

Can a community gain housing and lose people?

By TOM LONERGAN

population with even a 15 percent increase in dwelling units," he said.

Except for the city of Bloomfield Hills, communities along the Woodward corridor in south Oakland County have lost population during the past 10 years.

That trend — with rapid growth among small cities and townships in west Oakland County — is shown by preliminary 1980 census figures. The U.S. Census Bureau earlier this month released the figures to the highest elected officials in suburban communities, including Oakland County Executive Daniel T. Murphy.

The preliminary figures, subject to challenge, will not become official until later this year.

They indicate the county population has grown 9.7 percent since 1970, from 907,871 to 996,329. The number of dwelling units has grown 35 percent, from 275,652 to 374,995.

THE BIGGEST population losers included: Birmingham, down nearly 20 percent to 21,017; Royal Oak, down 19 percent to 69,708; and Ferndale, down 16 percent to 25,911.

Smaller cities along Woodward — Huntington Woods, Pleasant Ridge and Berkley — had nearly similar declines.

The largest population increases were in small townships and cities in western and northern Oakland, such as Novi Township, Wixom, the city of Novi and Brandon, Highland and Milford Townships. Population increases in these communities ranged from 98 percent to 335 percent, according to the census bureau.

There was population growth in 39 cities, villages and townships, while 21 lost population. But the number of housing units increased in 56 communities and dropped in only four.

That difference is due to smaller family size, according to a regional planning official.

"THE BASIC result of the smaller family size has been the most dominant feature of the census," said Edward Hustoles, director of planning for the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG).

SEMCOG conducts annual "small area population forecasts" for the seven-county southeast Michigan area.

Hustoles said the 1970 census showed average family size in the metropolitan area to be between 3.5 and 3.6 persons. He predicted the 1980 final figures will show a drop to 3.1 or 3.2 persons per household.

Some of these communities who couldn't understand that their population was going to drop because they have all their houses occupied are now going to find out.

"You can literally have a net drop in

THE CENSUS figures show Birmingham's total number of dwelling units since 1970 increased 2.6 percent, but the population dropped 19.7 percent.

In Bloomfield Township, the number of dwelling units increased 27 percent since 1970, but the population dropped a half of one percent.

Farmington Hills had a large dwelling unit increase — nearly 58 percent since 1970. Its population increased 17 percent to nearly 57,000.

The only south Oakland city showing a large population jump was Troy, 69.5 percent to 65,800.

Birmingham and Troy's counts are due to change, however, because an annexation to Birmingham from Troy was not included in the estimate.

Southfield, with a 7.3 percent population increase to 74,341, passed Pontiac and Royal Oak to become the county's largest city.

Pontiac dropped 14 percent to 73,215; Royal Oak dropped 19 percent to 69,708.

Troy is the fourth largest city in the county.

The preliminary census count "tells us the whole region has slowed down," said Hustoles. "There is more of a stabilization."

"There is a certain amount of limitation of that sprawl effect that we've had since the end of World War II."

THE PRELIMINARY count for cities in the Observer & Eccentric circulation area show:

• Birmingham, down 19.7 percent to 21,017.

• Bloomfield Hills, up 4.3 percent to 35,850.

• Farmington, up 6.5 percent to 11,000.

• Farmington Hills, up 17 percent to 56,986.

• Keego Harbor, up 0.3 percent to 3,100.

• Lathrup Village, down 1.8 percent to 4,594.

• Orchard Lake Village, up 16.5 percent to 1,733.

• Rochester, up 0.6 percent to 7,093.

• Southfield, up 7.3 percent to 74,341.

• Troy, up 69.5 percent to 65,800.

• Avon Township, up 64.2 percent to 40,269.

• Bloomfield Township, down 0.6 percent to 42,532.

• Oakland Township, up 56.9 percent to 7,251.

• West Bloomfield Township, up 43.9 percent to 41,101.

• Village of Beverly Hills, down 15.5 percent to 1,478.

• Village of Bingham Farms, down 9.5 percent to 512.

• Village of Franklin, down 13.6 percent to 2,860.

Fido, beware of those lazy days of summer

Parvovirus Infection, a new disease that affects the gastro-intestinal tract of dogs, is rapidly becoming a potential threat to canines in the Detroit area.

Although the disease has been found in spotty areas of the country for more than two years, it is only in the last week that metropolitan Detroit dog owners are being put on the alert. A dozen cases were admitted to the Veterinary Clinical Center at Michigan State University in East Lansing over the Fourth of July weekend.

Dr. Mary Beth Leininger, president of the Southeastern Michigan Veterinary Medical Association, said that although the association is issuing a watch at this time, disease symptoms pose a hazard in themselves, as they may easily be misinterpreted by dog owners as a normal reaction to the summer heat.

If your dog becomes infected, anything less than immediate attention could be lethal within a day or two.

There is a vaccine available, but it must be considered only a secondary precaution. Supplies are limited, and, for the most part, reserved for those

animals whose risk of exposure is greatest, such as show dogs and dogs which will be traveling and boarding all over the country with their owners.

Dr. Leininger said that Parvovirus Infection is transmitted from one dog to another through the feces and advises that there are two major precautions to be taken to insure prevention of the disease in a pet:

• Isolate your dog for the next two weeks, which means cutting down on the number of walks. By all means, do not let it run loose. This measure considerably reduces the risk of possible exposure to an infected animal's feces.

• If your dog exhibits any symptoms, such as vomiting or diarrhea, contact your veterinarian as soon as possible. In addition, if your pet seems to display depressed, quiet, listless behavior, take immediate action, as these signs indicate the possibility of the Parvovirus Infection already existing in its acute form; and, without immediate attention in such an emergency situation, a dog may die in as short a time as a day or two.

Ridesharing rises a bit on the freeways

Car backseats are still empty, but a Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) survey indicates ridesharing is on the rise.

A vehicle classification and occupancy survey, conducted by SEMCOG in April, counted the number of people riding in cars at 39 locations in the seven-county southeast Michigan region.

The survey showed vehicle occupancy is lowest on urban freeways and highest on rural arterials. Low occupancy was found most often during peak morning and afternoon hours. Highest occupancy was found during mid-day traffic.

THERE HAS been an increase this year in the average occupancy per vehicle, according to SEMCOG.

On urban freeways in the morning,

occupancy increased from 1.13 in 1979 to 1.18 this year, the survey shows.

Mid-day occupancy increased from 1.28 in 1979 to 1.33 this year. Occupancy for afternoon peak urban freeway hours increased from 1.24 to 1.28.

"The figures at first glance appear to reflect only a small increase," said SEMCOG Executive Director Michael Glusac. "But given the great numbers of cars on the road in southeast Michigan, it is a significant step."

"The price of gasoline has increased 40 cents per gallon since the same time last year," he said.

SEMCOG is a voluntary association of counties, cities, villages, townships and schools. It conducts short and long-range planning for housing, transportation, land use, public safety, recreation and the environment.

History buffs set open house

The Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society will sponsor an ice cream social at 2 p.m. Sunday at 405 Oakland Ave. in Pontiac.

The event is \$2 for adults; \$1 for

children under 12.

Tours of the Greek Revival house, built in the 1840s for Moses Wisner, the second Republican governor of Michigan, will be available.

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