

# Substance abuse center marks 10th year

## Volunteers needed as court reps

The Oakland County Settlement Center is currently recruiting volunteers to work as representatives in the 48th District Court, Alternative Dispute Resolution Program.

A representative of the Settlement Center provides residents who are considering filing a small claims lawsuit with knowledge of ADR options as well as an explanation of the small claims process.

Dispute resolution is a voluntary process offered as an alternative to taking a grievance to court.

This unusual volunteer opportunity is available for 20-45 residents of Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, Bloomfield Township, West Bloomfield, Keego Harbor, Sylvan Lake and Orchard Lake. All volunteer representatives will be given priority for mediation training.

If you would like to become a Settlement Center representative in the Bloomfield Hills court, or would like to know more about the program, call the Settlement Center at 338-4280, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.

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By Ralph R. Echlinaw  
 staff writer

The West Bloomfield Maplegrove substance abuse treatment center celebrates its 10th anniversary next month.

But didn't Henry Ford Hospital open Maplegrove sometime before September 1981? "Actually, it was in February," spokeswoman Lorna McEwen said. "But that's not a good time to have a party."

Indeed it's not, particularly if you want to have a picnic, pony rides and hay rides, as Maplegrove staff plan to have Sept. 7. Also planned are

games, a puppet theater, music and a square dance.

When the center opened, McEwen said, its emphasis was on alcohol abuse, but soon changed to include illegal drugs as well. The staff discovered that most patients are strung out on more than one mind-altering substance.

According to a Maplegrove press release, 30-40 percent of patients say cocaine is their drug of choice. "Few people come in here for strictly using one drug," McEwen said. "But alcohol is still the most abused drug."

Perhaps Maplegrove's biggest

challenge has been to reduce the cost of its service at the behest of insurance companies which pay for most patients' care. "The health insurance has played a significant role in the need for change," McEwen said. "We're trying to keep the cost of treatment down."

In that vein, Maplegrove has reduced the length of a standard stay from four weeks to two. However, patients now have an additional week of "day care" to supplement the two weeks of in-patient treatment. Then patients meet once a week for what Maplegrove calls "after care."

Also, insurance company needs have led to a stress on out-patient treatment, freeing more beds for patients who need to spend a couple weeks living at the center. For that reason, in-patients today are more acutely ill than they were in the past.

McEwen said the center doesn't have any statistics yet to see if reducing the length of stay has likewise reduced the program's effectiveness. A study by the Comprehensive Assessment Treatment Outcome Research Institute found that three-fourths of treatment pa-

tients in general abstained from alcohol and other drugs for the first six months after treatment. Sixty-three percent abstained for a year.

Maplegrove is also proud of its Youth Treatment Center, which opened in 1985 and treats children with substance abuse problems.

Along those lines, Maplegrove started a day camp this year for children of substance-abusing parents. Sixty children attended the free camp this year, and another camp is planned for next summer. "I think we've got a winner in this one," McEwen said.

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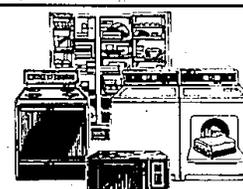
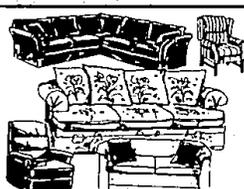
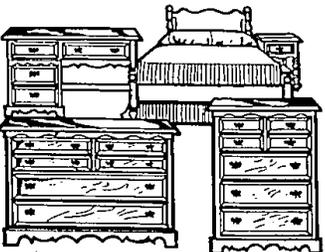
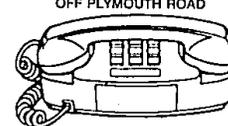
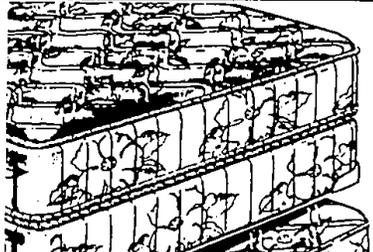
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