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Minister crusades for senior housing

By COLINNE ABATT

In a youth-oriented society, it's tough being a spokesman for senior citizens. The Rev. Meredith Moshauser, assistant minister of Nardin Park United Methodist Church in Farmington Hills, is in that position.

He moved into the spokesman role when he organized the Nardosers, a senior citizen group, almost five years ago.

His biggest challenge to date will be on May 20 when he goes before the Farmington Hills Planning Commission with a request to rezone 10 acres behind the church at Eleven Mile and Middle Belt for low-rise apartments for senior citizens.

There are 4,500 persons 65 or older in Farmington and Farmington Hills at present. By 1985, the estimate reaches 10,200. "There are 200 units at the Bessie Manor with a waiting list of 600 and when Marian Oakland West is completed in September, there will be 32 units and a waiting list of 600. That's all. There's nothing else."

THE PROPOSED Nardin Park complex calls for 15 units per acre (considerably less than the maximum allowed by the city) for a total 150 one- and two-bedroom apartments with kitchen facilities.

Moshauser meets the argument that there are plenty of apartments in the Farmington area in two ways.

The rent will be as low as possible after figuring construction and maintenance costs, hopefully between \$18 and \$20 a month. Marian Oakland West units will rent for \$185 and that includes meals.

As important as the rent is that housing built specifically for seniors has a number of special features Moshauser mentions: need for fewer parking spaces, special safety features such as emergency alarms, bathroom safety features, sewer exposure, lower wall switches—things which will make life a bit simpler and less precarious for the residents.

The units will be two stories with elevators—garden style apartments landscaped to give total residential appearance.

The financing will through conventional loans with no federal or state monies involved.

"It will be a variation on the coop arrangement, in that residents and others may buy stock if they wish."

J. Arthur Miller & Associates of Farmington Hills is the architect. If approval is granted by the commission, construction could be under way by Thanksgiving.

Moshauser and the 60 Nardosers are almost as concerned about the location of senior housing as availability.

"We think ours is the best location in town. It is convenient to shopping, to banking, to various meeting facilities, the Bot-



THE REV. MEREDITH MOSHAUSER

ford General Hospital and the main transportation thoroughfare.

The site is when the mainstream life of the community allowing existing relationships with the children and adults of the church, a mixing of generations.

If others Moshauser that the real needs of the elderly are so often misunderstood and overlooked.

"They make up 16 per cent of our population. They don't need shuffleboard. Many would like of enrichment or a chance to go to school and get a degree."

HE EMPHASIZES that they also don't

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—Rev. Meredith Moshauser

need to be located in a remote area away from conveniences or put in nursing homes with special areas on the word "put."

What is the future of a society that places its mature persons in nursing homes because there is no other place to put them?

Moshauser is anticipating objections, but in the meantime he is trying to explain the concept and philosophy to all who will listen. He is trying to build a "wholesome relationship" with residents close to the proposed location.

Big turnout eyed in Tuesday vote primary battles

City officials are predicting a good voter turnout for Tuesday's presidential primary.

In Farmington, City Clerk Nedra Vane expects voter response to be half of that city's 6,700 registered voters.

Her counterpart in Farmington Hills, City Clerk Floyd Cairns is predicting a 30-35 per cent voter turnout.

"This is about normal for an election of this type," Cairns says. "In the last primary there was a little more interest in the issues and candidates and we had about the same turnout as I expect Tuesday."

Polls will open at 7 a.m. Tuesday and close at 9 p.m.

"Area voters should vote early in the day to avoid the later afternoon rush," explains Mrs. Vane. "If they come to the polls early, they can go through and take their time. Later in the afternoon, things sometimes get hectic."

Farmington Hills has registered 27,500 voters for the primary election and will have 115 election workers manning the 23 precincts located at area schools.

"WE'RE REGISTERING more and more voters for each election," says Cairns. "For the primary, I suspect we have made an increase from the election held just last March."

Mrs. Vane says Farmington will staff each of its six precincts with six workers and that those 36 persons should have results tallied about two hours after the close of the polls.

Cairns says election returns in the Hills will take a little longer because of the larger number of voters and more precincts.

In Tuesday's election, only one delegate for the Republican party will be selected from each precinct in the polling.

Democratic delegates will be elected in the Aug. 3 primary election.

Delegates elected in these two primaries will attend the county convention and will

follow the campaign trail to the state convention, possibly ending up at the national convention if elected at the state level, the city clerks explained.

"For Farmington Hills, there are three delegates remaining unaccounted, two favoring Reagan and the other is backing Ford in his bid for election to the presidency," Cairns says.

"These delegates are the ones who will go to the county election and cast their votes for either Ford or Reagan," he continues.

ALSO ON THE primary ballot will appear a county question dealing with the removal of a one-quarter mill for the purpose of acquiring, developing and maintaining Oakland County's park and recreation areas.

Residents can vote no if they disapprove of the proposal to impose a 25 cent per \$1,000 assessment for five years to maintain and develop Oakland's park system.

Pres. Gerald Ford takes Ronald Reagan head on while Democratic front runner Jimmy Carter clashes against six other party hopefuls in the Tuesday presidential primary.

While city officials predict good turnout, residents will be asked to cast their ballots for one of the new candidates registered in tomorrow's election.

On the Republican side, Ford is pitted against former California Governor Reagan.

As Ford and Reagan battle for the state's Republican majority, the Democrats also will have a heated contest to see who will increase the number of delegates supporting their nomination.

Jimmy Carter appears the favorite choice among local Democrats.

