Volume 92 Number 26

Stress and relocation face unemployed

Domestic scene is strained

By MARY GNIEWER

Brother, can you spare a job could become the theme song of the '80s if Michigan's cancerous economy contin-

uses to spread.

The unemployment rate across the state continues to hover at 12.5 percent — well above the national average of

— well above the national average of 7.5 percent.

"Losing a job can cause stress for the entire family," says Jim Patton, clinical supervisor of the Farmington Area Advisory Council (FAAC).

"The husband or wife now finds himself or herself in the family setting 24 hours a day. Tensions come out of that — what to do with excess time.

"Money problems and uncertainty of the (future add to the stress.")

Patton reminds family members to

Patton reminds family members to be very supportive of each other. "It can't be faced by just one individ-

"It can't be faced by just one individ-ual," he said. "Support and recognize each other. Work together as a unit." FAAC, a counseling service for the Farmington community, has no specific programming for the unemployed. But Patton says counselors are willing to help anyone who seeks aid. The office is at 23450 Middlebelt,

north of 10 Mile "We don't get directly involved with job placement, but we refer to agen-

"IF THE UNEMPLOYED person has enough credentials, we send him to a regular employment agency." But even private employment agen-cies are getting fussy about who they'll

take as a client.
Patton says a woman with a master's degree was recently turned down by an employment agency because she had no practicel experience.
"They're dealing with clients who have degrees and 10 years experience," he said.

The Michigan Employment Security Commission (MESC) has a free job ser-vice program that includes employ-ment counseling, interviewing and re-

A computer assisted system is updat-

A computer assisted system is updated daily to list job openings throughout the metro area. The job bank system is available at all MESC offices.

"A job seeker could check the listings and see if they meet the qualifications for the job," says Norm Isotalo, an MESC spokesman.

mESC spokesman.

An interstate clearance system lists jobs in other states

him interstates clearance system asso-jobs in other states.

MESC also has books and brochures on how to find a job and occupational information forjobs commonly found in

the state.

The number of job openings has dived, Isotalo admitted. The job bank now lists 600 jobs — down from 2,000 in a good year at any one time.

"WE'RE NOT EXPECTING any substantial changes in the near future,"

"WEFRE NOT EXPECTING any substantial changes in the near future," Isotalo said.

The Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency (OLHSA) has special programs to assist teens and senior adults looking for employment.

Oakland County residents out of school and between the ages of 16 and 12 could be eligible for the 'federally funded youth job program.

It provides employment for those with little or no job experience for six months. Jobs pay the minimum wage.

Persons must quality on federal income guidelines, which vary with size of family. For more information, call Dave Reese at 858-8132.

The OLHSA senior job program provides work for Oakland County residents over 55. Participatis must affect in content federal inconteguidelines to qualification. The presence of the program work as nutrition assistants, clerical aids, drivers, apartment complex managers, library assistants, and aids in medical care facilities.

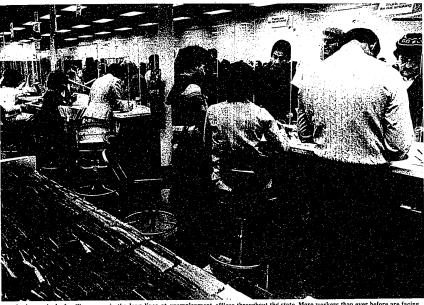
They receive \$3.35 an hour and can work 20 hours a week for 52 weeks, re-

newable each year.

The program has been ongoing since
1977 in Michigan and across the coun-

1877 in Michigan and across the country since 1988.
Coordinator Bruce Goren hopes to expand the job opportunities for all senior adults, not just those who meet economic criteria set by the federal government.

government.
Persons interested in the program should call Goren at 858-5181 or 645-C 1150, ext. 5181



An increasingly familiar scene is the long lines at unemployment offices throughout the state. More workers than ever before are facing this prospect in Michigan.(Staff photo by Randy Borst)

Hills officials deny layoff is result of discrimination suit

By MARY GNIEWEK

A woman charging her employer, the city of Farmington Hills, with sex dis-crimination is one of only two city workers who received layoff notices ef-fective this month.

Laurie Albaugh, an engineering aid II hired by the city in 1976, has a case pending before the Michigan Department of Civil Rights — even though she won't have a job after this week.

