

MALLS & MAINSTREETS

Village from page 9A

"Area residents will appreciate the fact that because we're close, they can make repeat trips," he pointed out. "This is going to be a fun place to be."

Aldridge also refused to disclose his investment in the operation, "because it scares me too much," but said it was "the second biggest cost underestimate of my life." The first? "My wife," he teased.

But it's safe to say the family has poured more than a couple of million dollars into the project, importing lampposts from Italy, paving the entire

village in brick, constructing a clock tower complete with life-size Dickensian carolers, and importing paneling from the original Lloyds of London headquarters.

Gardens and landscaping are on the way. So are jobs for 360 to 400 interested people. The Canterbury Village will be open beginning Oct. 1, on Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Sundays from noon to 7 p.m.

Canterbury Village is located three miles north of I-76 on Joslyn Road in Orion Township.

Security from page 9A

Eliminate secluded corners as places to hide.

- Limit ingress and egress to areas that can be monitored by using fences and landscaping around shopping centers.
- Have a visible police presence at the mall to establish the turf on the side of the law.
- Increase parking lot patrol.

Officers from the Livonia Police Department's Youth Bureau advised retailers to be aware of graffiti - the first sign a gang has arrived on the scene. Retailers should document the graffiti with photos, notify police of the incident, then remove it before it can be "crossed out" or countered by a rival gang.

Police also advised mall security officers to solicit persons who commit assaults or vandalism at their centers. The ban should be followed up with a certified letter sent to the of-

fender's residence confirming the ban. This will aid the prosecution in court.

Police said malls must follow through with court appearances and prosecution to give the message that there is zero tolerance.

Joe Ortiz, a security director for the Schostak shopping centers' discussed legal liability issues with retailers.

"We can't control the ills of society in a mall situation," he reminded the audience. "However, people expect us to. Mall security has three official jobs; to observe, report and assist. We are not armed."

Ortiz suggested that mall walkers be invited to become "Columbus," reporting suspicious activity observed during their "rounds."

The security seminar was sponsored by the International Council of Shopping Centers, metro Detroit branch.

Business Roundtable

Exec puts Oakland's role in perspective

BY PAT MURPHY
STAFF WRITER

The Business Roundtable is first and foremost an organization designed to promote and further the interests of Oakland County economic development, according to the person who put it together, county Executive L. Brooks Patterson.

"But Oakland County is not an island, and we can't operate in a vacuum," Patterson said Wednesday at the first formal work session of the Business Roundtable.

The roundtable - composed of about 125 executives working in committees - was formulated by Patterson earlier this year to bring representatives from business, education and government to analyze problems associated with economic development and recommend solutions.

The first formal meeting was in June. Wednesday's early-morning session at the Kingsley Inn pro-

COUNTY

vided a kind of progress report with the 12 committees reporting on what has transpired since then.

Prior to committee reports, however, Patterson broke with tradition. He emphasized the importance of continuing to promote Oakland as "the economic engine" for southeast Michigan and, possibly, the entire state.

But for almost five minutes, the executive also cited statistics showing how Oakland also contributes on a regional and state basis. They included:

- Oakland pays over \$100,000 more than Wayne County to support SEMCOG (Southeastern Michigan Council of Governments), while having two fewer votes on the board of directors.
- Through revenue sharing - specifically hotel, motel and liquor taxes - Oakland pays about

\$4 million to Detroit to pay off the expansion debt at Cobo Hall.

- Oakland hotels pay about 38 percent of revenues received by the Metropolitan Detroit Convention and Visitors' Bureau.
- Sixteen percent of all people with jobs in Michigan work in Oakland County.
- Oakland is first in per capita taxes paid to the state of Michigan, but 80th in receiving state funds.

The statistics aren't particularly new, Patterson said he strung them together to emphasize the importance of Oakland as an important regional and state partner.

"Oakland County is the center of the major industrial and commercial markets of North America," Patterson said in summary, "in the heart of Automation Alley."

Asked why he chose this forum to talk about Oakland's broader role, Patterson said, "I just want-

to remind them (members of the roundtable) that we're not alone. Oakland is not an economic island."

That idea, moreover, was reflected in most of the committee reports.

Former General Motors executive Robert Stempel, for example, touted the importance of Michigan in the upcoming discussion on the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

Michigan is a leading trading partner with Mexico, said Stempel, who with Patsy Fulton, chancellor of Oakland Community College, co-chairs the roundtable.

Thus Michigan has the most to gain, in terms of job growth, if NAFTA is approved by the U.S. Senate, Stempel said.

Following the meeting, Patterson said he is extremely pleased at the enthusiasm and progress of roundtable committees. "I'm absolutely awed by how this group is shaping up."

Proposed law would benefit city managers

City councils would be able to give their hired managers longer-term contracts under a bill before the state House of Representatives.

Sponsored by Sen. David Honigman, R-West Bloomfield, the bill already has passed the upper chamber. It received a 7-0 recommendation Tuesday from the House Local Government Committee.

"Currently one council can't bind another," Honigman told the panel - that is, a council can't give the city manager a contract beyond the council's term of office. Nor can the contract specify the manager's severance pay if a new council wants to fire him.

Honigman's SB 326 would amend the Home Rule Act governing cities. It says a council "may enter into an employment

contract with the chief administrative officer extending beyond the terms of the members of the legislative body unless such an employment contract is prohibited by the city charter."

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