OCC, YMCA hope to share swimming pool

BY RALPH R. ECITINAW
STAY WAITE.

There might be a free swimming pool in the future for Oaklend Community College's Auburn Hills campus.

The North Oakland YMCA is trying to work out a deal where it would build (and pay for) an indoor pool, OCC would provide the property and the two institutions would share the result.

However, the deal is nowhere near complete, and talks between OCC and North Oakland YMCA have "moved at a very conservative pace," and YMCA executive director Larry Scramlin.

What we know so far is that North Oakland YMCA wants to build "some kind of a regulation-size pool" to serve its 1,200 members, Scramlin said, on a five-acre site behind OCC's Criminal Justice Center. (The campus is locat-

ed on Featherstone just west of
Adams.)

In turn for donating the proper
ty, OCC would have limited use of
the pool, which could come in
handy for classes in emergency
medical technology, bydrotherapy
and physical education.

The next step is that the OCC
board of trustees must give its
blessing to the concopt, then attorneys on both sides can work
out a schedule of who gets to use
the pool when.

"It looks like there is a lot of
mutual benefit," said OCC board
chairman David Hackett. "It
seems like we're all friends at this
point."

Although finding a happy pool-

point."

Although finding a happy poolscheduling medium may prove
difficult, raising the \$3.5 million
estimated construction cost could
make scheduling look easy.

"The whole thing could come to

a grinding halt at that point," Scramlin said.

E all depends on the economic climate. Presuming that the OCC board gives its approval and the attorneys can agree, North Ost-land YMCA would hire a consultant to see if there's a fighting chance of raising \$3.5 million, which must all be done with primited mixture. vate donations.

water donations.

If the plan gets that far and the consultant's report is gloomy, Scramiin said the YMCA might just wait a year and see how things look then.

The North Oakland YMCA hasn't had a pool since 1984 when its Pontiac facility was shut down. Unlike the Detroit Metro YMCA, which operates 13 centers in this area, North Oakland YMCA has nothing but a Rochester office, two full-time staff

members and some sports programs for kids.

For OCC's part, the college has been extremely cautious about this deal. On the matter of who will pay for construction, for example, OCC officials have requested reassurance a number of times that North Oakland YMCA will pay.

duescet reasonable a handle vimes that North Oakland YMCA will pay.

OCC was burned recently in a failed deal with Farmington and Farmington Hills whereby a fointure library would have been built, no OCC's Orchard Ridge campus. Negotiations proceeded for more than a year with OCC officials assuming that the Farmingtons would pay for construction and Farmington officials thinking OCC would pay part of the construction cost.

Once OCC officials found out what Farmington officials really expected, the deal was rejected.

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