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Mid-Income Housing Subsidy Need Seen

Southeast Michigan's seven counties will need 44,344 new dwelling units during the 1970s, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) predicts.

The forecast of needs was published following months of analysis of census data, housing construction reports, and other forecasts by governmental agencies, said James L. Trainor, SEMCOG acting executive director.

A construction rate of 44,000 dwelling units per year would maintain 1971's record home construction year in the seven counties, and for surpass most annual construction totals of the 1960's, he said.

A SEMCOG Housing Authority (MSHDA) data committee headed by Charles M. Tucker Jr., executive vice-president of the Metropolitan Citizens Development Authority and mayor protem of Pontiac, supervised work of the SEMCOG Housing staff.

FOUR MAJOR sub-markets in housing requiring substantially more assistance to reach the goal of "a decent, need for this group, but will do home and a suitable living environment for every American family" were identified in the forecast. These four are low-income households, middle-income households, the aged, and non-whites.

SEMCOG's population and economic forecasts indicate that in the 1970s, the number of households with annual incomes (in 1965 dollars) of less than \$10,000 will decrease from 945,000 to 677,000, but that this group will still comprise 40 per cent of all households, and that 146,000 (or 11 per cent) will have incomes of less than \$3,000.

The forecast cites Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) data estimating that 95,000 households with incomes under \$10,000 now residing in substandard housing will require subsidies.

Because data concerning location of housing for the poor in relation to job opportunities was not available, the SEMCOG forecast does not give a precise figure of need for this group, but will do so by "correlating more

detailed 1970 census data on household income due to be released this month by the U.S. Bureau of Census.

MODERATE INCOME families (\$10,000-\$15,000) constitute a growing segment of the population which, along with lower-income families will require some type of housing subsidy," the forecast states.

With the percent of elderly-headed household in Southeast Michigan expected to increase from 16 per cent of all households in 1970 to 18 per cent in 1980 and with some 46 per cent of the elderly limited to incomes of less than \$3,000 annually, this group likewise will need housing assistance, according to the forecast.

Census data also shows that only 12 of the 71 southeast Michigan communities of more than 10,000 population had a non-white population of more than five per cent.

"These facts have important policy implications for meeting the housing needs of this region," Trainor said.

"And SEMCOG, over the next several months, will be considering plans and strategies to meet these needs."

To calculate the forecast need for housing, SEMCOG allocated estimates among four factors. These were net household growth to accommodate new families to be formed—296,582; housing losses—26,458; substandard dwellings—110,171; and vacancy requirements—11,133.

"HOUSING IS a regional problem which cannot be solved unless local communities work together," Trainor said.

"We must open all areas to all kinds of people as rapidly as possible and simultaneously improve the quality of housing and neighborhood amenities in the neighborhoods where the poor and the black now predominate.

"Significantly, suburban development is already providing a variety of housing types and at a range of cost and rental levels. But in order to meet adequately the housing requirements of all the people of the region, these efforts must be intensified and strengthened. Particularly, accessibility to housing close to employment centers must be ensured for everyone within this region."

CJHS Council Winds Up Year

"Hoping to Build a Better School" was the theme of the Clarenceville Junior High Student Council this year.

Their ultimate goal was achieved recently when they said farewell to 40 fellow students who were on their way to the Ontario Science Center in Toronto as part of a one-day, all-expense-paid award trip for students who have shown outstanding effort and improvement in academics and citizenship during the school year. The award students were selected by the junior high faculty.

The council earned more than \$800 to support the award trip. Other activities included the adoption of Adha Rahman and his support in Ullal, India; new basketball facilities and picnic tables for the junior high patio; painting the football helmets; participation in the UNICEF and Save Our Zoo Drives.

Also, the lunch hour game room; four successful dances including the Mr. and Miss Junior High dance; Student Council exchanges with Cook Junior High in Norville and St. Vincent's, Detroit; sixth grade orientation; and a breakfast honoring former principal, Arthur Mann, and Mrs. Genevieve Frank, counselor.

To show their support for the release of American prisoners in Viet Nam the council purchased two POW bracelets.

The council has also worked cooperatively and effectively with the school administration on many issues, academic and non-academic.

Officers are Marta Scharrenberg, president; Rick Canady, vice president; Marty Wenson, secretary; and Theresa Lynn, treasurer. Committee chairmen are Jordan Hecker, special projects; Lisa Berry, dance committee; Pat Kolodziejczak, money-making committee.

Faculty sponsor is Michael Couchman.

Special Summer Classes At C'ville

A special Title I summer program for new kindergarten children and for selected students presently in the program, in grades 1-3, will be offered this summer from June 26 - August 4 at Clarenceville's Westbrook Elementary School.

The pre-school class will be taught by Mrs. Sue Woodsum and grades 1-3 by Mrs. Lynda Greely. One-half of the enrollment must come from low-income families or those receiving some form of assistance. The remainder of the class is open to children who need additional instruction.

Those who qualify financially and who would like their children enrolled in the pre-school section are asked to call either the principal at Westbrook School or at Edgewood School.

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Nextek Listed As Leader In Education

Clarenceville's director of music, John Nextek, has been selected to appear in "Leaders of American Secondary Education" - 1972 edition.

Leaders of American Secondary Education is an annual awards program honoring the men and women who have distinguished themselves by their service and leadership in the field of secondary education. Each year, the biographies of those honored are featured in the awards volume, "Leaders of American Secondary Education."

This school year marks Nextek's 11th as Clarenceville's high school band director.

Nextek took his undergraduate degree at Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio, and earned a master's from the University of Michigan.

Under Nextek's direction, the marching band has appeared twice in Detroit's "Thanksgiving parade, earned two awards in two appearances at the National Cherry Festival in Traverse City, did a half-time appearance at a Lions game and a post-game show at a Michigan State game.

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