

# Guidebook outlines services for elderly

By Teri Banas  
staff writer

Chrysler's Lee Iacocca may have written a runaway best seller about his rise to fame, but his long-time pal at Ford Motor Co., Walter T. Murphy, has a "small hit" on his hands in Oakland County.

Murphy, retired director of Ford's worldwide publicity operation, was mentioned no less than four times in Iacocca's autobiography.

But you won't find Lee in Murphy's book. What you will find is almost required reading for anyone contemplating growing old and needing some help to get there.

ENTITLED "Caring and Sharing," it's a self-described "comprehensive guidebook" to the hundreds of services and programs in Oakland County that help persons over 60 "cope with their wide range of special needs."

The book was penned by Murphy, a Beverly Hills resident, and John R. Keeler, director of Sheltering Arms, a Birmingham day-care center for elderly senior citizens, operated by Oakland County Catholic Social Services.

"The information network that retirees had while they were working doesn't fulfill their needs after retirement," said Keeler. "When people retire, they get very frustrated and confused by misinformation. What they need is to put things into perspective: what's available, where to go and who is rendering it."

THE WRITERS say there are 160,000 retirees over 65 in Oakland County. Those over 75 number 50,000. And that figure is expected to double between the years 1990 and 2000.

While national directories have been printed with information about services and programs for the elderly, this effort marks the first time a local col-



GARY CASKEY/staff photographer

Walter Murphy (right) said he was living his golden years and decided to learn more about them by taking a gerontology class from John Keeler. They met there

and decided to write "Sharing and Caring," a guidebook to Oakland County services to the elderly.

and government services under easy-to-follow categories.

Keeler said he (Keeler) found services and programs even "I wasn't aware of. It was a way of putting together all the services I knew of."

"This is, after all, the information age. You need information to be successful and negotiate the environment."

WHEN IT was all collected, the men took the manuscript to OCC, where students helped publish the 146-page book.

To assist readers with falling eyesight, the print is enlarged beyond normal typeface, and the information is indexed in the front and back by alphabetized categories.

The project cost \$9,000, and \$1,500 of it was donated by the Fourmidable Group of Farmington, a developer of senior citizen high-rises in southeastern Michigan.

It contains more than 700 entries with names, phone numbers and addresses of private agencies

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Birmingham store will close at 8:00 PM Friday but will celebrate during the day.

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