

AROUND OAKLAND

Housing center seeks families

Oakland County Center for Open Housing is seeking families interested in participating in the Family Volunteer Program...

Purpose of the program is to encourage interaction between home-seekers who wish to make a pro-integrative move...

Goal is that interaction of families will result in the appreciation of diversity and enrichment of the families, neighborhoods and communities in Oakland County.

You are invited to attend a Volunteer Orientation Meeting at 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 25, at the Huntington Woods Library...

Call Deborah Taylor, Family Volunteer coordinator, at 647-0576, to confirm your attendance.

League sets public forum

The Oakland Area League of Women Voters is sponsoring a public forum on education at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 24, at the Oakland County Board of Commissioners Auditorium...

The forum, "Education: What's on the line?" focuses on the prospects and challenges facing Michigan education in the '90s.

Each panelist will address the audience separately before engaging in a panel discussion. This will be followed by questions from the audience.

The LWVOA encourages the public, especially school board members and parents, to attend this free event.

For information, call Ann Glenn, 625-2775.

Food bank needs help

The Food Bank of Oakland County and The Women, Infants and Children Program have begun a community-based outreach program for expectant mothers and mothers of young children throughout Michigan...

Mothers who qualify will receive packages containing food and information about the program and its services.

Volunteers are needed to help pack boxes from 3-8 p.m. Monday-Friday from now until March 5. A second shift is also available from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Fridays.

To volunteer, call Bob Bauer, 332-1473.

Conservation teacher awards

Nominations are being accepted for a national teacher of the year awards program in conservation education.

All full-time teachers in public, parochial and private schools are eligible to participate. The purpose of the program is to create an appreciation of the value of conservation education and to stimulate efforts by teachers to advance the wise use of soil, water and related resources.

The program is designed to recognize teachers who have implemented innovative soil and water conservation activities.

The first place prize is \$1,000 and a trip to Phoenix, Ariz. to accept the award. Second place prize is \$500.

For more information, or to get an entry form, call 620-0863. Deadline for nominations is March 1.

Other issues muddy property tax reform debate

By TIM RICHARD STAFF WRITER

The 1993 version of the property tax debate is more than a battle over which medicine to use. It's a battle over which disease to fight.

"The issue is the economy... the unemployment rate," said Dr. Doug Roberts, state treasurer and Gov. John Engler's advocate of a 20 percent school property tax cut.

"We're saying you can do

them together — tax reform and school finance reform," said Rep. Barbara Dobb, R-Union Lake.

Dobb is vice-chair of the House Taxation Committee weighing the merits of Engler's Senate-passed plan versus a bipartisan plan she supports.

The panel listened all Wednesday morning to Roberts and Richard Headlee, chairman of Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Co. of Farmington Hills,

head of Teachers United, and Joe of government spending.

Next it will hear an outline of the plan supported by the Group of 14: Republicans, Dobb and Susan Munsell of Howell, Democrats Bill Keith of Garden City and David Gubow of Huntington Woods, among them.

Their plan calls for cutting school tax rates (now an average of \$34 per \$1,000 of valuation) to \$17, raising the personal income tax and allowing voters to sub-

stitute a 2-cents sales tax hike in 1994. It would have the effect of evening out the resources per pupil at about \$4,700. It would not affect business taxes.

Roberts praised the group's effort to solve the school funding problem but said, "It has the problem of not addressing the first issue (the economy)."

"Under it, the vast majority of renters will end up paying more taxes. Small families will pay more. Families with two parents

and two kids will pay less — but they're not typical families any more.

"The single biggest winner," Roberts went on, "will be non-residents — people who have lakeshore homes in Michigan but live in Chicago. They'll get a property tax cut but pay no more income tax."

Headlee supported Engler's across-the-board tax cut with no replacement taxes.

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