Albaugh, 27, filled the claim after she was passed over for a departmental

Hospital awaiting **Edgewood purchase**

If matters move according to plan, Botsford General Hospital will move its administrative offices into the Edgewood Elementary School building

Edgewood Elementary School building in May 1982.

The plan to buy the school at a cost of about \$5.11.131 from the Clarence-ville School District hinges on the Michigan Department of Public Health appropriate Boblector's plans.

Hopital Spokesman Russ Tuttle is optimistic that the department will issue the territicate of need and open the way toward remodeling the \$0,000-square-foot building on \$1. Francis and Sedalia next to Boistord's existing complex.

Space for data processing, personnel, financial management, patient accounting, payroll and other administrative offices would be found in the modeled school.

tive offices would be found in the remodeled school.

Crowding in the present hospital buildings has forced its administration to look toward expansion, hospital spokespersons have said in the past. But residents of the surrounding area, many of whom sent their children to Edgewood Elementary School, opposed the hospital's expansion, fearing that patients would be brought into the now-seant school building. They also feared streets made congested and dangerous to children by racing ambulances and increased pedestrian traffic.

Rumors that the hospital would install its cardiac-rehabilitation unit in the building added to the controversy.

the building added to the controversy.

HOSPITAL SPORESMEN have emphasized that Botsford doesn't have any plans to turn the school building into a patient care facility.

In an effort to convince the residents that the building would house only offices, Tuttle appeared before a meeting of the Section 36 Homeowners Associated.

of the property would eliminate traffic on St. Francis, hospital administrators

said.

Landscaping would screen the building from the neighborhood.

But some residents aren't convinced privately that allowing the hospital to buy the school is good for the neighbor-

hood.

They would rather see their children still attending the school which has been closed by the Clarenceville district due to declining enrollment and

revenue.

Nancy Glenfield has four children in the school. Although the Clarenceville the school. Although the Clarenceville School Board told her and other par-

School Board told her and other par-ents there wasn't enough money to con-tinue operating the elementary school, she isn't ready to believe them. She retains the same skeptical atti-tude toward the hospital's intentions. "Who knows in a couple of years what Botsford will do?" she asked.

SHE FEARS clogged streets even though she's been told the driveway to the school would be barricaded and its doors blocked.

Another parent who fought to keep the school open before its closing in the fall is Sandy Curtis. Mrs. Curtis fought for several years to have a stop sign erected in the area to control traffic in the vicinity of the school.

She finally won on the stop sign but, she notes, the neighborhood lost the school.

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"The residents were really upset. We fought it (the closing) hard," she said.

She contends the area has many more children than the school board anticipated.

But now that she and other parents have lost the battle to save the school,

In all litter to convince the residents have lost the battle to save the school, that the building would house only offices, Tuttle appeared before a meeting of the Section 36 Homeowners Association.

Residents also addressed the hospital sale before the section of directors.

An entrance through the hospital side of the section of th

promotion on July 1, 1980. The promotion, to grading inspector — the next level up from engineering aid II — pays \$2,000 more than her current job. Attorneys for Albaugh and the city worked for months on a compromise settlement to find Albaugh an equivalent promotion in another city department or to increase her salary. At one point, city attorney Thereas Schaeffer said a settlement was two weeks away. But negotiations broke off.

The city responded to Albaugh's claim Dec. 50 negating any sex discrimination. Five days later, Albaugh and another engineering aid received layoff notices effective Jan. 19, 1981.

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"Only two people in the whole city (administration) are being laid off, and she's one of them," Susan Winshall, Albaugh's attorney, said. "Obviously they're trying to make her life miserable because she accused them of discrimination."

AFTER RECEIVING THE layoff notice, Albaugh filed a second claim against the city with the civil rights de-partment for retaliation. The two charges will be investigated by the de-

Winshall explained why her client filed the initial claim.

"Laurie is holding an unusual job for a woman," she said. "She goes out on

a woman," she said. "She goes out on sewer inspections.

"She's interested in raising her posi-tion and her salary and applied for the promotion in a lengthy application.

"She has excellent qualifications, in-cluding a bachelor's degree in biology from Central Michigan University and iob experience.

