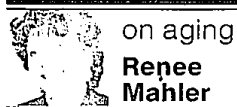


# Options available for older adult housing



on aging  
**Renee Mahler**

Q. What kinds of older adult housing options are available?

A. There is a wide variety of housing choices for older persons from independent living to nursing facilities. The most common are senior rental apartments. These have been designed to meet the preferences and needs of older residents and usually feature good security, safety features and services. Support services are offered by many senior apartments including some congregate programs such as daily meals served in a central dining room. Monthly rents vary depending on the size of the unit, services offered and the income group the building was designed to serve. Government subsidized apartments offer lower rent-

al rates to those who qualify according to their income.

Assisted living facilities provide more services than do the apartments. They offer assistance with personal care on a 24-hour per day basis. Some may supervise medications. Assisted living accommodations are sometimes referred to as residential care facilities, board and care homes, sheltered housing or adult care homes. Some states require that they be licensed to ensure safety and upkeep.

Continuing care retirement communities offer a complete range of older adult care from independent living to total nursing care. Many require an initial entry fee and contract stating the offered services.

Monthly fees for services are included in the contract and may be adjusted annually.

For those requiring nursing care, basic and skilled nursing facilities provide "round-the-clock" care. Services offered in these facilities vary as do the costs. Nursing facilities may be private pay or Medicare or Medicaid licensed.

Before exercising any of these housing options you should thoroughly investigate them making certain that they offer the type of housing and services you need.

Q. My neighbor's elderly mother lives with them. I think she is being mistreated. Is there any way I can help without them knowing?

A. Adult Protective Services provide protection to any person 18 years of age or older who needs and

wants assistance. Adult Protective Services is a division of the Department of Social Services and will provide services to anyone in danger of physical or verbal abuse, neglect or any other harm.

Reports of abuse or neglect may be done anonymously. Investigation of any reports will be done by a Department of Social Service worker within one working day. The workers

will try to help the entire family with the problem and often will enlist the aid of other social agencies to help the endangered adult and their family. Legal action can and will be started if necessary. There is no charge for these services.

For additional information or to request protective services call your local Department of Social Services office, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5

p.m. On weekends and evenings the calls will be handled by the Children Protective Services operators.

Renee Mahler is a gerontologist and director of communications and admissions at a Rochester Hills nursing facility. Send your questions to her at the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 East Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009.

## Fair previews kids summer programs

"Super Summer for Kids: A Camp and Activities Fair" will be held from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Brace/Lederle Community Education Center, 18575 Nine Mile, Southfield. Hosts for the event are the Merrill-Palmer Institute, Wayne State University, and the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. The event is free and the public is invited.

Guests may attend and enjoy lunch at the food concession while viewing the many programs available to metro Detroit young people during summer 1990.

Participants will have the opportunity to see pertinent literature and to speak directly to program and camp directors. This is a community service event designed to bring to-

gether a wide variety of programs.

Represented will be day camps, overnight camps, private and non-profit camps, travel, sports and specially programs as well as programs for children with special needs. This is also an opportunity for people interested in summer employment to speak to potential employers.

For information about Super Summer for Kids, call 577-5244.

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