## High court hears group-home case

Whether or not cities have the right to restrict the placement of group homes for mentally retarded and other groups is an issue that was argued be-fore the state Supreme Court Tuesday. Livonia city attorney Harry Tatigian said the court's decision should resolve whether cities have the power to limit group homes.

whether clites have the power to limit group homes.

Tallgian told the court the issue isreally "a zoning case not one involved with the right of the mentally handicapped or mentally lil."

Many Michigan communities have challenged the state's right to place bomes in communities despite zoning or other restrictions. Michigan's lower courts generally and the state court of appeals without exception have upheld the state's right to place group homes, however.

however.

The appeal which reached the su-preme court Tuesday was made by Livonia and Southfield. The case is the first that the high court has agreed to

first that the high court has agreed to review.

Most officials expect the ruling to dicide the group home issue. Attorneys estimate it could take aix months for the court to announce its decision.

We re thankful we're here to finally the Issuer received. Tataligan dod the issuer received. Tataligan dod the statement of the st

proceedings and take part in the decision.

Attorneys for both sides presented brief oral arguments. The belik of the arguments were in legal briefs which will be reviewed by the court.

The Livoular/Southfield appeal.

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There were initiated by Livoular, the fourth by Southfield.

The Livoular cases concentrated on the issues of zoning violations, building deficiencies, deed restrictions and state licensing procedures. Each of the Livoular cases involved a request by the Department of Social Services' (DSS) to license an existing home for use as an adult foster care small group home. The farre bomies, 28043 Stammor, 1456 Ellen Drive and 27079 Pickford, are in areas zoned for single-family use. The Southfield state was filed by the south of the lives are as the same of the single-family such that the same state of the

use.

The Southfield suit was filed by The Southfield Factorian case and centered on the placement of mentally sill adults in group homes.

Tatiglian asked the justices to consider that homeowner have a right to be

He also said there was an unfairness to the administrative law judge procedure which has ruled in disputes with the state. The administrative law judge works for Department of Social Services, which is the licensing agency for group homes.

Livonia's attorney said the language in Public Act 218 — the law which allows adult foster care homes — is vague and unconstitutional because it doesn't contain standards for determining what is an "excessive concentration" of adult foster care facilities. Many communities have contended that they have an execusive concentration of group homes.

Tattigan said that more affluent group homes, "nove affluent of group homes," and afficient said of the more affluent of the state Department of Social Services was William Basinger, assistant attorney general. Dolores Coulter of the Michigan Protective and Advocacy Services for the Developmentally Disabled represented group home residents and Jon Garrett represented the group home residents and Jon Garrett represented the group home wars and operators.

Justices James Brickley questioned

senied the group home owners and operators.

Justices James Brickley questioned Basinger about how the state defines 'excessive concentration.'

Basinger crplained that it depends on many demographic factors — availability of shopping, housing, transportation, schools, hospitals etc. and that 'facts should be the ultimate determinator.'

mator."

"It'll like pornography — you know it the Michigan Courts of Appeals and 32 when you see it," Basinger said. He indicated that Livonia did not have an excessive concentration and said that "We can't be that far' off base," Gargroup home residents are less than it retts aid.

one-thousandths of one percent of Livo-nia's population.

Asked when "excessive concentra-tion" might be recognized, Basinger claimed it is when normal residential surroundings tend to deteriorate. Un-tice William Ryan suggested that dete-rioration could be emotional as well as physical.

state concentration is a "two-edged sword".

He explained that the provision was meant to guard against establishing mental health glettoes.

Dolores Coulter argued that persons living in foster care homes have a right to live in normal residential surrounding. She argued that any reversal by the high court "would undermine public high court "would undermine public high court "would be cleck."

William Parion as back the cleck."

William Parion back the cleck."

Foot argued that group bone enabling legislation lists four categories of adults eligible for placement in small group home — aged, emotionall disturbed, developmentally disabled and physically handicapped "and not menably lil" and Poole.

Although attorneys for either side decided in succular on the outcome.

tally ill" said Poole.

Although attorneys for either side declined to speculate on the outcome, Garrett noted that 11 decisions from the Michigan Courts of Appeals and 32 out of 36 circuit court cases have been

## Computer courses are scheduled

Several courses with an emphasis on computers have been scheduled by Madonna College, Liwonia, kibs month.
Scheduled for 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. May 12 and 19 la "Computers For Non-Computer People." The two Saturday workshops will provide an introduction to computers, including terminology, basic operations and capabilities. The fee is 500 and 500 are several courses for the family of the several courses for the several courses for the several courses for the several courses for the several course for the several course for the several courses for the several course for the several cours

fee is \$70.

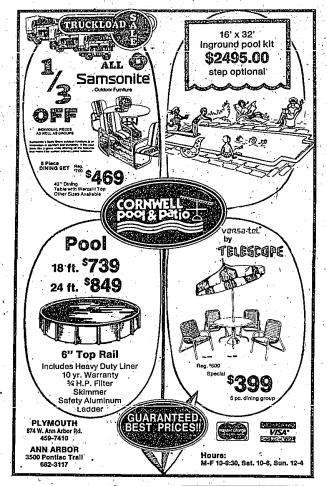
Two separate courses for the family are offered. "Computers For Mons," will be held from 9-1 a.m. Monday and Wednesday, May 14 and 16, Designed for the beginner, it will feature handson experience, computer games and exercises. The fee is \$20.

sessions are scheduled for June and July. The feeth \$453.

A Friday evening workshop, "Buying A Home Computer," will assist the first time purchaser in selecting a computer for use in the home or small business. It is scheduled 8-10 pm. Friday, May 18. The fee is \$10 person or \$15 per

couple.

A class, "Computers and Nursing,"
will address the role of computer systems in health care. Scheduled for
Thursday, May 24, it will be held from
9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The fee is \$35.











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