Suburban Life

Thursday, May 26, 1988 O&E

Older Americans

Independent and busy is the way of life for residents in Marion Oakland-West

LAINE McDermot said she was observing Older Americans Month by adhering to its motto, "Life is Worth

its motto, "Life is Worth Celebrating."
"I'm celebrating the family we've created here," McDermot said of the residents in Marion Oakland-West, "I'm celebrating independent living for the 644-044-year-olds who make up our family and we have at least half-a-dozen in their 90's who are

doing just that."

McDermot is administrator for the complex of buildings that sits on seven acres of ground adjacent to St. Clare Catholic Church. A passerby could easily miss it. And once into the complex, the atmosphere turns rural. Wildlie surrounds the well-tended lawns. The complex is far enough away from the traffic on 10 Mile and Midclebett so the birds can be heard. Critters scamper across the part of the residents are out working in those gardens. Some are

out for a stroll. Some are sitting on porches chatting with one another. Some are in the lounge waiting for a fourth for bridge. Some are waiting for a car to pick them up for a day's ouling. Some are in the beauty shop. Some are in their own apartments. "But who's got time to stay in their rooms when there's so much to do?" Lucy Happer asked. "I own a recliner but I can't remember the last time I had a chance to put my feet up."

HARPER IS president of Marion Oakland-West's resident council, which "irons out any problems that come up," she said, and paves the way for any special events or activi-ties the residents choose to plan for 'homealyas'

way for any special events or activi-ties the residents choose to plan for themselves.

Harper, 78, said she thinks she is typical of those who choose to live there. She is an industrial nurse by profession and is on call as a relief worker when she's needed.

She reached a time in her living accommodations, and sought out what was going to be best for her. She has never been sorry about the decision.

"We have small rooms here. There aren't too many things you can bring with you from the bouse you once had, but who needs all that stuff? The rooms are big enough to give you privacy when you need it. There are enough people around to give you any kind of social activitty you want when you need that," she said.

EACH OF the 92 units in Marion

Photos by Tom Arnett



ose a secretary that was given to her by her brothers and

EACH OF the 92 units in Marion Oakland-West has its own private



The Kan-Doo's

Where members are their own motivators and therapists

By Loraine McClish staff writer

B BARTEL presides over the Tuesday morning meeting of about 50. He announces that the Blue Pigs will be furnishing the music for the summor piente. He reports on how plans are conding along for the next luncheon out and the trip to see the Tigers play this summer.

He wants to know how many will be traveling to Rochester for a pro-gram sponsored by American

Heart Association. He makes certain everyone has a map to get to the backyard barbecue. He saiss for volunteers to talk about their lives, after a stroke, to a class of nurses the control of the class. The control of the class and the control of the class and the class of the c

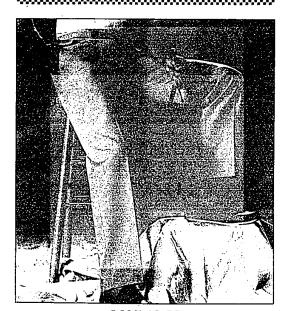
friends are very likely to just drop you — they just don't know what to do with you or for you. The club acis like a clearing house of Information for victims of stroke. And we've made new friends here—couples in the same altustion we are in," she said speaking of she and her husband, who attend the every week moetings together.

About 90 percent of the club members must depend on one of their family members, a friend or



Connie Caira, who grew up on a farm in Italy, has been plant-ing and gardening all her life. She's carved out one corner on the grounds of Marion Oakland-West as her territory to continue including in one of her favorite pastimes. She made the

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