Alternative program offers life skills

HE STUDENTS at Shiawassee Center are a rough and
turnble bunch.
Many are in trouble with
the law, more than 70 percent read
below their grade levels and most
have histories docals maindjustment, appesition to authority and a
low self-estemative education pro-

The alternative education program at the former elementary school at Shiawassee and Tuck roads to residents of Boys Republic — a Farmington Hills residential tendent and the state, ordered there for reinabilitation by the court system. The state of the state, ordered there for reinabilitation by the court system. The state of the state, ordered there for reinabilitation by the court system. The state of the state, ordered there for reinabilitation by the court system. The state of the state of

the school year for a special brand of teaching, Nine teachers, nine aldes, plus several administrators, social workers and psychologists are involved in the program, which accommodates up to 65 boys, according to Autry, although 59 were enrolled during the past school year. The entire teaching staff is certified for special education.

The program is offered through the Farmington Public Schools, which are required by law to edu-cate the youths, who reside on Nine Mile within the district boundaries. Before moving the program to the Shlawassee Center, an educational program was conducted on site at the Boys Republic facility.

william Miller.

WHEN ADMINISTRATOR Chuck
Autry arrived one year ago, he set
out to develop a program of help for
the students — to leave behind the
image that the program thought of
them as the "armpit of the school
district."

"I guess I call them out-of-step,"
said acting Principal Autry, who add ADMINISTRATOR Chuck Autry arrived one year ago, he set out to develop a program of help for the students — to leave behind the image that the program thought of them as the "armpit of the school district."



Shiawassee Center's Acting Principal Chuck Autry prepares for another school year of the alternative education program for Boys Re-

public. The program teaches the boys, aged 13-18, life skills and opportunities.

ministers the alternative program under longtime building Principal under longtim William Miller.

when it's only Tuesday. But the kids never get a break from the program. It's harder than a marriage for them — they have no break from each other. It means a lot of inner con-flict." These special student creum-stances called for a special behavior modification approach, the addition of computers and a new industrial arts program, all added during the

past school year. All have helped to develop life skills for the students.
"This is probably the best school year we have had," Miller sald. "This is the first time two excellent semesters have been put together since I have been principal of the school."

DURING THE seven years of the Boys Republic program at Shiawas-

'This is the last step educationally. If they get into trouble again, it could be a total lock-up.

- Chuck Autry Acting Principal

see Center, administrators have encountered some problems, including
incidents in which Farmington Hills
police were called.

Autry believes the new approach
offering incentive for good and
responsible behavior — is working.
Everything is a positive stress, he
said. "The behavior management
program is a real key to our success.
"If the only thing you offered
these kids were grades, it wouldn't
work.

On carn points, which offer them
such advantages
movies, a chance to go men isis,
movies, a chance to go men isis,
movies, a chance to go men isis,
was of the school computer or pol
areas or a monetary payoff of up to
\$i per week.

areas or a monetary payoff of up to \$1 per week.

The educational program is based on a secondary curriculum with an emphasis on life skills, vocational exposure and academic instruction, Autry said. Student groupings are based on ability levels, and course work is geared to meet individual student needs.

Teaching consultant Charlotte Merritt uses the new computers as a

"motivating learning tool," Autry

"motivating reasons and the said.

They publish a student newspaper, the Boys Republic Buyle, written with the aid of computers. "Students previously turned off by traditional methods of teaching have quickly warmed up to this appreach," he said.

said.

New to Shiawassee Center this year is teacher Rob Fluter, who coordinates the new industrial education program. Students learn woodworking, small engine repair and basic vocational skills.

"The program has exceeded iny expectations by a hundredfold," Fluter said. "They've been told all Fluter said. "They've been told all their lives they're nothing but trouble. Our bottom line here is helping." Staff immebre at Shitawasee Center have a very short time in which to help the students passing through the charge in the content program only 5-12 months on an averagem only 5-12 months on an average.

age.
"It sometimes takes six months to
turn an attitude around," Autry said.



Be an
Observer & Eccentric
Newspaper carrier.
Call 591-0500
for details



"Look Who's Forty! HAPPY BIRTHDAY, Tempe.



Saturday, Evening and Daytime Hours by Appointment 477-1500







ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL



FOR THE MONTH OF JULY WE ARE FEATURING PATIO



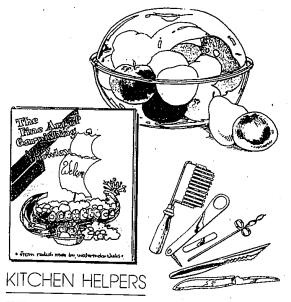
We have a complete variety of styles to choose from...let's talk about yours today!

ewmyer Builders

363-9663 646-1220 523-0038

Sunrooms • Kitchens • Bathrooms Doorwalis • Pella Windows • Vinyi Windows **FULL SERVICE BUILDER**

3081 Haggerty Walled Lake, MI OPEN 8-5 WEEKDAYS, SATURDAYS & EVENINGS BY APPOINTMENT ONLY



TRANSFORM UNRIPENED FRUIT INTO NATURALLY SWEET, JUICY, READY-TO-EAT PERFECTION YEAR ROUND

The Pick-of-the Season Fruit Ripener allows very firm fruit to ripen The Pick-of-the-Season Fruit Ripener "allows very firm fruit to ripen faster. Scientifically designed to create a controlled environment for ripening such fruits as pears, tomatoes, avocados, apples. Large capacity holds up to eighteen fruits, Functional, beautiful, clear plastic sphere displays fruit attractively. 10" diameter, \$13. Then rely on our garnishing kit to produce tempting fruit and vegetable garnishes. The Fine Art of Garnishing by Jerry Growley contains step-by-step instructions for professional looking results. Everything from radish-roses to watermelon whales. Kit includes book and five easy-to-use tools: garnishing knife, twin curl cutter, decorator tool, and flex knife, \$15.

Jacobson's

We welcome Jacobson's Charge Card or The American Express! Card.

Shop until 9 p.m. on Thursday and Friday Until 6 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday