

# Realtors learn to fight bias

Realtors can go a long way toward helping eliminate discrimination, attendees at a recent seminar in Farmington Hills heard.

About 125 Realtors attended a celebration of the federal Fair Housing Act, which is 25 years old, at the Botsford Inn on May 13 and found out how they can meet that goal.

Marta St. James of the Western Wayne Oakland County Association of Realtors called the session informative and a celebration of fair housing.

"The turnout was very good," she said. "This is our fifth year. Every year we celebrate fair housing."

Among those attending were representatives from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the FBI and the Department of Commerce.

The three-hour session focused on the diverse population in southeast Michigan, which includes people from other cultures and minority residents.

A panel discussed what steps Realtors must take to ensure that prospective customers are not discriminated against because of their race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin.

"We believe people have a right to live wherever they can afford to," St. James said.

Because of the changing makeup of communities, people selling property must be aware of and adapt to a changing market, especially since many buyers are from culturally diverse backgrounds. Realtors must go through a great



SHARON LEMIEUX/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A tear fell: Deborah Wright Taylor of the Oakland County Center for Open Housing wipes away tears as she hears a story of discrimination.

deal of training in order to keep up with this culturally diverse market, she said.

"People don't realize the amount of training we (Realtors) have to go through," St. James said. "Not everyone who has a license to sell real estate is a Realtor. We have a strict code of ethics."

# Health center provides Mother's Day events

More than 160 people gathered together May 7 for Botsford Continuing Health Center's (BCHC) Mother's Day Garden Luncheon.

Warm sun and clear skies made for a sunny afternoon as BCHC residents and family members had a champagne social followed by lunch and live music.

The garden luncheon featured a 1940s theme offering a unique atmosphere for all those in attendance. Staff, residents and family members donned hats, gloves and costumes of the 1940s era and enjoyed big band songs as they lunched and socialized.

The Mother's Day outdoor event has been a continuing tradition at BCHC. "We really wanted to make it a special day for BCHC residents and their family mem-

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Care is a 179-bed extended-care facility. In addition to providing extended care, the facility provides hospice care, short-term respite care for families that need relief from daily caregiving activities and a variety of support groups as part of its community outreach program. BCHC is a Medicare/Medicaid certified facility.

Botsford Continuing Health

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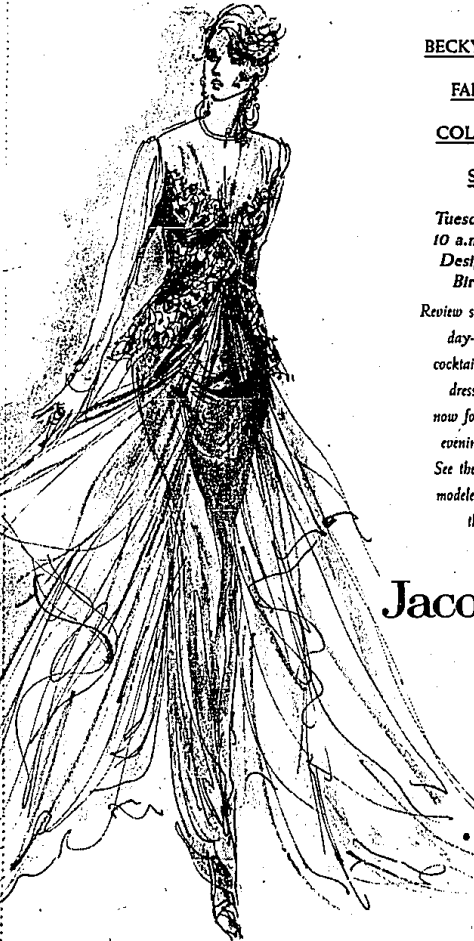
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