

Baptist Manor executive director resigns



previously served as executive director of the American Baptist Churches of Michigan with offices in Lansing.

A search committee has been formed to find McQuaid's successor.

His wife, Bobbie, will subsequently resign as administrator of The Haworth Center. She's been at Baptist Manor since June 1983 and served as resident services director and secretary to the executive director.

Under McQuaid's direction, Baptist Manor experienced continual growth.

The construction of a fourth HUD-subsidized apartment building was completed in 1983. The Haworth Center, an assisted living facility for frail seniors, was completed in 1988.

Robert McQuaid also served as

chairperson of the ad hoc committee for the Farmington Hills Senior Center.

A "toast and roast" was held for the McQuaids at the Glen Oaks Country Club.

They were presented with a key

to Farmington Hills by city officials. Attending the ceremony were City Manager Bill Costick, councilwoman and assistant to state Rep. Jan Dolan, Nancy Bates; and councilman Aldo Vagnoni.

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Profs fill openings

Two Oakland University professors have been appointed to administrative positions as acting associate deans in the College of Arts and Sciences.

The OU board of trustees approved the appointments of sociology professor Jacqueline Scherer, a Rochester Hills resident, and chemistry professor Michael Sevilla, an Oakland Township resident, on Dec. 1.

David Downing, the acting dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, said in a press release that Scherer will concentrate on undergraduate issues and student concerns, while Sevilla will help with graduate and research issues.

Downing is one of the permanent associate deans. He began filling in at the dean position when dean John Urice quit last summer.

Farmland gives way

Professional planners say Michigan lost 854,000 acres of farmland from 1982-92 — an area the size of Rhode Island — due largely to urban growth pressures.

A report by the Michigan Society of Planning Officials, headquartered in Rochester, said most of the loss occurred on the state's most productive agricultural soils in southern Michigan counties. The land loss represents an annual reduction of \$60 million to \$120 million in local farm revenue.

"This report clearly shows we can no longer take agriculture and farmland for granted. Something must be done, and done soon, to reverse the trends," said Gordon Guyer, director of the state Department of Agriculture.

"Agriculture is the second largest industry in the state, contributing \$37 billion to our economy and employing one of every eight people."

Many counties in southwest Michigan, Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo and Traverse City area lost 15 to 20 percent of their farmland in less than a decade.

Michigan's farmland loss in the last 40 years has been greater and more rapid than any other state's in the Great Lakes region.

Ozawa County, whose \$233 million in annual gross farm sales is the highest of any county in Michigan, will be greatly impacted by an increase of 100,000 new residents by 2015 — a 54 percent increase in population.

Overall, the report notes, urban areas in Michigan have seen a 1 percent population increase in the last 20 years compared to a 20 percent rise in suburbia.

David Skjaerlund, a co-author of the report, outlined this sequence of urban sprawl into rural areas:

■ Housing lot sizes grow so the loss of farmland is even faster than population growth. There has been a dramatic increase in the number of 10-acre or larger building sites.

■ Remaining farmers find it difficult to operate with competing land uses. The number of farm suppliers and processors decreases.

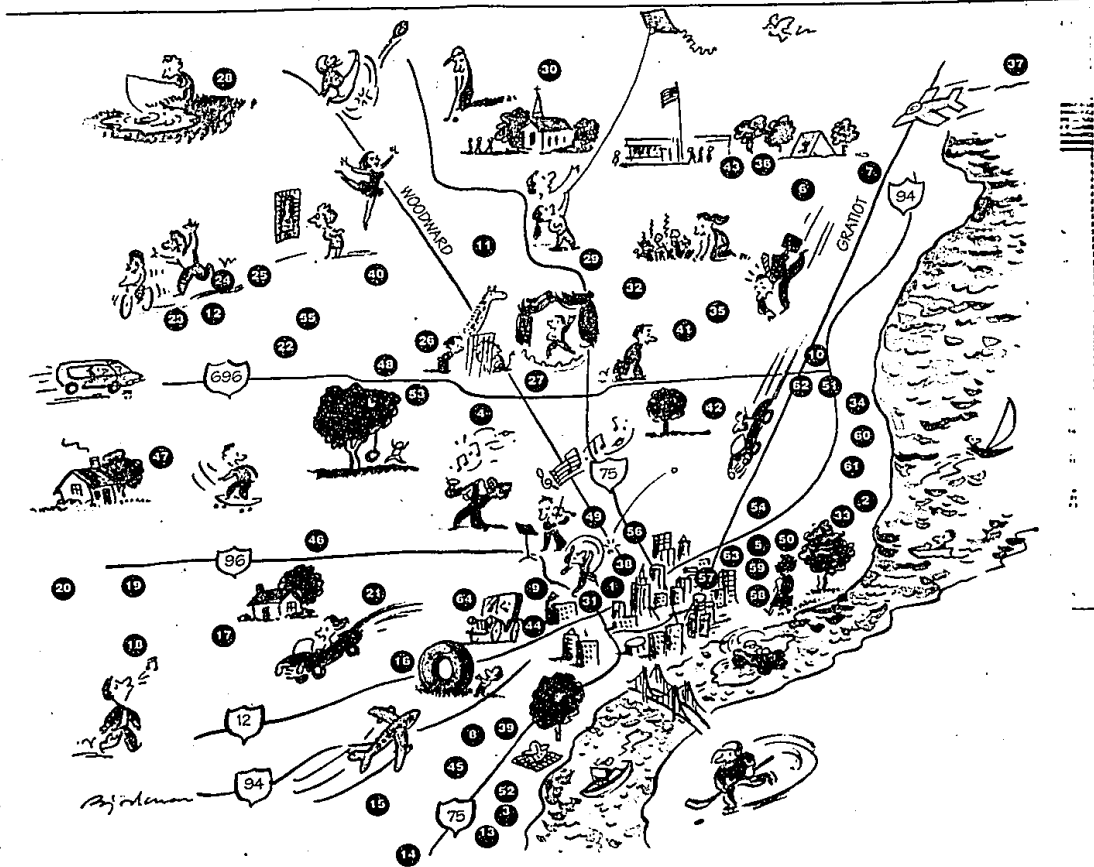
■ More non-farm rural residents complain about noise, dust or odors associated with modern farming practices.

■ As land prices soar, farmers find it difficult to resist offers to cash out at prices inflated by encroaching development.

■ Farmers are aging. "Forty-four percent of Michigan's agricultural land is owned by farmers 55 years of age or older," said Skjaerlund.

■ Skjaerlund is a member of Gov. John Engler's Michigan Farmland and Agricultural Development Task Force. Appointed last February, it will report Dec. 14 on ways to strengthen the state's agricultural industry and maintaining land in agricultural production.

■ The Agricultural Trends Working Paper was prepared by the Planning and Zoning Center, Inc. of Lansing for the Michigan Society of Planning Officials (MSPO) in cooperation with the American Farmland Trust.



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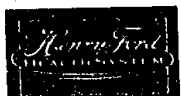
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