

# Group's Goal: Home For Retarded Adults

By MARGARET MILLER

A community living center for retarded adults — a long-time dream for those who work with the problems of the handicapped — may be close to reality.

It would serve the residents of Livonia, Garden City, Plymouth, Redford Township and Northville.

Money is needed to make the dream come true. Organizers have found a suitable piece of property near downtown Plymouth. They have the blessings of state and federal officials and the promise of low-interest funding for up to half of the cost.

THEY also have statistics to show that a home for retardates — in which they could live, hold jobs and pay taxes — would represent a great bargain to taxpayers compared with the cost of institutionalizing the persons involved.

But the money now in hand to begin the funding is just a little over \$7,000 — far short of the needed money. They are appealing to organizations and community-minded individuals in the hope of getting the project off the ground.

The group behind the plan is Community Opportunity

Center, a non-profit Michigan corporation that in 1965 established a sheltered workshop in Livonia that since has been taken over by the League for the Handicapped- Goodwill.

Now, says Harold W. Rossow of Plymouth, president of COC, the need is seen for a home for young adults similar to one that has been in operation for several years in the Farmington area.

"The state and federal agencies have stated that these living centers are badly needed and far cheaper to the taxpayer," Rossow said in a letter.

"Many retarded and physically-handicapped are able to work and contribute to the community. For the most part, they have become dedicated, able employees, having pride in their accomplishments when given a chance.

"They cannot get this opportunity when living in an institution. Many of these adults also are in need of a place, a home, to share common needs, and they are willing to give of themselves to the community."

THE PLAN for a living center, said Jan Plas of Livonia, finance chairman for

COC, would be a new apartment-type building. Supervisors would be needed to oversee shopping, maintenance and living arrangements, but the residents would be able to share a large part of the responsibilities.

Plas pointed out that the state has set as more than \$8,000 the annual cost of keeping a retarded person in an institution. Of far less cost would be assistance of \$4 to \$150 a month from the Department of Social Services to residents of a community living center.

Recipients could pay part of their own costs through employment, and the remainder could come from families or state aid, depending on circumstances.

Plas said the state has required that a new building be constructed for a community living center. The property would have to be zoned multi-dwelling, and the COC feels it should be in walking distance of possible places for employment.

These requirements are met by the Plymouth property, he said, while not revealing the exact location.

Plas and Rossow agreed that the organization may have community resistance to overcome in carrying out the project.

"IT IS NOT easy for the neighborhood to accept these adults in their midst, especially if those involved have had no previous associations with the retarded," Rossow said.

However, Mrs. Barbara Moore of Redford Township, president of the Northwest Association for Retarded Children which has contributed \$5,000 to the project, pointed out that a group of retarded, working adults are

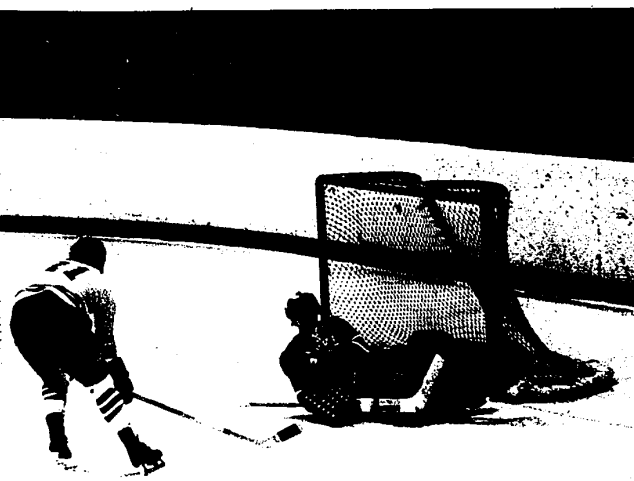
almost certain to make ideal neighbors.

"These are quiet, docile people, interested in going to work and enjoying simple recreation," she said.

Mrs. Moore and Mrs. Phyllis Armour, of Redford Township, COC secretary, also emphasized that the move is needed more than ever now because recent policy of the State Department of Mental Health has been to reduce institutionalizations.

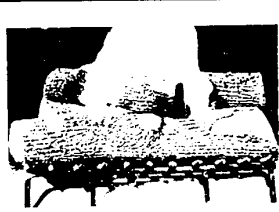
"They are sending these kids home in droves," Mrs. Armour said. "We feel this is one of the biggest things we can do for the community as well as these young people."

Contributions may be sent to the Community Opportunity Center, P.O. Box 2-41, Livonia, 48151.



FRANKLIN SAVE — Patriot goalie Wayne Oliver sprawls on the ice making a save on a shot off Churchill's Dick Saranen (11). Churchill

won the contest, 5-3. (Observer photo by Tom Donoghue.)



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## Chey Conserving Water In Plating

Gerald E. Calhoun, chief chemist - metallurgist for the General Motors Chevrolet division, said a "pilot" program to use water more efficiently is proving highly successful at the Livonia Spring & Bumper plant. The project is part of an overall divisional effort to conserve water in manufacturing operations.

Calhoun outlined preliminary results of the Livonia project recently before the annual meeting of the Detroit chapter of the American Electroplaters Society.

He emphasized that the need to improve water conservation was especially important in plating operations. These facilities generally use three- to five times the amount of water required in other automotive manufacturing activities.

The Livonia plant is believed to have the largest automatic plating operation in the world, producing an automobile bumper every three seconds.

CALHOUN SAID, the Livonia project, which has been in effect for about six months, indicates a potential reduction of up to 90 per cent in plating rinse water. On just one plating line this involved a reduction in water usage from 40 gallons a minute to only five gallons.

Furthermore, he said new methods and procedures to recover chemical substances for reuse in plating operations have already shown promising results.

A recovery rate of 80 to 85 per cent of such expensive substances as nickel and chromium has been realized to date, according to Calhoun. Without special recovery procedures, these substances are removed in waste water treatment prior to discharge to the municipal sewage system.

Therefore, the recovery of these substances for reuse also lessens the burden on the plant's waste water treatment system.

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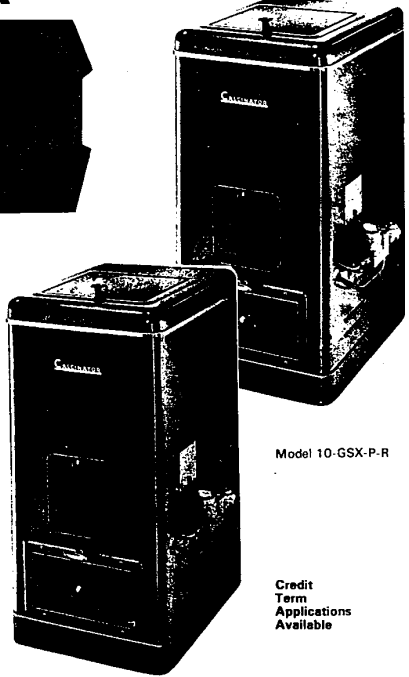
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