

# Suburban Life

Lorraine McClish editor/477-5450

Monday, January 30, 1984 O&amp;E

(F3B)



## A voice and a choice

### Nursing home council helps make everyday living just a bit better

By Lorraine McClish  
staff writer

The Michigan Association of Nursing Home Community Councils is now in the process of forming a council in Oak Hill Nursing Home to make life a little better for the residents there. It is one of many such councils, either underway or getting started in the state, but the first to be organized in this area.

"We focus on three areas," said Pat Rea, who got the council started here. "Our purpose is to provide residents with anything in the way of education that they might want brought into the home."

"We work with issues that might need some explaining, such as keeping up to date with state laws, or bringing classes into the homes on topics they would like to know about or like to have."

We strive to make their social life better and we strive for better communications to resolve any problem in any area."

Overall, Rea described the work of the new council as "Bringing the community to those who cannot get out into the community."

REA IS A student at Eastern Michigan University who was assigned the job of forming the council. The project will wind up her studies for a degree in social work.

As a student intern, she visited half a dozen community councils. She worked in nursing homes throughout the state, upgrading the quality of life for the residents there before sending the word out here for council volunteers.

"All communities are different and all nursing homes are different, but it's been clear to me that the councils have been doing their job, many times in the way of preventing small problems from becoming big ones," she said.

She told of one council that had won better lighting in a lounge area so that residents could read. The success was in a home where residents "had virtually no say at all."

She told of another home that worked out a program, through the help of the council, which allowed residents to do some gardening on the grounds.

The food service was improved in another home. And, in yet another, it was arranged to provide coffee for the extra-early risers.

"If those sound like small things, they are not," Rea said. "They all add up to talking about what can be done to improve everyday living and letting the resident know he or she is not isolated from the rest of the world."

ALLOWING THE residents to have a voice and a choice in their everyday activities is what Rea singles out as the most important element of the council's work.

"The Farmington area homes are fortunate, maybe a lot more fortunate than many I've seen," Rea said.

"Oak Hill has a family support group, and a decent listing of volunteers."

"Many church organizations are already there doing things. Church services are given in the home. One group operates Bingo games and another transports those who wish to attend church services outside the home. Several groups come in for one big activity a year."

Both Scouts hope to follow in their father's footsteps.

### Kyriakopoulos elected

Van Kyriakopoulos of Birmingham has been elected president of the Parish Council of Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church in Farmington Hills.

Kyriakopoulos, son of Angeliki and the late Soterios Kyriakopoulos, was born in Varna, Kypria, Greece. He is a graduate of Wayne State University and is co-owner of Kerby's Koney Islands of Southfield. He and his wife, Chrysoula, have three children, Sotiri, Kiki and Eleftheria.

Serving with Kyriakopoulos as new council members are Larry Christoff of Northville, William Skoures of Southfield, Mary Brozek of Farmington Hills and Dr. Angelo M. Zervos of Detroit. Remaining members of the council are Peter Eeon of Detroit, Soter Liberty of Birmingham, Gus Mackris of Southfield and Nicholas M. Madias of West Bloomfield.

The oath of office was administered



Van Kyriakopoulos

to the newly elected president and parish council members by the Rev. Stephen J. Anthony, parish priest.

### Library of Congress

Join Quakertown Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution in celebrating February as American History Month all across the nation. As citizens we should know the Library of Congress is believed to be the greatest reservoir of organized knowledge in the history of learning in America. It was founded in 1800 and its prime function is to furnish such books as may be necessary for the use of Congress. All are allowed in the Library of Congress where you will find 18 million books and pamphlets, more than 46 million manuscripts, maps, prints, photographs, and other examples of man's graphic expression through the ages.

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is for visitors to come in to visit those who have no visitors," she said.

THE STATE association of nursing home community councils is based in Ann Arbor and was started as a pilot program at the University of Michigan. It is funded by the Michigan Area Agency on Aging.

The local councils are on their own, working as they can to improve the life of those in the homes they serve, and remain under the umbrella state-supported organization.

To date, the Oak Hill Nursing Home Community Council lists as volunteers Belle Hargreaves and Ann Iwick from Trinity Episcopal Church, and Maria Holle from St. John Lutheran Church.

Gibby Carpenter represents Oak Hill's family support group, Anna Shepherd and Stella Shepherd represent the residents of Oak Hill, and Elsie Yaffe represents Oak Hill's volunteer group.

The council welcomes others from the community to join them at 10:30 a.m. Friday, Feb. 3, for the second of two organizational meetings in the home on Grand River and Gill Road.