But he must face Ellen McCormack, Sergeant-at-Arms, Morris Usher, George Wallace, Fred Harris and Henry Jackson in the May 18 election.



John Sandlin, a student in Farmington High School's welding and machine shop class, practices his skills cutting a metal plate with a torch for his latest course project. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

Students, teachers sound off in defense of vocational concept

By RON GARBENSKI

Earl Baumark would like to eliminate the feeling that vocational education prepares students to become second-class citizens, and so would students and teachers involved in the 13 areas of vocational education offered in the Farmington School District.

As the district director of vocational education, Baumark often has heard parents express the belief that these courses are always for someone else's children—not theirs.

Students getting welding and shop training at Farmington High School, for example, don't share the same views of vocational education as their parents.

Most feel that the training prepares them for the future and isn't having an interesting time learning.

"A lot of things have changed since most parents went to school and took vocational education courses. They didn't have the things we have now. They didn't know the things we know now, either," says Mark Sullivan, a vocational education student at Farmington High.

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VOCATIONAL education used to turn a lot of people off, but I think that's changing," he continues. "Especially when many of us are getting good jobs in related fields."

"A lot of my relatives told me to look for some alternatives. Some didn't want me to take vocational education courses, but I feel it is the way to go, and it gives

me an all-around background," adds Pat Wyman.

And as Tracy Ellis puts it, "Vocational education may prepare us for the so-called second-class jobs now, but we'll eventually work our way up. Vocational education is more than just welding."

When Baumark hears parents express their views about vocational education, teaching students how to become second-class citizens, he explains how things have changed.

"Actually, the opposite is true. Vocational education teaches students a salable skill they can use after graduation from high school," Baumark says.

"The whole intent of vocational education is to bridge the gap between school and the job. It demonstrates the relationship between learning and earning."

Gary Gray, a machine shop and welding instructor at Farmington High School, is quick to agree.

"Granted, a college education can be useful and vocational education students can hold their heads high after they graduate because of the type of work they do."

"THE STUDENTS who take vocational classes are pleased that because they will always have something to fall back on," Gray explains.

Many students taking Gray's welding and shop classes also believe they will be better prepared for what the future holds because they have taken the vocational education courses.

"I feel that I'll be one or two steps ahead of all the other students in college because I took these courses while still in high school," says Farmington High student Jim Bunting, who plans to attend Ferris State University to pursue his interest in vocational education.

"I feel my high school training in vocational education, that is, machine shop and welding, has really helped me. We get to work with more machines than the average shop worker," Wyman adds. "I work with our designs and then make our projects. We really learn a lot compared to other courses we take."

Sometimes it may be difficult for parents to accept that a college degree isn't satisfying for their child and that vocational education may help them realize more pleasure in their choice of careers.

"I wish I could do something to change this idea of vocational education," Baumark concludes. "But there is little we can do to change what people have been thinking all their lives."

BUT THE appreciation of being a "second-class citizen because I'm taking vocational education courses" doesn't really bother many of the students.

"I don't believe that the others say," Bunting continues.

"I do what I feel is good for me, and I'm glad I have this background in vocational education, especially the shop and welding experience, because I can go out into the community with a skill."

To succeed in vocational education classes, students must be rounded in all academic areas.

Here's where to cast ballot

City of Farmington Election Precincts

- Precinct 1—Farmington City Hall, 2200 Liberty
- Precinct 2—American Legion Hall, 3175 Grand River
- Precinct 3—Farmington Senior High School, 2500 Shawansee
- Precinct 4—Flanders Elementary School, 2000 Flanders
- Precinct 5—Lonsacre Elementary School, 3400 Armand
- Precinct 6—Farmington Junior High School, 2200 Thomas

City of Farmington Hills Precincts

- Precinct 1—Gill Elementary School, 2150 Gill
- Precinct 2—Wheeler Fire Hall, 2100 Wheeler
- Precinct 3—Woodcreek Elementary School, 2200 Danvers
- Precinct 4—Boyd Elementary School, 2100 W. Thirteen Mile
- Precinct 5—William Grace Elementary School, 2000 Shawansee
- Precinct 6—Shiawassee Elementary School, 2015 Shiawassee
- Precinct 7—Dunckel Junior High School, 2200 Twelve Mile

Precinct 8—Middlebelt Elementary School, 2400 Middle Belt

- Precinct 9—North Farmington High School, 2200 Thirteen Mile
- Precinct 10—Dunckel Junior High, 2200 Twelve Mile
- Precinct 11—North Farmington High, 2200 Thirteen Mile
- Precinct 12—East Junior High School, 2000 Middle Belt
- Precinct 13—William Grace School, 2000 Shiawassee
- Precinct 14—East Junior High, 2000 Middle Belt
- Precinct 15—Gill School, 2150 Gill
- Precinct 16—Fairview Elementary School, 2200 Oak Crest
- Precinct 17—Alameda Elementary School, 2000 Alameda
- Precinct 18—Highmeadow Elementary School, 2075 Highmeadow
- Precinct 19—Forest Elementary School, 2045 Old Timber
- Precinct 20—Dunckel Junior High School, 2200 Twelve Mile
- Precinct 21—Middlebelt School, 2400 Middle Belt
- Precinct 22—North Farmington High, 2200 Thirteen Mile
- Precinct 23—East Junior High, 2200 Middle Belt

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A GOOD FEELING

A fascinating story unfolds on page 2A as Ken Bradley tells of her visit against blindness. Through the miracle of modern science, she was the better.