

# Leisure Manor: Independent living with some assistance

by MICHELLE VALIN  
Observer Special Writer

Richmond resident Violet Hunger raised five children and lived independently on a Centennial farm all her life. Now in her senior years and frail, she is physically unable to manage her own activities of daily living, let alone care for the farm.

Yet she is still a viable member of society and capable of managing her physical, emotional, and spiritual needs with a little help from her new home — Leisure Manor.

"One of the biggest fears of our senior population is that they will end up in a nursing home," said Administrator Betty Novak. "Assisted living is a much-desired alternative. We serve as the bridge between living independently in the community and the dependency of an institution. Our home is designed to benefit both the residents and their families."

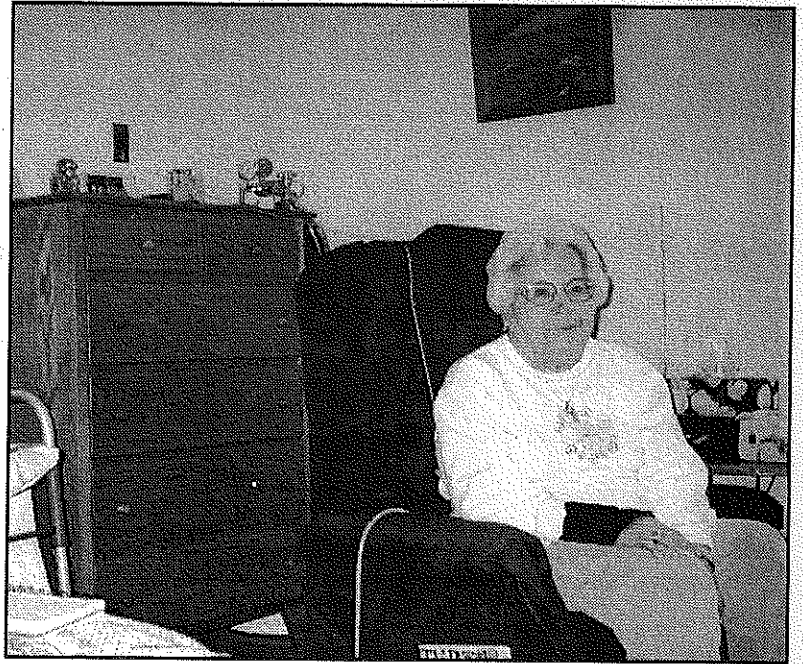
Hunger's daughter watched the Manor being built just down the road from the family farm in 2000 and brought mom over to check it out. She was the first resident to move into the new home.

"I've been here as long as Betty," laughed Hunger. "My kids come over every day but the staff here takes very good care of me and it is very clean."

According to Novak, Leisure Manor is dedicated to providing a quality lifestyle for their seniors in a caring environment that will continue to bring happiness into their lives.

"Each resident is treated as an individual in a dignified, compassionate manner," said Novak. "We encourage continued independence, self-assurance, and socialization with other seniors who share the same common needs and interests."

Although the home is licensed by the State of Michigan as an adult foster care facility, the structure of the place resembles a large single-family home with many bedrooms. The 20 furnished pri-



Leisure Manor resident Violet Hunger.

(Photo by Michelle Valin)

vate rooms for men and women include bathrooms with showers that allow them to receive personal care in a private, dignified manner. Residents may supply their own easy chair and TV, accessorize the room to give it a homier feel, and may pay extra for cable and/or a private phone line.

Residents may choose to gather around the fireplace in the communal living room and dining room, or enjoy a secured outside patio that offers inviting social interaction with other seniors. Also available is a private visitation room for family and friends to enjoy refreshments, private parties, meals or just a leisurely visit.

The property boasts a large wooded view from the patio, walkways with flower gardens for a leisurely stroll and bird feeders at every window.

Safety features include alarmed exterior doors, sprinklers, fire alarms, and emergency nurse call systems in each resident's room and bath.

Residents receive 24-hour supervision by caregivers trained to assist with daily personal care such as showering and dressing. Staff also provide three home-cooked

meals per day, dispense medications, attend to daily housekeeping and linen services as well as doing personal laundry on-site.

Convenient home visits and 24-hour on-call services from Dr. Patrick McClellan, M.D., are available. Residents may also choose to continue medical services from their own doctors. Home visits are scheduled from local dentists, podiatrists, and hairdressers.

Social events, field trips, religious programs and structured daily activities such as chair exercises, table games, and crafts are planned to keep minds sharp and bodies active. Social activity is encouraged but not required.

"I've always been a loner," says Hunger. "I go out occasionally and have made friends, but here in my room I can do as I please. My kids didn't think I would agree to stay here."

"Sure, I'd rather be home, but I know I can't manage it anymore and this place is just lovely. I feel lucky to be here."

Leisure Manor is located approximately 1/4 mile west of Main Street, at 68453 Stoecker Lane, Richmond. Call (586) 727-0700 for more information.