

Elderly Welcomed to E. Main Neighborhood

By PAT PETRASKE

To help ease the transition into apartment living in a new neighborhood, merchants of the 21st ward and representatives of various social agencies extended a formal welcome and some advice last week to the elderly residents of Cedarwood Towers.

The twin octagonal towers stand between East Main Street and Cedarwood Terrace.

"The information session was originally conceived by the diocesan Office of Human Development and the bank volunteered to handle it," said Frank Griffin, coordinator for senior citizens at Marine Midland.

A round of applause greeted an announcement made by Mary Ellen Burris, director of consumer affairs for Wegman's supermarkets. Beginning today Cedarwood Towers residents will be provided transportation for food shopping every Wednesday afternoon, she said. Four other senior citizens' complexes already have this service. The store is taking special pains for the senior citizens and will offer smaller packages of meat and produce, she added.

Welcoming the residents as "an important part of the community" was Father John Mulligan, co-pastor of St. John's on Humboldt Street. His parish is among the 12 churches in the ecumenical task force that co-sponsored the program. Members

of the Brighton Reformed Church and St. John's also provide the elderly with transportation for dental, medical, legal and family visits, handyman services for minor repairs and a telephone system to monitor their needs.

Senior citizens should take advantage of store coupons and demand that stores offer smaller packages of goods to help stretch their budgets, said Mildred Roland of Monroe County Cooperative Extension Services. "Seniors tend to punish themselves by giving up things because they come in large quantities," she said. Mrs. Roland noted that further tips on shopping and nutrition will be explained in a course. "Shopping Shenanigans" to be taught this fall.

Eight hundred area merchants in Monroe County are now cooperating in a discount program for senior citizens, according to Harlan Hart, a member of the board of directors of the Senior Citizens Action Council. Nearly 25,000 people are taking advantage of this program, he said.

Of special interest to the residents was the program offered by the Monroe County recreation department. Its major areas focus on cultural and leisure activities, training programs including college courses, in physical fitness, crafts and special events. Mary Lou Coleman, assistant recreation supervisor, announced that Monday, Nov. 18 would be Senior Citizens' Day at the Memorial Art Gallery. The gallery

is closed to the general public on Mondays.

A discussion of food stamps and supplementary security income (SSI) by Richard Infarinato, Monroe County department of social services, completed the program.

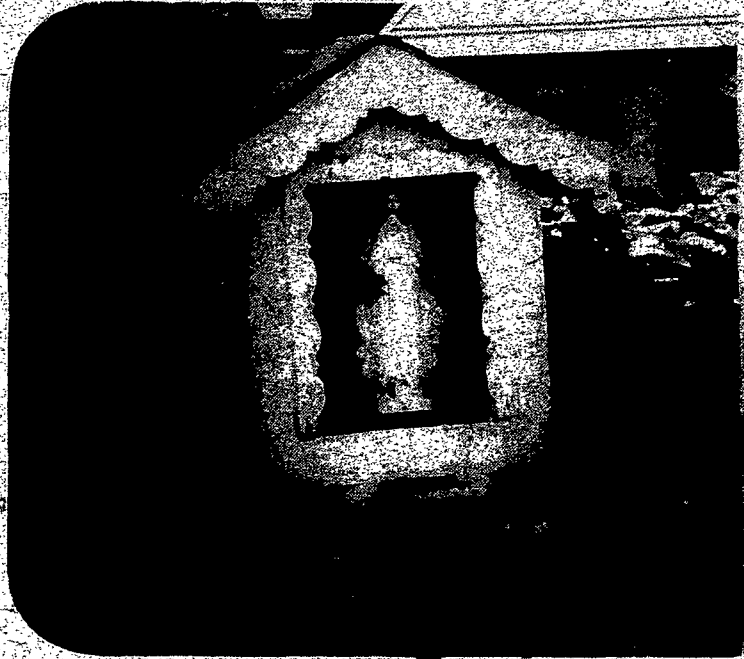
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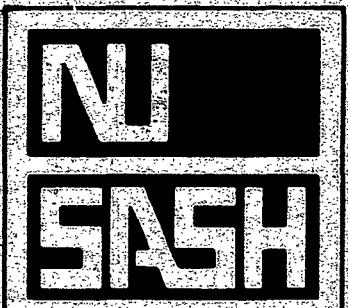
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