



### It takes all kinds

Large or small, the job must be done as is demonstrated in these two photos. At top City of Farmington Department of Public Works employees John Stevenson (top left) and Mike Zachos comb city streets to pick up the mounds of leaves left by residents. The truck acts as a giant vacuum cleaner cruising down street after street sucking up the fall's residue of leaves. But William Hartwell (left) likes to do his leaf chore the real old fashioned way by using a near antique 36-inch rake to groom his yard. (Staff photos by Harry Mauthe)

## Vandalism drops

# Thieves prefer houses, cars

Although homes and cars are becoming more popular as targets for thieves in Farmington, there is less larceny in the city, according to Public Safety Department's third quarterly report.

While robbery and auto theft have jumped, vandalism dropped in the last nine months as compared to the same time last year.

Adult and juvenile arrests have decreased and injury accidents are down by 18 per cent. There have been no fatal accidents in the city so far this year.

One rape and four robberies are on the department's logs for this year as opposed to three robberies in 1977. There were no aggravated assaults this year as opposed to five in 1977.

Burglaries are up 13 per cent with 84 incidents as opposed to 74 for the first nine months of 1977. Larcenies are down by four per cent but auto thefts have jumped from 12 last year to 22 this year.

About 22 per cent of the above crimes have been solved by the department so far this year.

If larcenies continue to decrease, the department anticipates a slight decrease in these above named crimes by the year's end. This would be the third year in a row these statistics have dropped, according to Police Chief Dan Byrnes.

Vandalism has dropped from 1977.

FROM 185 incidents of vandalism in 1977, Farmington's statistics have dropped to 147 for this year. About 72 per cent of the vandalism cases which the police deal with this year have been solved, according to the report.

Arrests for both juveniles and adults are down for this year. Adult arrests have dropped by 21 per cent. Juvenile arrests are down 44 per cent.

After showing increases in traffic accidents for the first six months of the year, the department is now showing a decrease.

There have been no fatal accidents this year. Injury accidents are down 18 per cent and property damage accidents are down four per cent.

Private property damage accidents are up 14 per cent. Total accidents are down two per cent for the first nine months of 1978 as compared to the same time in 1977.

Fires have decreased slightly from last year. There were 96 total fire runs in 1977 and 95 for the same nine month period in 1978.

There have been 21 structural fires in 1978 as opposed to 16 in 1977. Of this

year's fires, four have required call back of off-duty personnel as opposed to nine such call-back last year.

FIRE LOSSES are down from last year. In 1977 there was a loss of \$193,210 recorded for the first nine months. Among these losses were included those from the Danish Inn fire.

This year only \$13,250 has been lost to fire in the first nine months of 1978.

Programs such as the vial of life and animal control have been active in the first nine months of 1978.

A part-time animal control officer was hired during the summer months and for seven weeks went door to door throughout the community licensing

dogs. There have been 635 dog licenses issued this year until the program when the total raised to 990 dogs for the summer months.

The animal control officer issued 254 warnings and six violations. The largest number of offenders lived in the Meadows and Tall Oaks subdivisions, where 59 warnings and four violations were issued.

The same officer passed out vials for the vial of life program. In addition members of the Community Observation Patrol Service completed the rounds in distributing the vials for information and medicine storage.

There have been 1,008 dog licenses handed out for the entire year which is an increase of 231 from last year.

## Sex survey launched in C'ville district

The Clarenceville community will express their opinions on an expanded sex education program for Clarenceville schools early next month.

The Clarenceville school board agreed Thursday to include a survey on the subject in the December newsletter to parents. The newsletter will have the survey included at the bottom, to be filled out and returned to the board.

A recent optional Michigan law permits schools to now expand their current sex education classes to include reproductive health, family planning and venereal disease. The law requires strict guidelines for the districts who plan on implementing the law.

According to Supt. David McDowell, the survey will explain what the law permits and ask residents what kind of program they would like, if they want one at all.

"I think a lot of people in the community know about the law and are willing to see what we're going to do about it," he said. "This way we can ask them what they think we should do

and how they feel about an expanded program as a whole."

He indicated the Clarenceville currently has a sex education program in the schools, but nothing as extensive as the new law permits.

"I think this type of survey will be very helpful to us while we're deciding which way to go on this," said Samuel Frisk, president of the board. "We can get the advice of the community while we continue to study the issue."

