

Tireless Common Ground coordinator says good-bye

By BARBARA UNDERWOOD

Tireless Alice McCarthy, Common Ground's public affairs coordinator for almost six years, announced last week that she will leave the multi-service agency.

"We'll survive, but it won't be the same," Common Ground Alternatives Coordinator Andy Blinder said Friday. "She's like a mother hen leaving all her chicks, but she thinks we are grown up enough to weather the storm without her."

Mrs. McCarthy is leaving to begin work on a doctoral degree.

Common Ground Director Diane Vincent said she is "frantically looking for somebody to replace her. She has been here the longest of anybody."

"Alice has worked full-time and then some," she added. "We will fill the position. We can't leave maintaining our image and credibility to chance."

MRS. MCCARTHY said she decided several months ago to leave Common Ground but waited until now because "I had a lot of work to accomplish before I left."

Her last day at Common Ground will be July 15 but she does not expect to start her studies until the second semester of the coming academic year.

She received her undergraduate and master's degrees in guidance and

Registration at nursery

Registration for children ages 3-5 in the Workmen's Circle Nursery School is now being accepted for fall. The school is at 25341 Coolidge in Oak Park.

A limited number of openings are still available in the nursery and in Sunday classes for children five years and older.

The school offers non-religious Jewish instruction in Jewish history and tradition, holiday celebrations, ethnic music and Yiddish language.

For more information call 545-0985 between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. daily.

counseling from Cornell University. She plans to get her Ph.D. in a human services related field at an area university.

Mrs. McCarthy started with Common Ground in 1972 when the agency was two years old and struggling to maintain an image in the community.

"I came here when Common Ground was badly in need of a liaison with the community and I came as a person from the community," she said. "I am glad that I was flexible enough to help wherever there was a need."

SHE TAKES pride in and responsibility for starting many facets of the work today at Common Ground, including an orientation program for beginning volunteers, organization of Friends of Common Ground and others.

"Our services are much more professional and stronger now than they were," Mrs. McCarthy said. She also was instrumental in organizing the "Are You Listening?" parent education

programs which were offered to parents of Birmingham area school children for a number of years.

Her hope for Common Ground is that it will gain the support and advice of top-flight professional people in the community.

"The services at Common Ground are very sophisticated and the programs are unique. The community has been generous with its money and open about recognizing the agency and

understanding it," Mrs. McCarthy said.

"But I would like to see more community involvement in leadership roles. We need the help of professionals in the community to assist us in maintaining the funding necessary to continue our programs."

DURING THE past nine months, Mrs. McCarthy has been responsible for most of the fund-raising activities of Common Ground in addition to her public affairs responsibilities. This has included developing a resource file of funding sources.

Common Ground currently receives money from 150 sources in addition to individual donations, she said.

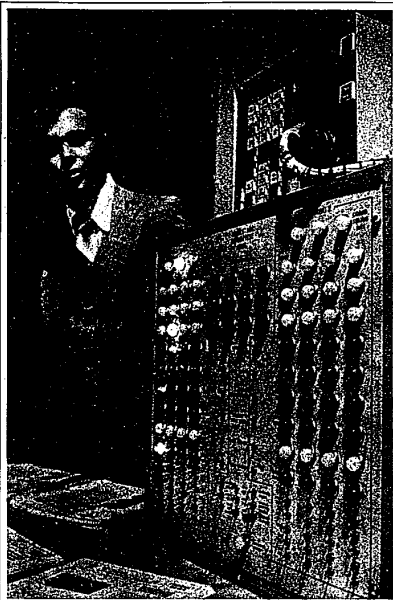
Mrs. McCarthy is an energetic worker on any project she undertakes

and she says people have told her that Common Ground has more publicity than any other agency in the area.

"There probably isn't another agency in the tri-county area that does more than Common Ground," she said.

While she waits to start her doctoral studies, she will "get back to family responsibilities that have been shunted aside for this six-year period."

Mrs. McCarthy's husband, Walter, is executive vice-president and a member of the board of directors of Detroit Edison Co. Their five children are Bill, 14, at home; Jim, 19, a student at the University of Michigan; Sharon, 22, and David, 24, graduates of the university; and Walter, 26, a recent graduate of Wayne State University's medical school.

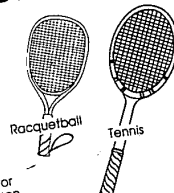


Traffic signals have show

Traffic control equipment and devices were displayed in Southfield's DPW garage last week. In conjunction with the International Municipal Signal Association, the Michigan Section of Institute of Transportation Engineers sponsored an afternoon program for the public to view new technology in the traffic signal market. This apparatus called an Econolite 2 Phase Controller, controls traffic signals electronically. The multi-colored lighted panel fits inside the yellow and gray boxes below each traffic light. Other items included a Scan 7000 otherwise known as a highway condition surveillance system. The device detects ice on the roads through a small disc placed on the pavement. Highway conditions are transmitted through an electronic box, which signals dry, wet or alert readings to highway patrolmen. Police use the readings to issue traffic reports and send maintenance crews out. (Staff photo by Gary Friedman)

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