"Rut when it came time for a promo-"But when it came time for a promotion, they gave it to one of the boys."
Winshall says both Albaugh and the
man promoted to grading inspector had
equal length of service and skills.
"It was almost a toss up," she said.
Engineering Supervisor Tom Biasell,
who oversees the department of 16,
says the promotion was given to the
more qualified candidate.
Blasell's decision was made by
reviewing job performance and expertise, he said.
Albaugh's job classification, engi-

pertise, he said.

Albaugh's job classification, engineering aid II, pays \$15,378. Duties include inspection of city-owned public utilities such as sanitary sewers and water mains. Traffic and surveying studies and drafting are also part of the tob.

A GRADING INSPECTOR is paid \$17,074 for performing similar tasks of surveying, drafting and inspections. City Manager Lawrence Savage ech-oed Biasell's claim that there was no

discrimination involved. He said the coincidental timing of the layoff was due to "strictly economic reasons."

"Building activity has subsided," he said. "We had to lay off two people with the lowest seniority.
"This may impact Laurie's case, but we had no other alternative."
Other departments avoided layoffs by not filling positions opened through attrition, Savage said.
Blasell says the layoffs in his department will save the city \$30,000.
"There was no retaliation," he said. "That's as simple as I can make it."
A meeting was scheduled Friday afternoon between city representatives, Albaugh's attorney of civil rights. The retaliation charge will be examined in addition to the original allegation of sex discrimination, according to Justice Moore, deputy director of the enforcement bureau of the Michigan Department of Civil Rights.
If the department finds sufficient cause for issuing a formal charge of discrimination, it could issue an order to cease and desist. The city could appeal that order to circuit court.

If the department dismisses the charges, Albaugh could also appeal to circuit court.
Between 5,000 and 6,000 cases are closed each year by the department of civil rights, Moore said.

In April 1979, Farmingtion Hills paids \$75,000 in an out-of-court settlement to Bonnie Swadling, a community service officer who charged that she was denied a Job as police officer because of her sex.

Workers eve move to South

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

Job hunters in Michigan appear to

They can sit tight, remain in the ate and look for jobs not strongly tied

They can sit tight, remain in the state and look for jobs not strongly tied with the auto industry.

Or they can head south and west, an option more persons are willing to at least investigate, according to job placement experts.

The change is evident at Oakland University in Rochester, which draws students from surrounding suburbs.

In previous years, the students who students from surrounding suburbs.

As a result, the school didn't see as many out-of-state job recruiters as other larger Michigan universities, sayes ment services.

But the perreptions of students and job recruiters have changed since the auto industry servicient of the unit of the students of the students and job recruiters have changed since the auto industry has fallen on hard times.

"After what appeared to be a reduction of the auto industry is recruitment last fall, there was an increase in re-cruitment from out-of-state," Kevern said.

"OUT-OF-STATE recruiters thought

"OUT-OF-STATE recruiters thought the young people growing up in the auto industry would want to work in the auto industry."

At least with Oakland University, that perception seems correct in light of the fact that an estimated 75-80 percent of the students who used the placement center services once said they weren't interested in moving out of

ment center services once said they weren't interested in moving out of state.

Within the last several semesters, about 60 percent of the students at the placement center said they would move out of state in order to find a job. Of that 60 percent, Kevern says, about 30 percent do move out of Michigan, usually to the south or west.

"We always asked if the student would move out of state," he said.

"Now, we encourage them to look out of state."

Students who once decided upon pursuing a particular job at a certain company are encouraged now to keep their interests broad and all options open.

Many students are driving out of state without a firm job offer just to test the markets elsewhere. The approach has worked, according to Kevern, who cites the stories of former students who showed up during the holidays to tell about their new jobs in San Fransisco, Houston and Dallas.

THERE ARE opportunities avail-

THERE ARE opportunities available in the state in jobs not tied to the auto industry, Kevern says.
"I have a lot of faith Michigan will say the Famule people want to

"I have a lot of tatin aucungan win come back. Enough people want to stay. I have a lot of kids who continue their interest in the automotive field." Some jobs remain in demand, ac-cording to John Thompson, provost of Oakland Community College's Orchard Hidge campus in Farmington Hills. "All our placement's in Michigan."

"All our placement's in Michigan, he said.

Most of the college's course offerings involve fields which remain in demand, such as food service, secretarial and computer skills.

"There are no problems in these areas," he said.

areas," he said.
Employment agencies, such as Snelling & Snelling's Livonia office, report
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what's inside

