

CALENDAR

Oakland Kaleidoscope features a roundup of Oakland County government, school, civic, community and neighborhood sources. **Writer:** Oakland Kaleidoscope, County Editor, The Eclectic News, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009. Our fax number is (810) 644-1314.

ADOPT A FAMILY
Every Christmas in the tri-county area, thousands of children go without stuffed stockings, brightly wrapped gifts, or even a turkey dinner. Volunteers of America Southeast Michigan, Inc., an Oakland County-based non-profit human services agency, is trying to change that.

Now in its fourth year, the Christmas Adopt-A-Family program matches up needy families with sponsors who provide food, clothing and toys for their "adopted" family. Sponsors agree to buy a minimum of one new toy and one article of clothing per child in addition to providing a grocery-store gift certificate for their adopted family's Christmas dinner.

Last year, VOA arranged for the adoptions of 125 families.

When you become a sponsor, you receive a detailed profile and a wish list of your adopted family. For more information on becoming a sponsor, call Volunteers of America Southeast Michigan's Ferndale office: (810) 548-4090.

NEW OFFICERS
Dr. Mary Elizabeth Roth of Birmingham, chairman of the Department Family Practice at Providence Hospital, Southfield, was elected to the Michigan Division of The American Cancer Society. She will be its national division director through August 1996.

Other new members are Dr. Arthur Porter, Detroit, president; Harold J. Piotrowski, Chesterfield Township, chairman; Dr. Ruth A. Decker, Ann Arbor, vice president; and Dr. Dorit Adler, Ann Arbor, director-at-large.

STRAIGHT TALK

"They Claim To Have Seen The Blessed Mother, Judge For Yourself" is the topic of an upcoming Straight Talk hosted by WKBD (Channel 60) news anchor Amyre Makupson.

The taping will be 5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 8, at WKBD Studios, 26905 W. 11 Mile Road, Southfield. The show airs at midnight Sunday, Dec. 10. To join the audience, call (810) 355-7089.

CADETS GRADUATE

Forty-two cadets will graduate Dec. 1 from Oakland Community College's 65th basic police training class at the Auburn Hills campus. The graduation's keynote speaker is James Brickley, chief justice of the Michigan Supreme Court.

Nine of the graduates are from Metro Detroit police agencies, including Farmington Hills, Ferndale, Lapeer County, Novi and the Oakland County Sheriff's Department. Other graduates are independent students deemed certifiable by the state, OCC said. Police Academy director Richard Tillman said more than 87 percent of OCC's police academy graduates find law enforcement jobs.

OVEREATERS MEET

Overeaters Anonymous-Greater Detroit Intergroup, headquartered in Southfield, will meet 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 2, at Botaford Hospital's administration and education building, 8050 Grand River, Farmington Hills. For a list of Overeaters Anonymous meetings, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to OA List, 25611 Southfield Road, Rm. 127, Southfield, MI 48075.

— compiled by Janice Tigar-Kramer

Many Dems join GOP on welfare reform

By TIM RICHARD
STAFF WRITER

After much fulminating, a majority of Democrats joined all Republicans in approving two welfare reform bills advocated by Gov. John Engler.

House Bill 5353 won 82-25 approval on Nov. 9. Of area Democrats, only Reps. Maxine Berman of Southfield, David Gubow of Huntington Woods and Tom Kelly of Wayne voted no.

Area representatives voting yes were: Penny Crissman, R-Rochester; Barbara Dobb, R-Union Lake; Jan Dolan, R-Farmington Hills; John Jamian, R-Bloomfield Township; Shirley Johnson, R-Royal Oak; and Greg Kaza, R-Rochester Hills.

The bills failed to get the two-thirds vote needed for immediate effect and cannot become law until about next April 1. Opponents said the bills give

the Department of Social Services, to be renamed the Family Independence Agency, too much power with too little legislative oversight. They argued too little attention was paid to day care for mothers with small children.

In a compromise, mothers of newborns would not have to seek work until the infant is three months old. An earlier version of the bill required them to seek work after six weeks. The compro-

mise establishes parenting, child development and nutrition classes as options for the period from six weeks after birth to three months.

Engler called the bills "a strong sign to Washington that states have an abundance of ideas to solve problems and the conviction to carry them out."

with a parent or in adult-supervised households before they may receive aid. Current policy sets up teen mothers in their own quarters, often resulting in poor care of their babies and more births, critics of welfare said.

The Senate is expected to take up the bills early in December. Refer to House Bills 5353 and 5354 when writing to your state senator, State Capitol, Lansing 48909.

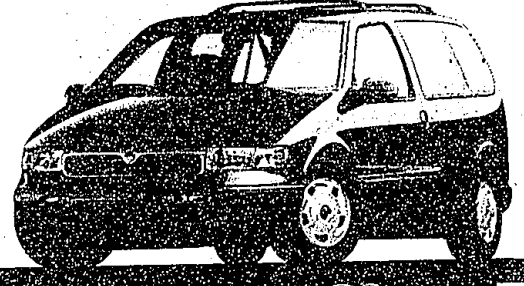


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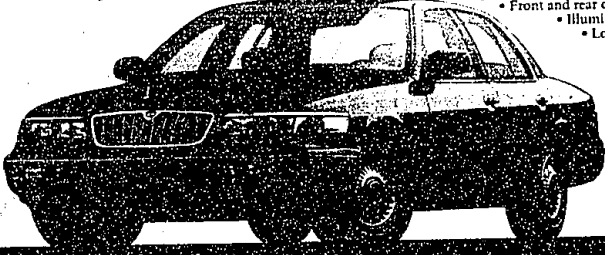
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Don't Sell Your Baby!

If it's time for your "baby" to leave home, donate that precious old car, truck or boat to Volunteers of America. Donating is simple, fast and easy. Gifts qualify as tax deductible contributions for those who itemize. Receipts issued.

Volunteers of America has been serving southeast Michigan's needy since 1907. Funds derived from your vehicle can house a homeless mother and her children in our transitional housing program for at least a month or more.

For more information, call (810) 373-8000