

# Finance Board OKs Day Care in Auditorium

By **SCOTT MACKAY**  
Free Press Staff Writer

The basement of Memorial Auditorium will become a day-care center for children under a plan approved Wednesday by the Burlington Finance Board.

The city will spend about \$60,000 to renovate 10 percent, or 2,000 square feet, of the basement to accommodate 50 children from infancy to age 6, according to Jane Driscoll, coordinator of the Mayor's Youth Council.

Driscoll, who has been pushing the day-care idea for two years, said the center will pay the city \$800 a month in rent. It will be run by a non-profit corporation and will charge parents fees based on their income.

Financing will come from federal Community Development block grant funds. At least half of the children will have to be from low- and moderate-income families to

satisfy the requirements of the federal grant.

"It is in a downtown area and parents who work downtown can visit at lunchtime," Driscoll said. She said a scholarship program will be set up to help poor families and the center will work with state Social and Rehabilitation Services social workers to help children who are having problems.

Alderman Maurice Mahoney, D-Ward 1, said he does not want the center closing out use of the city-owned auditorium as a music and civic center. "We've got to address our need for a civic center" or lose large gatherings to other New England cities, he said.

Mahoney also said evicting the center might be difficult if it fell behind in rent payments. "Imagine the city trying to evict 50 little children in the middle of January," Mahoney said. "There would be mothers out there with signs."

City Treasurer Jonathan Leopold Jr., said the city could draft a contract that would treat the center like any other tenant. If the center fell three or more months behind on rent "you throw them out" and "invite in" a new day-care opera-

tor, he said.

A small, grassy area near the South Union Street entrance will be used for a play area. The children also will be able to use the Edmunds School playground across Main Street.

26th Annual So. Burlington

# KIWANIS AUCTION

FRIDAY Starts 6 P.M.

SATURDAY Starts 10 A.M.