

# OCC hopefuls answer queries posed by LWV

The following biographical information and questionnaires were compiled by the League of Women Voters of Southfield, Lathrup Village and Oak Park. It is reprinted by the Observer & Eccentric as a public service.

The League is a national, non-partisan organization established in 1920 to encourage citizen participation in government. The LWV takes no responsibility for any of the views or facts stated by the candidates, whose statements have been edited for spelling, punctuation and length.

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**VOTERS IN OAKLAND COUNTY** will go to the polls Monday, June 11, to cast ballots in their local school board elections and to elect

three people to the board of Oakland Community College.

Vying for a four-year term are Richard A. Blonde and Jay B. Shah. Incumbents Sandra L. Ritter and Douglas H. Wakefield are opposed for six-year terms.

Candidates responded to the following questions:

1. Many education futurists predict there will need to be closer ties between business and educational institutions by the year 2000. In what ways can OCC encourage such cooperation?

2. What areas of the college budget do you see as being underfunded, particularly in light of the drastically changing educational needs of students predicted for the next 10 years?

3. How could community colleges and high schools expand their areas of cooperation?

## Richard A. Blonde

Name: Richard A. Blonde  
Address: 1660 Ridgecrest, Rochester Hills  
Age: 35  
Education: Bloomfield Hills Andover High School ('73); completed 92 credits towards three degrees at OCC, maintaining a 3.94 GPA.  
Business: 15-year employee of Ameritech Applied Technologies, currently as a Data Base Administrator.  
County ties: Life-long resident, Oakland County.



1964, so have costs and the demands placed on the college by increased enrollment. Curriculum, laboratory, and physical plant upgrades are needed now and must be continually monitored.

**COOPERATION WITH HIGH SCHOOLS:** High school seniors could take some of their courses at the community college (American government, business, etc.) The credits could be applied towards high school requirements as well as the college's basic degree requirements. This may encourage more students to pursue higher education and prepare them for the transition.

**TIES WITH BUSINESS:** OCC established its Business and Professional Institute in 1983 to address this very issue. The B.P.I. develops and implements special training programs to meet the needs of specific clients. In addition, B.P.I. arranges instructional seminars, workshops or conferences according to the needs of the business requesting service.

**BUDGET NEEDS:** OCC has been funded by a one mill tax levy since 1984. Although the tax base of Oakland County has increased since

## Jay B. Shah

Name: Jay B. Shah  
Address: 3184 Angelus Drive, Pontiac  
Age: 43  
Education: M.B.A. with honors, University of Detroit, M.S. in Engineering, Wayne State University.  
Business: Vice President of Corporate Development.  
County ties: Member of Oakland County Economic Development Corp., Community Growth Alliance Board.



new hardware and laboratory equipment current. This area of the college instruction budget is underfunded and must be strengthened.

**COOPERATION WITH HIGH SCHOOLS:** In the fall of 1989, more than 25% of the Oakland County high school graduates selected OCC for their higher education. Therefore, it is natural that OCC and the high schools expand their areas of cooperation. This can be done by initiating a "two plus two" program where high schools grade 11th and 12th grades to courses that prepare them for jobs.

**TIES WITH BUSINESS:** The need for closer ties exists today. My involvement with the Oakland County Economic Development, Corporate and Community Growth Alliance has shown me that, the business, government and educational leaders must cooperate for a strong economy. OCC has taken the lead in this effort by establishing the Business and Professional Institute.

**BUDGET NEEDS:** In order to train students for the outside world, they must be exposed to the newest technologies. However, in the leap-frogging advancements in the technology, it is very expensive to keep

## Sandra L. Ritter

Name: Sandra L. Ritter  
Address: 5563 Pointe Place, Waterford  
Age: 43  
Education: 1968 B.A. University of Michigan; 1973 M.A. University of Detroit; 1981-graduate courses in higher education administration - U.M.  
Business: Higher Education Consultant-Michigan Department of Education 1985-87; Statewide Literacy Coordinator-Michigan Department of Education.  
County ties: 20-year county resident; Elected to OCC Board 1978 and 1984.



