing attendance, reducing violence, improving employability."

He plugged Proposal A on the Nov. 7 ballot. It would increase the sales tax 0.5 percent to 4.5 percent and generate \$400 million in new revenues, including \$135 million for quality improvements and the rest for the school aid formula.

In an interview, Blanchard said he wouldn't support Proposal B, a 2 percent increase tied to property tax reductions. "Proposal A has more money for education. B has property tax relief, but it's not permanent. People will be disappointed when they find that out," he said.



Moved into second place to this 892-acre site which straddles the boundary between Oxford and Addison townships. It is now used for recreational (golf course), agricultural, residential and horsebreeding.

Break par for county hungry

The Food Bank of Oakland County will ask miniature golf enthusiasts to break par for the hungry.

The benefit, the first Miniature Golf Classic, is set for 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday, Sept. 8 at Captain's Cove Adventure Golf, 13 Mile and Coolidge, Royal Oak. Cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 10 and under. Children 5 and under are free.

Prizes will be awarded for the lowest scores of the day and on selected holes for hole in ones. All donations will go toward feeding the hungry in Oakland County and

are tax deductible as allowed by law.

"Less people think about hunger during the warm weather even though the need is just as intense," said Jim Macy, executive director of the food bank.

For more information on the Miniature Golf Classic, call Gary Dembs at 569-4899.

County hosts juried art exhibit

The County Executive Office Building will open a juried exhibit of paintings by members of the Palette and Brush, Tuesday Sept. 5. The exhibit continues through Oct. 20.

Carol Wald, a top illustrator, will jury the exhibit. Palette and Brush, a 54-year-old

organization of 100 active artists in the metropolitan Detroit area, will hold a reception for the public from 6-8 p.m. Friday, Sept. 8.

The County Galleria is open Monday-Friday during business hours. It is at 1200 N. Telegraph in the County Service Center.

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