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— Anna Ewing



Residents prepare a table setting at the Community Living Center in Farmington as Sister Shirley Ruder, left, the house manager, looks on. The residents are John Stuart, center, and Carol Nester, right.

One small step toward independence

By Sharon Dargay
staff writer

John Stuart will take his first full-blown, grocery shopping trip on Tuesday night.

The former Livonia resident will studiously take notes during the list-to-cash register procedure and observe as friends select and make purchases.

Meanwhile, Carol Nester, a Saginaw native, will brush up on her jumping jacks and apartment-cleaning techniques.

Grocery shopping isn't a typical prerequisite for apartment tenancy. Neither is a good exercise program. But for both Stuart and Nester, two residents at the Farmington Freedom House for the retarded, the tasks represent one small step in a long progression toward independent living.

After studying grocery shopping and exercise programs through hands-on experience, the pair will make oral presentations to other residents in Community Living Center (CLC) houses, who, like themselves, are being prepped for supervised apartment living.

Community Living Center in Farmington runs one of the most extensive

networks of privately-owned group homes for the retarded in Michigan. Approximately 100 mentally retarded adults live in CLC group facilities in Auburn Heights, Royal Oak, Hazel Park, Clawson, Farmington and Southfield. Most of the homes are licensed for up to 14 adults, although one Southfield facility accommodate only six residents.

CLC ALSO runs a 14-unit apartment building in Southfield and assists five mentally retarded adults in non-supervised apartments. Group homes serve as a long-term home for many retarded adults and as a stepping stone to greater independence for residents like Stuart and Nester. Both lived with their families, and at other CLC group homes before moving to the five-year-old Farmington Freedom House to hone their self-sufficiency skills.

The dozen residents at Freedom House receive Social Security payments, general assistance benefits or wages from daytime jobs to pay their monthly "rent." All work at sheltered workshops or in jobs within the community. They share common dining and living room facilities at the

house, but double-up on bedroom space.

"I think all mentally retarded adults benefit from being in a group home," said Anna Ewing, CLC program development director.

"If they come from their parents' home, they've probably been treated as children most of their lives. And if they're in an institution, they're just another one of the pillows."

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"But we're also being as cautious as possible. We're known for being more protective (of clients). What makes CLC different from many homes is that the manager actually lives on the premises and we provide 24-hour supervision."

TOM KENDZIORSKI, attorney for the American Association of Retarded Citizens, said CLC has a good reputation for quality care among group homeowners. But he also noted that because it is a private organization,

CLC may screen its clients and accept "less problematic people."

Other options for retarded adults include some 65 state-run group homes through the Macomb-Oakland Regional Center and foster-care facilities administered by the Department of Social Services.

Kendziorski said higher-functioning retarded adults who "aren't retarded enough" to meet mental health department qualifications, yet have no immediate families, often end up in the social service facilities.

"They're the poorest of the poor," he said.

He said that although the group home concept is now at least a decade old, and Michigan boasts model programs, some communities still object to retarded residents living in their neighborhoods. And retarded adults often face waiting lists for group living arrangements.

"There's no waiting list for day programs, but the other big problem is transportation," he said.

EWING SAID CLC facilities operate vans, transporting residents to work, school and group activities. However, Freedom House residents also may walk to Farmington's downtown shopping district.

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"You got to go downtown or go to a show," Nester explained. "I like exercising and I ride my bike. Sometimes I run."

The faster they learn to fend for themselves, the sooner they may be placed into a supervised apartment.

"I still have a lot of things I have to work on — laundry and cooking," Stuart said. "I also have to learn to keep track of my money."

Nester, who works as a housekeep-

er in a nursing home, takes her development in stride.

"I'm not in any hurry. If I move out this year or next year it doesn't matter. You've got to take one day at a time."

The Southfield apartment complex which allows the retarded adults a chance at independent living will be featured on this page in the Oct. 29 issue.

INSIDE ANGLES

Know someone doing something notable? Let us know. Write: Inside Angles, Farmington Observer, 23352 Farmington Road, Farmington 48024.