# 'Envy, pure envy' Auburn Hills official responds to criticism

By Pat Murphy  
Staff writer

Criticism directed at Auburn Hills by some municipal neighbors is thinly-veiled envy, according to City Manager Leonard Hendricks.

Communities including Rochester Hills and Southfield — criticize developments like the recently-announced Palace Gardens summer entertainment center, the waste-to-energy incinerator and the so-called "megamall" because they see them as threatening to their own tax base, Hendricks said during an interview Monday.

Hendricks has just returned Pennsylvania, where he and Mayor Robert W. Grunick looked at prototypes of the incinerator and megamall to be built in Auburn Hills.

They visited a 1,300 ton per day waste-to-energy incinerator in York, Pa., and the Franklin Mills Mall near Philadelphia.

The incinerator, built by Westinghouse Electric Corp., is similar to the waste-to-energy incinerator scheduled to be built on county property at the southwest corner of Brown and Giddings roads.

Franklin Mills is similar to, but smaller than, the 320-acre Auburn Mills to be located at I-75, Baldwin, Joslyn and Lake Angelus roads.

**THE PROPOSED Palace Gardens** — an 18,000-seat outdoor theater next to the Palace on Lapeer

Road — is the latest in a string of developments in Auburn Hills. Others in the string include the Palace, home of the Detroit Pistons; the Chrysler Technology Center; and GMF Robotics, one of the premiere high-tech industries in Michigan.

These and other developments have triggered criticism from nearby communities which contend Auburn Hills accepts these developments with little or no regard for traffic generated or the strain on the infrastructures of other communities.

Hendricks calls the criticism "envy, pure envy."

"I've just recently become aware of it," he said. "Since plans for the Palace Gardens were announced, I think these communities (particularly Rochester Hills and Southfield) would like to have them."

Furthermore, he said, that envy will become more acute as the megamall and other projects develop, and communities can see their benefits.

**HENDRICKS TALKED** about the three most recent projects:

• **PALACE GARDENS.** Plans announced last month call for the gardens to open next May, with 8,000 pavilion seats, a large video screen and 42 enclosed suites. It is expected to be in direct competition with Pine Knob in Clarkston

and the Meadow Brook Music Festival at Oakland University.

Critics contend it will simply generate more traffic in an already congested area.

"All I can say at this point about the Gardens," Hendricks said, "is that it's being developed by the same people who built the Palace."

"The Palace started out as a \$40 million facility, but it eventually cost more than \$75 million. That additional cost was generated by improvements and upgrading."

"Everything about the Palace is first class and we can expect the same at the Gardens," Hendricks said.

• **MEGAMALL.** "Southfield is opposed to Auburn Mills because it threatens their economic base," Hendricks said. "They're right. It will give them competition."

"But Southfield can't keep the Mills out of the area. If it wasn't going here, it would still be somewhere in the area... it would still give them competition. They can't keep it out."

Hendricks said Franklin Mills is a clean, well-planned facility. "We looked very carefully," he said, "and we're impressed."

Hendricks said Auburn Mills will be equally clean and well-planned. Furthermore, its size constitutes something of a "new concept" in shopping... something that will pose real competition for Ann Arbor, Dearborn, Flint and Birch

Run, the site of another giant mall.

Asked if Auburn Mills will cause problems for Southfield, Hendricks said Southfield already has problems.

Malls like Lakeside, he said, offer convenience and security. "If my wife wants to go to Lakeside, she goes," he said. "If she wants to go to Northland, I go with her."

• **THE INCINERATOR.** Oakland's \$175 million incinerator will feature state-of-the-art technology in complete compliance with state and federal air quality standards.

"I think some communities, like Pontiac, wish they had it," he said. It will also be a money maker for the city.

The contract Auburn Hills negotiated with Oakland County calls for a \$2.3 million host fee to compensate the city for road improvements and other required changes. But that's just the beginning.

Auburn Mills will get \$1.50 for every ton of waste incinerated and \$1.25 for every ton recycled at the MRF (materials recovery facility, also at Brown and Giddings Road). At full operation, both facilities can handle nearly 200 tons of waste daily which would generate considerable revenue.

Even so, Hendricks said his city would take measures to eliminate any noise from the Auburn Hills incinerator.

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