

Group home in spotlight

Continued from Page 1

criminal records. Council members were unaware of Hayward's information or other allegations made by residents against the applicants seeking a group home license from the state Department of Social Services. But DSS officials denied the allegations and complaints against the Ypsilanti-based Renaissance House Inc., which is seeking a license to operate the proposed Grayling home. The corporation's three group homes — two in Jackson, one in Ypsilanti — are considered well-run facilities, said Swajanan.

A COMPLAINT was lodged against a staff member of the corporation's Ypsilanti group home, Swajanan confirmed.

"There was one complaint received in March. There were allegations of drug use and sexual relations between a staff person and one of the residents," Swajanan said.

Following an investigation, DSS consultant Bill Mitchell found the "allegations were not substantiated," Swajanan said.

In a report on his findings, Mitchell wrote: "I could find no corroborating evidence."

Reports on Renaissance House Inc. by both Mitchell and another DSS official showed "both individuals had nothing but positive statements to make about this organization," Swajanan said.

Following a meeting with residents in October, City Manager William Costick drafted a letter to DSS officials asking for information about potential group home residents as well as the license applicants, including the allegations about drug use and sexual relations.

THE STATE has since responded, but city officials have not yet made the information public. City council members are expected to receive copies of the state's response before tonight's regularly scheduled 7:30 meeting in council chambers, 31555 11 Mile. The council's meeting agenda lists the proposed group home for discussion.

State officials from the DSS and the mental health department will also meet with city and community representatives at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, in the council chambers.

The meeting was scheduled to discuss the proposed group home and to answer questions. "Hopefully we will be able to address some concerns in a good environment," Swajanan said, adding previous encounters to discuss the home have been hostile.

In his October letter, Costick requested an extension of the deadline for the city's response to DSS notification of the proposed group home.

DSS officials asked the city to determine whether the proposed group home would be within 1,500 feet of a similar facility. This determination is the only control a local government has over group home sites.

BUT CITY officials also told the DSS that the house has electrical, heating and structural problems. Farmington Hills building staff will not issue a certificate of occupancy permit for the two-story house until code violations are corrected.

"They cannot place residents in that facility until we have reviewed and evaluated a license for that adult foster care home," Swajanan said.

When the city first issued an occupancy permit for the Grayling house — when it was used as a private res-

idence — it was for only the first floor. Since the house was first built, however, a second story has been added, without the benefit of an occupancy permit.

The lack of an occupancy permit is also a snag in the DSS licensing process. "I sent a letter to the city and the corporation that I will not license the home until I receive an occupancy permit for the first and second floors of the home," Swajanan said.

While the Michigan Department of Mental Health is responsible for developing group homes, the DSS is the licensing agency.

The licensing process, however, involves more than ensuring that the house meets city building codes. Swajanan reviews the quality of care — programs, employees who will be hired and corporate structure.

"WE EVALUATE everything that will control activity in that home," Swajanan said. "We look at all the employees in this corporation."

This includes references, determining whether corporate officials and staff are of good moral character as well as education and experience.

Also reviewed is the corporation's admission requirements, planned staffing ratios and work schedules, grievance procedures and available training. Requests are also made for the proposed group home's menus and medical files, Swajanan said.

"We look at all their emergency procedures too," he added.

The facility is also reviewed to determine the "environmental conditions" for residents to be living there. For example, certain items are required for residents who may be physically handicapped, Swajanan said.



A helping hand

Police officers, firefighters, Goodfellows and service group members were among those hawking special Farmington Area Goodfellows newspapers Nov. 28 at major intersections. Above, Goodfellow Bill Priks works the corner of Farmington Road and Grand River in downtown Farmington. At least \$17,000 was raised during the day-long sale. Proceeds will be used to provide holiday baskets to needy area families and seniors. To donate money or goods, call the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce, 474-3440.

RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Step Out In Style
with a Chauffeur
Driven Stretch Limousine

DICK SCOTT LEASING, INC.
788 Ann Arbor Road
(N.E. Corner of Main and Ann Arbor Rd.)
Plymouth, Michigan
LOCAL: 451-1220
DETROIT: 963-2202

GREAT FOR FAMILY OR OFFICE PARTIES
MAKE YOUR HOLIDAY RESERVATIONS EARLY

Carrier
Let it snow...
Let it snow...
Let it snow.

INSTALLED FROM
\$899⁹⁵
50,000 BTU
58 GS 050-1

Honeywell
Save '30
\$99⁹⁵
Heating Only
Reg. \$129.95

We recommend Honeywell Fuel-Saver Thermostats as standard equipment on our high-efficiency furnaces.

BERGSTROM'S
TWO LOCATIONS

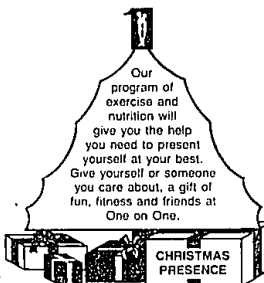
REDFORD 3625 W. 12 Mile Rd. 533-2100
FARMINGTON HILLS 26000 W. 12 Mile Rd. 533-2225

HOURS: Mon.-Fri. 9-7, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 12-4
Thurs. Fri. 9-6, Sat. 9-6, Sun. Closed



ONE ON ONE[®] ATHLETIC CLUB

* JOIN NOW! FOR ONLY \$25 A MONTH



Call Today for Details

Offer Expires after first 100 Memberships sold or December 14, 1986

*ONE TIME INITIATION FEE OF \$25 — MEMBERSHIP BASED UPON 24 MONTHS

Gift Certificates Available

626-9880

6343 FARMINGTON ROAD
JUST NORTH OF MAPLE
IN WEST BLOOMFIELD

Join United's Holiday Celebration

50% OFF
ANNUAL DUES

MEN...WOMEN HURRY!
JOIN NOW
FOR A FEW
DAYS ONLY!

Come discover
Swimming, Aerobics,
Whirlpool, Sauna and
Steam. Shape up on
the World's Finest
Progressive
Resistance Nautilus,
Lifecycles, Nutritional
Guidance and more.
**STOP IN TODAY FOR
A FREE TRIAL VISIT.**

**Christmas
Gift
Memberships
Now Available!**

ALL SPA'S CELEBRATE UNITED'S NEW
WONDERLAND MALL SPA
JOIN NOW FOR FANTASTIC PRE-OPENING SAVINGS
STOP IN OR CALL 422-7200

UNITED HEALTH SPA

ROCHESTER TROY/STERLING HTS. LIVONIA FARMINGTON
Rochester Tel. 422-7200 Troy Tel. 422-7200 Livonia Tel. 422-7200 Farmington Tel. 422-7200

Sherwood has a gift for you this holiday season!

VALID THROUGH December 24, 1986

sherwood studios
Tel-Twelve Mall
Southfield

TEN PERCENT OFF

THIS ENTITLES
BEARER TO AN ADDITIONAL
ANY ITEMS IN OUR STUDIO. CHOOSE FROM SUCH FAMOUS MANUFACTURERS AS
HENREDON • FLAIR • CENTURY • FORECAST • DIRECTIONAL • SELG & MORE.

Maah Margaworth
PRESIDENT, SHERWOOD STUDIOS, INC.

• IN-STOCK MERCHANDISE
• SORRY, NO SPECIAL ORDERS
• IMMEDIATE DELIVERY

OFFER VALID WITH THIS AD ONLY

sherwood studios
Professional Interior Designers
Tel-Twelve Mall • 12 Mile & Telegraph • Southfield • 354-9060
Holiday hours: Daily 10-9:30 • Sunday 11-6
Fine furniture & accessories always 20% off