Rea is acting as chairperson for the group now. The goal is to have a full 16-member council, an elected chairperson and be fully underway by early April.

Carl Simcox, Rea's director in Ann Arbor, will take calls relating to nursing home councils at 1-663-3737.

Sharon Kurmanlak, activities director for Oak Hill, will take calls about the local council at 477-7373.



*"The problem is that nobody has ever asked what the residents want. Group come forward and tell them what they will do for them whether they want it or not. The residents are told what they are going to do next Saturday afternoon. No one asks, or at least seldom asks, what they would like to do Saturday afternoon."*

— Pat Rea



### World Religions Month

The Rev. Joan Kahn-Schnelder dons Indian dress for her talk on Hinduism. The talk leads off the Universalist-Unitarian Church's "World Religions Month" series Sunday, Feb. 5. The series continues at the 10 a.m. services each Sunday when Kahn-Schnelder will tell of the beliefs, rituals, historical and personal effects of Buddhism, Taoism and Islam. Guests are invited to the services and to share in the discussion hours immediately afterward in the church, 25301 Halsted, north of Grand River.

### Eagle Award won by twin brothers

James and John Waak, sons of Mr. and Mrs. William Waak of West Bloomfield, received their Eagle Scout Awards when Troop 116 of Farmington Hills hosted an Eagle Court of Honor for them in North Farmington High School.

The 16-year-old Waak twins, Juniors at Harrison High School, the 108th and 109th scouts of Troop 116 to achieve the rank of Eagle, Scouting's highest award.

As active members of Lutheran Church of the Shepherd King in West Bloomfield since baptism in 1967, James and John have been members of the Junior Choir, Youth League, been confirmed, and served as acolytes.

They have both received All-Star honors on Little League football and baseball teams, and each has a couple of medals for skiing with the Kandahar Ski Club.

An interest in sports led them both to participate in Little League football for a period of four years and five years with Little League baseball.

During their years at Warner Middle School, both young men participated in track and wrestling as well as band. New juniors at Harrison, they have both earned a varsity letter in swimming and enjoy pole vaulting on the school's track team.

John was one of a trio of vaulters whose combined effort earned them a first place during a 1983 regional meet. An interest in instrumental music began during their years at Eagle Elementary School with clarinet for James and alto saxophone for John. This led to two summer sessions at Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp and playing with the Harrison High School Marching Band and Symphony Band.

James continues with his clarinet while John plays tenor sax for marching band and baritone sax for both symphony and jazz bands.

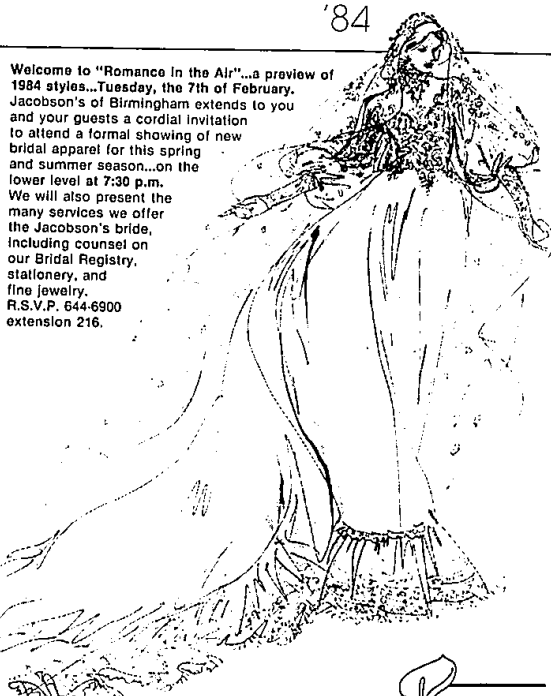
WORKING AT the Sign of the Beaver for the past 18 months, both place most of their earnings into savings accounts to help pay for their college education. James has recently been promoted to beecarver.

Indian Guides held their interest for two years prior to joining Boy Scout Troop 116 in 1978. Since that time, James and John have both held leadership positions as assistant patrol leaders, patrol leaders, and presently are a part of the leadership corps teaching younger scouts skill awards.

### BRIDAL FASHION SHOW SPRING/SUMMER

'84

Welcome to "Romance In the Air"...a preview of 1984 styles...Tuesday, the 7th of February. Jacobson's of Birmingham extends to you and your guests a cordial invitation to attend a formal showing of new bridal apparel for this spring and summer season...on the lower level at 7:30 p.m. We will also present the many services we offer the Jacobson's bride, including counsel on our Bridal Registry, stationery, and fine jewelry. R.S.V.P. 644-6900 extension 216.



We invite you to register your gift preferences.

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