DAVID JOHN STENSON, son of Mr. and Mrs. John F. Stenson of Farmington, has been awarded a 1984-85 Harley J. Anderson engineering scholarship in the amount of \$1,500. Granted by the GMI Alumni Foundation, the Harley J. Anderson scholarship is awarded to assist outstanding engineering students with tuition costs. This scholarship, given annually and renewable, recognizes and encourages outstanding ability and accomplishment in the engineering sciences by persons pursuing a field of study leading to a practicing engineer status. Stenson, a senior, majoring in mechanical engineering is a cooperative student with GMI Advanced Product and Manufacturing Engineering Staff in Warren.

VOTER'S CHOICE, pro or con, a public interest debate sponsored by the Farmington Democratic Club at 8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 25, in the Bolstad Inn. The public is invited and questions can be asked from the floor.

NANCY ANN DOWNIE of Farmington Hills is a recent graduate of the Legal Assistant Diploma Program conducted by the Division of Continuing Education at Oakland University.

LOIS BIERENS of Farmington is one of several Torch Drive-supported agency staff members and service recipients featured in print advertisements for the 1984 United Foundation Torch Drive campaign. Lois is staff director for the Northwest YWCA. In the advertisement, she is seen supervising a group of youngsters who are staying out of trouble by participating in activities offered by the YWCA.

AIRMAN DANIEL R. ZERLO, son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Zerlo of Farmington Hills, has graduated from the U.S. Air Force telecommunications operations course at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas. During the course, students were taught to operate teletypewriter and other equipment used in the worldwide Air Force communications system. They also earned credits toward an associate degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

GARY RICHARD of Farmington Hills was awarded a bachelor of business administration degree from the University of Texas College of Business Administration.

DIANE LYNN DeMARCO of Farmington Hills is a senior at Michigan State University who is in Germany this fall under a unique program offered through Moorhead State University, Minnesota. Diane will teach at the International School of Hamburg through Dec. 14. She is a senior majoring in English at Michigan State.

BRUCE TUNG CHAN of Farmington Hills received a master of science in industrial administration degree from Purdue University, Indiana.

ZELMA DOLPH, a member of Quakertown Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), walked away from the DAR State Convention this fall with the award for "Best Press Book" in the state.

THE MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION of Police in an effort to promote safety this Halloween will offer free Halloween safety stickers. For one week (beginning Oct. 21) these reflective pumpkin-shaped stickers will be available at all metro area Ford Dealerships. The stickers will make young trick or treaters easily visible on Halloween night. This Halloween promotion will be the first of award-

ness programs which the Michigan Association of Police will sponsor.

FREE X-RAY screening of Halloween candy will be offered by the radiology department of the Providence Hospital Ambulatory Care Center 5-9 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 31, 10 Mile and Haggerty Roads. This screening will reveal any hidden metal objects, according to Cindy Fantazewicz, supervisor in radiology, but will not detect chemical contamination. Cider, coffee and tea will be served to visiting trick-or-treaters and their parents.

NANCY KAY WHITEMORE of Farmington Hills has been named to Omicron Delta Kappa, national leadership honorary for seniors, at Washington University in St. Louis. Nancy, a senior in the School of Engineering, was recognized at the Fall Honors Assembly.

ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEERS are needed at Providence Hospital in Southfield. Openings are available evenings and weekends as well as during the day. To make an appointment or to obtain additional information, call Jeanne Feder-spill, director of volunteer services, at 424-3300.

CONGRATULATIONS to Arnetta Whitehouse, treasurer of the Farmington Hills Junior Women's Club, chosen as a runner-up to the Clubwoman of the Year. Arnetta was recognized for her community involvement at a recent conference of the Michigan State Federation of Junior Women's Club held in Lansing. One member of the Federation is honored with this special award each year. Women are considered for their outstanding service to community and state through their clubwork on local and state levels and contributions to the community other than club activities. There are over 500 Junior Clubwomen in Michigan. Farmington area residents have benefited by Arnetta's generous donation of time and effort as a member of the Farmington Hills Junior Women's Club.



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Meet the man of real action, Sparky Anderson, who will be here to autograph your copy of his new book, *Bless You Boys, Diary of the Detroit Tigers' 1984 Season*. Don't miss this chance to salute him for this great Year of the Tigers, and get your own personalized memento. The book, 7.95

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