One guideline of the law is the requirement of a committee to study the issue and come up with curriculum ideas and goals. The committee must contain a specific number of people in the religious, medical and professional fields.

McDowell explained a survey by the community could be used as a backup in the event a group comes to the board to oppose expanded sex education.

"With our surveys, we can hold them up and say, 'look, this many people want this type of thing,'" he said.

Observer & Eccentric

## Classified Ads Work!



## At home for retarded

# Director's job is a mission

By LAURENCE CHAKUR

Gerald Provencal sees what he does for a living not as a job, but as a movement that needs a champion.

That movement is the Macomb-Oakland Regional Center (MORC), an agency serving the mentally retarded in Oakland and Macomb counties.

MORC differs from other institutions because of its emphasis on community placement, a concept pioneered by former director David Rosen.

When Rosen left to become director of programs for Mental Retardation in Michigan, Provencal became the center's acting director.

He was a natural choice, having been with MORC since its inception in 1972 and having served as acting director once before.

THERE ARE 11 other institutions for the mentally retarded in Michigan, but few compare to MORC. There are few institutions in the nation which have an emphasis on de-institutionization such as MORC's.

Provencal beams when he explains that an English visitor to MORC once showed him a picture of a home modeled after one of MORC's.

Community placement seeks to set up a home environment in either a group home of six or more mentally retarded persons or through a foster home plan.

Each group home has two para-professionals qualified to handle the particular problems of their "family." The members of this family lead as normal a life as possible, not being confined to the home, and often working.

This home setting, or scaled-down institution, helps the self-image of the individual, Provencal explained.

At present there are more than 30 groups in the MORC service area, the largest in Michigan. Wayne County only has three institutions.

MORC HOPES TO have 41 homes by the end of November and is beginning to expand into St. Clair County. There are approximately 60,000 mentally retarded persons in the three counties that MORC serves.

The state funds these mini-institutions because, by statutory mandate, they are required to provide assistance to those who cannot get help from family or local agencies. Many families are not able to provide the specialized needs of their offspring.

The concept of community placement contrasts sharply with the widely used method that groups hundreds of mentally retarded persons in institutions like the controversial Plymouth Center in Wayne County.

The MORC facility houses 106 clients who may eventually be placed in homes, but who now live in the six, two-unit duplexes at the MORC facility across from St. Joseph Hospital in Mt. Clemens.

"We feel that the mentally retarded have an ethical, constitutional and moral right to live in a residence," said Provencal.

He believes that arguments for the civil rights of

the mentally retarded parallels those of the civil rights movement of minorities and feminist groups. "The rub is similar because no one wants them next door, either."

MORC IS NOT without its problems. The concept of community placement is well received, but some of the homes have been steeped in controversy.

Community opposition comes from community homeowners who argue that group homes are a violation of deed restrictions and zoning.

Provencal and John Torrone, MORC's director of community relations, believe that the problems confronting community placement are rooted in misunderstandings and lack of knowledge about mental retardation.

This "misunderstanding" is countered by Torrone's public information work in a community prior to the establishment of a home.

By use of, and cooperation with, the media, Torrone makes use of public service announcements and coverage in local newspapers to educate the public.

By seeing the group or foster home concepts, a community views the home as a part of the neighborhood—a small agency rather than an encroaching state institution.

Provencal is satisfied at MORC, but if he left the center he said that he would stay in the field of human services.

LIKE THE MENTALLY retarded, Provencal feels the aged and juvenile are also misunderstood. He thinks that there has been an image problem with these groups, and remembers a time when the mentally retarded were considered freaks.

"People are more willing now to perceive the mentally retarded as just being a little different," he said.

Provencal lives with his wife and two daughters in West Bloomfield. He said that his social life revolves around the center and even his vacation time is used for promoting community placement of the mentally retarded.

## First Phone Nutt

On Sept. 1, 1978, Miss Emma M. Nutt became the first female telephone operator in America. Hired by Edwin T. Holmes for the Telephone Dispatch Co. of Boston, Miss Nutt replaced a man and started a new trend in phone operations.

## save energy

Take military showers where you turn the water off after you are wet, then lather up and turn the water on again to rinse. Or install a special water-saving shower head that gets you just as wet with less water.

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in 10 colors  
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