

Open housing center moves in to Bingham

By Pat Murphy
staff writer

When Sheila Patterson decided to move to Oakland County from Detroit, one of her first contacts was the Oakland County Center for Open Housing.

"I always lived in an integrated neighborhood," said Patterson, a regional marketing director for an insurance company. "So I wanted my 4-year-old to get the same benefits."

Patterson is one of more than 1,000 people who have contacted the open housing center since it opened in March 1990.

She's also one of the reasons the center last month moved from Farmington Hills into Bingham Farms. The center, formerly at 37935 W. 12 Mile Road, is now located on the first floor of the Bingham Center building at 30600 Telegraph Road, Suite 1233.

"We needed more space," said the center's co-director, Ann Wettlaufer. "But we also wanted to be more centrally located."

She and others at the center thought they could be more effective

located in the central part of the county.

THE OPEN HOUSING center is a non-profit agency committed to the positive aspects of integration — such as the benefit of raising children in a multi-cultural setting.

Concerned about demographics showing that most of Oakland County's neighborhoods are all white, the center helps residents — renters as well as prospective homeowners — to either find mixed residential areas or to integrate them.

Wettlaufer and co-director Barbara Talley are busy preparing a two-year progress report to present at the center's annual meeting on Sept. 25.

But while she doesn't have complete statistics, Wettlaufer is upbeat about the center's accomplishments over the last two years.

"Basically we build and offer a support system," said Wettlaufer. "We support families that want to live in integrated neighborhoods, as well as those that want to make a pro-integrative move" by going into previously all-white neighborhoods.

"WE KEEP TRACK of rental units available as well as houses for sale and new development," said Wettlaufer.

The center has been most successful, she said, locating families in the Bloomfield Hills and rapidly growing areas like Rochester, Farmington Hills and Novi.

One measure of the center's effectiveness, Wettlaufer said, is the endorsements it has received from Boards of Realtors, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, the Oakland County Board of Commissioners, New Detroit Inc. and 24 communities.

The center is funded with two \$40,000 grants (one from the City of Southfield and one from Southfield Schools), \$12,000 in federal money through the Oakland County Community Development Fund and municipal memberships from Birmingham, Farmington Hills and other communities, Wettlaufer said.

The center also has 100 individual memberships.

For further information, call 647-0575.

Open house set at new center

The Oakland County Center for Open Housing will host an open house from 6:30-7:30 p.m. during its second annual meeting Wednesday, Sept. 25. The group meets at its new locale in Bingham Farms, 30600 Telegraph Road, suite 1233. Following the informal gathering,

members will get down to business and elect officers to the board of directors for 1991-92. Families who have made pro-integrative moves will be there to talk about them. Also, a video meant to acquaint homeowners with communities and homes in

Oakland County will be shown. Refreshments will be served. The video was made with help from Captured Live Video Productions, with funds from the Birmingham Unitarian Church and the Lansing Area Constitutional Liberties Fund, Inc.

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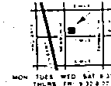
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How to avoid perfectionism

Men, women and even children can fall into the snare of perfectionism.

An Oakland University Continuum Center workshop, "Excellence Without Perfectionism," will explore this entrapment from 9 a.m. to noon Tuesday, Sept. 24, at the Meadow Brook Health Enhancement Institute on the Rochester campus.

Roberta "Jeff" Dalley will examine the pattern of setting a standard for excellence, achieving it and then being drawn into an expectation of flawlessness in every task.

Fee is \$39. MasterCard/Visa is accepted. Registrations will be taken through Monday, Sept. 23, by calling 370-3033.

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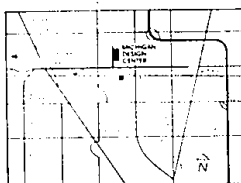


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