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Another group home slated for Farmington Hills

The Macomb-Oakland Region Center (MORC) is preparing to place four men in a group home for mentally retarded persons in Farmington Hills within the next two to three weeks.

That's about the time the MORC expects its license application for the home on Rolleston near 12 Mile and Orchard Lake roads will be accepted by the Michigan Department of Social Services, said Jean West, a development specialist for MORC.

The organization conducted an opening home for its neighbors in the Farmington Hills branch library last month.

Administrators are heartened by the response of persons living close to the home, which extended into offers of aid, Ms. West said.

"Some were neutral at first but I think they were positive about the home after meeting the administrator," she said.

She admitted that there are a few neighbors who are concerned about the

home's effect on their property values.

The home isn't a replacement for one in West Franklin Estates Subdivision which was destroyed by fire on Nov. 3. That incident is still under investigation.

None of the men considered for the home were originally scheduled to live in West Franklin Estates.

TWO OF THE MEN considered for residency in the home are now living in other group homes. The move to the new home on Rolleston represents a

step toward their ultimate goal of living as independently as possible.

The other two being considered for the home now live in institutions.

As with other group homes, state law requires that persons 26-years-old and under be sent to school. Persons living in the home who are older than 26 will be employed in a sheltered workshop.

Each home's residents are chosen so they match in skills and personality. More independent persons aren't

housed with those who need detailed supervision.

Residents are matched also to the skills and expertise of the home's chief administrator.

This is the first administrative position for the home's supervisor, Stella Welka. She has been a staff member in several group homes and has worked for the Jewish Vocational Services, Ms. West said.

In addition to the administrator, the

home will have two staff members present between 3-11 p.m., when the residents will have returned from school or their jobs. After midnight and during the day, when the residents are either working or sleeping, there will be one staff member in the home.

As with other such homes, the three-bedroom brick ranch is acted by a non-profit corporation entering as MORC's overseer. MORC itself doesn't rent or buy the homes but acts as the developer.

Gas cheats feel ire in probe

U.S. Rep. William Brodhead, D-Detroit, has requested the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to launch a nationwide investigation into tax evasion by gasoline wholesalers.

The 17th District congressman is acting on the basis of a recent investigation. Made by the Oversight Subcommittee of the House Ways and Means Committee, the investigation revealed some Michigan gasoline wholesalers were avoiding payment of the 4 cent federal excise tax by under reporting or failing to report taxable sales.

Brodhead blames the cheating on inadequate reporting procedures.

"The federal treasury is being cheated out of millions of dollars a year because the IRS enforcement programs are incredibly weak and invites abuse," he said in a recent letter to Acting IRS Commissioner William E. Williams.

Investigators met with officials at the Michigan Treasury Department's Motor Fuel Tax Division, agents in the examination division of the Detroit IRS office and businessmen who are aware of how some Michigan distributors cheat on gas taxes, according to Brodhead.

"They learned the state system is virtually impossible to evade, whereas the federal system invites abuse," he said.



Sign of a new day

Letter carriers, famed for thwarting all sorts of weather to deliver the mail, often are taken for granted. Reporter Louise Okrusky and photographer Randy Borst went out to spend a day with

Farmington area carrier David Maben to see what that solitary life is like. To read and see more, turn to Page 3A. (Staff photo)

Group vows youth aid with guide

Kids who want to know where to go for recreation, counseling, other activities or services in the Farmington area need only visit the nearest agency dealing with youth for a complete up-to-date list of everything that's available.

The Inter Agency Council (IAC), a communications network which coordinates youth services for professionals who work with children, is publishing a directory which for the first time will list every available outlet for school age children.

The directory was the brainstorm of a school counselor, a crisis center supervisor and a juvenile division police officer who discovered overlaps and oversights in a variety of activities offered youth.

Questionnaires were mailed to a variety of agencies involved in youth services, including churches, libraries, schools, the YMCA and Farmington Hills parks and recreation department.

"We got almost 100 percent assurance from the community that there is a definite need for a local directory," said Jim Patton, clinical supervisor at the Farmington Area Advisory Council. "County directories are too cumbersome. This is a way of coordinating all the information in the most efficient way."

"We'll rely on the community to keep us informed."

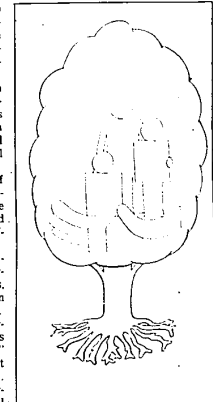
THE GOALS of the IAC, formed three years ago by Patton and Police Sgt. Richard Murphy, are to coordinate service, provide inter-referral and identify potential or real problems.

"The directory will afford those in need of help or just looking for things to do to find out about them," Murphy said.

"We don't deal with names or specific cases," added Pam O'Malley, a counselor at Power Middle School and a member of the IAC. We share general information."

A newsletter will be distributed throughout the community periodically coinciding with the school year. It will make its debut next month.

The directory will be published in the spring. Fees, phone numbers and other vital information will be included.



The newsletter will focus on various programs, with the first one featuring a closeup look at the Farmington Public Schools child find program for preschoolers.

"We'll be reporting on our own area of expertise," says Patton. "It's all community based."

The newsletter will keep professionals aware of what other organizations are doing.

The newsletter and directory were made possible by a \$400 allocation to the IAC by the Farmington Board of Education and by service club donations.

