Housing market slows down, but home prices are going up

Michigan housing sales dropped 2 percent during the third quarter compared to the same period a year ago, the Michigan Association of Realfors reported this week. But most areas, including Oakland County, reported price increases.

It blamed sagging consumer confidence, due in part to the struggle over the federal budget and the Mideast crisis.

Some potential buyers are taking a "wait and see" approach before moving up the housebuying ladder, reported Mel Durbin, president of the 23,000-member association.

"However, despite our recent downturn, Michigan's housing mar-ket is still a favorable market, with the average price of \$2,938 well be-low the national average of \$120,500, Durbin said.

"INTEREST RATES are still at a good level, and listings are up, creating a slight shift to a buyers' market, while potential buyers wait for things to get better, housing values are continuing to increase, as evidenced by the 4-percent rise in the average price over a year agine.

"We continue to be optimisted about the future of Michigaris housing market."

In the future of Michigaris housing market. The abuyer now, I would first look to Fifa and VA foans as my initial inger and the mortgage market. These are undertuiting and sources of mortgages that most buyers have been neglecting.

BELOW ARE local market re-

BELOW ARE local market re-ports provided by real estate boards. They exclude sales by non-member real estate agents. Figures show the number of sales in the first three quarters of 1989, followed by the

Northern Oakland County —
1,930; 1,901; down 1.5 percent. Average price was \$91,721, up 5.72 percent.

• Southern Oakland County — 3,177; 3,047; down 4.09 percent. Average price was \$83,779, up 5.41 percent.

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• Western Oakland and Wayne counties — 13,605; 13,070; down 3.93. Average price was \$95,637, up 3.45

percent.

Downriver — 2,455; 2,449; down 0:24 percent. Average price was \$66,886, up 5.5 percent.

Livingston County — 1,183; 1,073; down 7.74 percent. Average price was \$115,777, up 9.9 percent.

Maccomb County — 11,618; down 0.31 percent. Average price was \$11,592; down 0.31 percent. Average price was \$25,598, up 3.44 percent.

Praise your children, agency says

Child Abuse Councils across the state are joining together for a public awareness campaign entitled, "Stop the Report Card Reflex." "This campaign promotes positive parent-child interactions when children bring home report cards," said Meg Mitzel, executive director of the Child Abuse and Neglect Council, County of Oakland.

The organization's public awareness committee, chaired by Lt. John Himmelspach of the West Bloomfield Police Department, has sent letters to all elementary school principals and PTA/PTO presidents in Oakland County.

They explain that report eards:
• Are sometimes the only e

munication between teachers and parents.

• Generally focus on academic progress, but are mechanisms for reporting school behavior (usually problems) as well.

• Can provoke a range of response from parents, depending on numerous variables.

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• Ask what kind of help the child and to the child to improve grades.

• Ask what the child can do to make the tergrades.

• Make a plan with the teacher and the child to improve grades.

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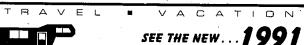
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No other candidate matches his credentials.

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Oakland Sheriff John F. Nichols
Oakland Prosecutor Richard Thompson
Oakland Clerk Lynn D. Allen
Oakland Treasurer Hugh Dohany Oakland Drain Comm. George Kuhn Circuit Judge Robert C. Anderson Circuit Judge Steven N. Andrews Circuit Judge David F. Breck Circuit Judge Jessica R. Cooper Circuit Judge Hilda Gage Circuit Judge Alice L. Gilbert Circuit Judge Richard D. Kuhn Circuit Judge Fred M. Mester Circuit Judge Francis X. O'Brien Circuit Judge John N. O'Brien Circuit Judge Gene Schnelz Circuit Judge Edward Sosnick Circuit Judge Robert L. Templin

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