

Boundaries redrawn

State legislators await reapportionment

By Ralph R. Echlinaw
staff writer

Orchard Lake residents will likely have a new state representative and possibly a new state senator after redrawn districts are approved later this year.

Barbara Dobb, R-West, Bloomfield, would lose Orchard Lake if either the Republican or Democratic plans are approved.

Also, state Sen. Dave Honigman, R-West Bloomfield, would lose Orchard Lake under the Democratic reapportionment plan, but pick up Farmington Hills, which would put him and Sen. Jack Faxon, D-Farmington Hills, in the same district.

Predominantly Republican Orchard Lake would be picked up by Charlie Harrison Jr., D-Pontiac, in the House, and Matt Dunaskis, R-Oxford, in the Senate. Reapportionment of state and federal House and Senate districts is required after every national census.

SINCE DEMOCRATS and Republicans in the Michigan House and Senate couldn't agree on a single reapportionment plan, each party submitted separate plans to a panel of three retired judges appointed by the state supreme court.

The panel is supposed to recommend one of the plans submitted, or alter one of the plans, or mix the plans together, or draw up a plan of its own. The state supreme court will then decide to accept, reject, or modify the panel's suggestion. Ev-

erything has to be settled by the May 15 filing deadline for November's election.

Dobb, who represents 98,000 people now, is not particularly happy with her lot, but "knew I had to lose population. I knew that going in. But I hate to lose my constituents, any of them." She stands to represent about 90,000 people no matter what happens.

Orchard Lake Mayor Leo Larkin said it "doesn't seem reasonable" that the city should lose Dobb and Honigman together.

"When it is important that you be represented, you want to be represented well," he said. "I would regret losing Dobb and Honigman as representatives."

"I'm surprised that you're surprised that you're surprised," said Jim Talpos, an Orchard Lake city councilman. "I'm surprised they'd throw us in the Pontiac district."

HONIGMAN SAID it doesn't matter to him which plan is approved. "Either one is fine with me."

Unlike Dobb, who has to run for re-election this year, Honigman isn't up again until 1994.

He doesn't believe Faxon would remain in Farmington Hills if the Democratic plan is approved, but move to Southfield to run in the heavily Democratic 15th district, where there would be no incumbent if the Democratic plan is approved.

"The Democrats did that intentionally, knowing (Faxon) would move to Southfield," Honigman said,

The Democrats' reapportionment plan would add Farmington, Farmington Hills, Novi Township and Wixom to the district of state Sen. Dave Honigman, R-West Bloomfield, while taking away Bloomfield, Holly, Groveland, Brandon, White Lake, Rose, Springfield and Independence townships and Orchard Lake.

adding that Faxon couldn't win an election in the very Republican 17th district as drawn by the Democrats.

Under the Republican plan, Dobb would keep West Bloomfield, Commerce and Wixom, while losing Orchard Lake and Walled Lake.

The Democratic plan would have her keep most of West Bloomfield, all of Commerce and Walled Lake, and give up Wixom, Orchard Lake and the Pine Lake area of West Bloomfield.

With the Democratic plan, Honigman would lose Bloomfield Holly, Groveland, Brandon, White Lake, Rose, Springfield and Independence townships and Orchard Lake, but gain Farmington, Farmington Hills, Novi Township and Wixom.

Under the Republican plan, Honigman would lose Groveland, Brandon, Independence and Bloomfield town-

ships, but gain Waterford Township and Wixom. He would not lose Orchard Lake.

Two other major plans were submitted to the panel by Sen. John Kelly, D-Grosse Pointe, and Rep. Tom Power, R-Traverse City. Dobb dislikes the Power plan most, because she would lose all of West Bloomfield and Orchard Lake, keep Commerce, Walled Lake and Wixom, and gain South Lyon, Novi and Lyon townships.

Honigman would add Pontiac to his district if the Kelly plan is approved.

"That would be fun to represent Pontiac," he said. "I'd love the opportunity to represent poor people."

The three-judge panel expects to have public hearings on the plans Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday next week in Detroit.

Search continues for bank robber

Troy police are seeking the whereabouts of a gunman suspected of robbing the Michigan National Bank at 150 E. Maple Road, Friday around 5 p.m.

The suspect is described as a young, white male, 5 feet 8 inches to 5 feet 11 inches tall, 140-150 pounds, brown hair, reddish-brown moustache. He was last seen wearing a navy green jacket and a light-gray hooded sweatshirt tied tightly

around his face.

Witnesses told police the suspect walked into the bank and demanded a teller fill up a McDonald's bag he produced. The robber was armed with a silver handgun that police suspect might have been a toy.

Anyone with information about the robbery is asked to phone the police department at 524-3477.

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Tele-Court offers free, quick legal answers

By Jay M. Grossman
staff writer

It won't turn you into a Perry Mason overnight. But a new court hotline that answers a host of legal questions could help Michigan residents who find themselves in a jam. The Tele-Court system was developed by the State Court Administrative Office, a branch of the Michigan

Supreme Court. With more than 60 topics to choose from, residents can get quick answers on questions ranging from divorce proceedings to filing out a will.

Rochester attorney Robert M. Justin, a magistrate at 52-3 District Court, said Tele-Court is perfect for someone who needs a quick lesson on the judicial system.

"It shows you how to find an attorney,

or what happens in a divorce case, things like that," he said.

Justin said Tele-Court won't replace attorneys, but it does provide the phone number of the local bar association so that a person can find one.

The system was funded through an

\$89,500 grant from the State Justice Institute in Virginia. It is the first project of its kind in the nation.

To use Tele-Court call toll-free 1-800-968-5689. After a brief introduction, dial the 4-digit message number or stay on the line and select from the Tele-Court main menu.

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