"It's the first time the IAC has operated with a budget."

"We need to get all together to coordinate services," Patton said. "We've been fortunate to keep the IAC going three years and to increase goals."

The first three years were primarily to serve persons serving on the IAC committee. The format was an informational exchange between professionals.

High-rise phobia

LaSalle foes vow high court battle

By BARBARA UNDERWOOD

Franklin Village isn't going to take no for an answer when it comes to Park LaSalle.

The village council voted unanimously Monday to take its Park LaSalle fight to the Michigan Supreme Court.

The action followed two setbacks for the village at the hands of the Michigan Court of Appeals, the most recent this week.

The village has been thwarted in its attempts to challenge a site plan for the proposed residential and commercial development known as Park LaSalle.

The development is in the city of Southfield in the 12 Mile-Telegraph-Northwestern Highway "Silver Triangle" about one-half mile south of Franklin Village.

SITE PLAN approval was granted by the Southfield City Council in March

1978. The village of Franklin and Lillian Victor, owner of property adjoining the proposed development site, appealed to the Southfield Board of Zoning Appeals, challenging the approval.

But the board refused to hear the appeal saying it lacked jurisdiction. The village then took the matter to Oakland County Circuit Court and in March 1979 Judge William Beer dismissed the suit.

At the time, Beer commented, "I am laying to rest the annoying intervention of the village of Franklin into the city of Southfield's affairs."

The village appealed Beer's ruling to the Michigan Court of Appeals and the appeal was denied last November. Word was received this week that a subsequent motion for reconsideration also was denied by the court of appeals.

The village's suit is "testing the denial of the plaintiffs to appeal the Southfield Council's actions to the Southfield

Zoning Board of Appeals," Councilman Stewart Katz said Tuesday.

THE SOUTHFIELD Council granted a permit for construction of a portion of the Park LaSalle development, he said.

"We think the permit was improperly granted and that we should have the right to appeal that to the Southfield Board of Zoning Appeals," Katz said.

"That right was denied to Franklin and other plaintiffs," he added. "That denial was the subject of the litigation in front of Judge Beer and ultimately the court of appeals and now the Supreme Court of Michigan."

A supreme court ruling favorable to Franklin "most likely would direct the Southfield Zoning Board of Appeals to conduct administrative hearings on the propriety of the granting of the permits," Katz said.

Such a ruling also "most probably would result in revocation of the permits previously granted and hold the permittees in abeyance pending the outcome of administrative procedures," he added.

OTHER LEGAL action pending in the fight against the Park LaSalle development involves four citizens groups fighting to stop the \$125-million project.

That litigation claims the 50-acre project "at Franklin's front door" would turn the area into another Northland Shopping Center.

S.B. McLaughlin Associates Inc. of Canada, Park LaSalle developer, was granted permission by Judge Eugene Schnelz in Oakland County Circuit Court to proceed with construction of two of the buildings in the proposed development.

Subsequently, the foundation of a 12-story condominium was begun but no work has been done on a nine-story office building.

The development plans call for one 25-story apartment building, four 20-story apartment buildings, a four-story hotel/health club complex and a one-story recreation building in addition to the 12-story condominium and nine-story office building.

The entire complex is expected to take 10-12 years to complete once building starts.

Before taking career leap examine regional options

By CRAIG PIECHURA

In the tradition of pioneers, many out-of-work Michigan residents are hitching up the wagon, loading up the family and heading west. Like 19th-century trailblazers, they're hoping to make a new life for themselves in the golden west.

But hold off on hanging that "Houston - Or Bust" sign on the side of your station wagon, partner, until you learn what job skills are in demand in that section of the country, say spokesmen for two job-placement agencies in Southfield.

Charles Brooks, a partner in Executive Personnel Services, Inc., and Don Dahlin, who heads the Southfield office of Dunhill of Detroit, are in the headhunting business of finding the right persons for business clients with job openings.

Usually businesses come to these personnel agencies, not out-of-work businessmen. But, by the nature of

their job, Dahlin and Brooks have advice for persons who are out of work and seeking to find new employment.

And their advice to the restless is to look around locally unless you're invited. (Continued on Page 4A)

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Little Things Do a Big Job!

Need to sell some items around your home? One small ad placed with a friendly Observer & Eccentric ad-taker will work for you! It'll reach nearly 150,000 suburban households. It's no wonder Ann Scullin had almost 60 calls the day her ad ran for her '73 Montego. "I even got the price I wanted."

Remember, one call does it all... 644-1070

Ingersoll to provide engine test system

Ingersoll-Rand Company's Automated Production Systems, Farmington Hills, has received \$10 million in orders to supply engine assembly and test systems to the Chevrolet Motor Division of General Motors Corporation.

The Automated Production Systems Division will supply a combined final engine assembly and cold test system, as well as a major portion of the engine hot test system, to Chevrolet's Tonawanda, N.Y., Engine Plant. The equipment will be used in production of 4-cylinder car engines.

include automatic stations for fastener tightening, leak testing, loading and unloading, plus engine timing set and oil fill, and functional cold testing.

The hot test system consists of 20 automated test stands with advanced technical capabilities to test engine functions under simulated driving conditions.

The Automated Production Systems Division, headquartered at 23400 Halstead Road in Farmington Hills, is a leading supplier of automated assembly and testing systems for automotive and heavy equipment manufacturers, worldwide.