

County manager selection debated

By SUSAN L. SILE

OKLAHOMA CITY — Whether the voters or members of the board of commissioners should select the proposed full time county administrator — that is the question, according to proponents of the position.

(July 11) Julie Evans of the Oakland County League of Women Voters called for support of an appointed manager selection by the board based on public-approved criteria.

To avoid "the worst form of partisan politics," Betty Howe, chairman of the Oakland County Democratic Party, urged voter selection of an elected executive.

An appointed manager could be selected by the Republican-dominated board within 60 days of the Aug. 6 primary if voters favor that position. The appointed official would serve at the wishes of the board, implementing on a day-to-day basis the board-developed policies.

AN ELECTED executive, if chosen by the voters, would take office in four to five years, while in contrast to an appointed manager, the elected executive would have appointment powers and the ability to veto board decisions and policies, according to state statute.

"In a democracy the citizens should have a chance to vote," argues Mrs. Howe.

"Appointing the manager would remove the single most effective means of citizen redress."

"We elect the president, governor, and mayor; there is no reason to do otherwise on the county level," Mrs. Howe said.

An appointed manager would eliminate conflict, rather than breed it, in implementing board-set policy, Mrs. Evans said.

"It is quite possible, under the present system, to end up with an elected executive from one political party and a county board of commissioners, the majority of which is from another party."

"With veto power, it would be very difficult to get programs through in that condition," Mrs. Evans said.

THE BOARD, at its meeting Thursday, approved formation of a nine-member committee to develop criteria which would reportedly be used to evaluate candidates for the appointed post.

Such criteria has been urged by the league, Mrs. Evans said.

"A partisan appointment would be the worst kind of partisan politics," Mrs. Howe argued.

"People who believe that an appointed manager could be chosen without

regard to partisan politics are the same people who still believe in the tooth fairy," she added.

"If the executive is elected he must run for office, then he may appoint as office manager the man who ran his campaign."

The Democratic Party prefers a politician whose critics for office was that the people voted for him, Mrs. Howe said.

Children take part in camping event

Children from six foreign countries are joining with 17 from the metropolitan Detroit are until Aug. 7 in a Community Village, a new concept in the Children's International Summer Village (CISV) camps.

Delegations of four 11-year-olds from Guatemala, Portugal, Finland, Liberia, India and Mexico are attending day camp sessions with Detroit-area youngsters who include Ellen Adderley, Mark Brown and Scott Schomer of the Birmingham-Bloomfield area.

Carol Adderley is a junior counselor for the group. She and Scott Brown were delegates to overseas villages in past years.

THE LOCAL CISV chapter is hoping the visiting children in private homes in the area. The children are together during the day at the various day camp experiences.

The first three days of day camp recently were spent at Brookside School, Cranbrook, with a picnic at Addison Oaks in Rochester.

Interested persons may contact Marilyn Wheaton at 474-6944.

Chamber and city agree on garages

BIRMINGHAM — City commissioners, working with the chamber of commerce, are considering a number of proposals for better utilization of the city's parking structures.

Although many of the chamber-suggested proposals are simply under study by the city at this point, commissioners did approve several measures designed to make using the structures easier, safer and less confusing.

Commissioners voted to give each of its three parking structures a permanent name. Pre-

viously referred to by number, each structure has been christened the name of the nearest street.

THE STRUCTURE at Pierce and Merrill was officially named the Pierce Street Structure. The structure on N. Woodward was named after that street. And the newest structure, between Park and Ferndale streets, was called the Park Street structure.

Commissioners also agreed to color code the levels of the N. Woodward and Pierce St. structures similar to the color scheme in the new structure. Doors on each level will be painted a different color to help shoppers identify on which level they parked their car.

Among the many proposals the commission will study in the next few weeks are: A better system of identifying the structures and directing traffic to them; easier exiting from the structures; reducing the permit parking rate for those willing to use the top levels of the structures.

THE SUGGESTIONS for better use of the structures are among numerous items the city and the chamber will discuss in the next few months regarding ways to improve shopping, parking and traffic conditions in the city.

The next major area to be discussed is traffic, which both groups will take up Aug. 5 during the regular commission meeting.

Theater sets 'Blackouts'

The Metropolitan Beach Summer Theatre will present "Blackouts," a comedy-variety show featuring the St. Clair Shores Players at the open-air dance pavilion stage of Metropolitan Beach near Mt. Clemens.

The play is scheduled at 8 p.m. July 19. There is no charge for this selected family entertainment. Vehicles entering the park are required to have a Metropark entry sticker.

Further information of the Metropolitan Beach Summer Theatre can be obtained by calling Metropolitan Beach at 463-4981 or the Detroit office at 961-5865.

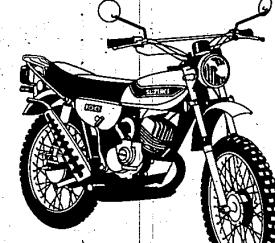
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