

# Senior seminar set at Nardin

An all-day conference for senior citizens will be held 9 a.m. to early evening Thursday, May 6, in the Nardin Park United Methodist Church in Farmington Hills.

The conference is open to all senior citizens from the metropolitan Detroit area, regardless of religious affiliation.

There will be a number of study and discussion groups on topics of special interest to seniors as well as entertainment.

The Rev. Meredith Moshauer, Nardin Park associate minister, has planned the conference along with the Rev. Samuel Seibert of the Royal Oak United Methodist Church and the Rev. Clyde Smith of Christ United Methodist Church of Detroit.

Laconter Bud Guest will be the speaker at the noon banquet.

Some of the major topics to be covered include how to travel inexpensively and comfortably, responsible government, legal affairs and problems housing, and health and activity.

Each of these major seminar groups will be led by an authority in the field. Paul Shoemaker, assistant to Rep. William Brodeur specializing in legislation for senior citizens, will lead the responsible government section. He will cover Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid.

The section on housing will include both housing in Michigan and retirement communities in other states, nursing home facilities and in-home care. Participants may choose in which group discussion they wish to participate.

Health and activity will include nutrition and a film on how to protect yourself and your property from crime.

Entertainment will be provided by the "Grandmas and Grandpas" musical group from Plymouth, and the Nardin Park youth club. The Rev. Emile Korte of Whittier Towers in Detroit will give the devotions.

The cost of the conference, \$7, includes the noon banquet and a light supper. Reservations may be made by calling the church, 478-6880. Transportation may be arranged through the church. Reservations will be taken on a first-come basis.

Nardin Park Church has been actively programming for senior citizens for five years. The Rev. Moshauer says his group started with 50 persons and has grown to 400.

The May 6 conference is aimed at a general audience.

# YM expects big camping season

This summer is expected to be a big one for children going to camp, according to David Fleiter, program director of the Farmington YMCA.

More and more people are recognizing that education is not the monopoly of the school room. Children also learn as they play. This is one reason why more and more people are sending their youngsters to YMCA summer camp, Fleiter said.

Last year more than 12 million youngsters went to Y camps throughout the United States—an all-time high. In the Farmington area, more than 300 children were enrolled in Y camps last year and this year's enrollment is expected to top that.

The YMCA will offer a number of camping experiences this summer—two residential camps, one day camp and two preschool camps.

Fleiter said that parents interested in summer camp for their children should enroll now. Registration is open and the camping season only a month away.

Fleiter spoke of some of the benefits of summer camp.

"Perhaps one of the most important lessons to be learned today is a new awareness of the natural world—a world modern man must rediscover if he is not to destroy both it and himself. It's one thing to read about the fragile ecological balance in nature and quite another to actually see it in operation."

Others he mentioned were sports and craft skills, creative use of leisure time, self-reliance and the ability to cooperate while working, playing and being with others.

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**Helping out**

Wayne G. Flagher (center), manager of the Ciandigger Restaurant in Farmington Hills, and Don Garfield (right), a restaurant employee, present Farmington Youth Assistance Treasurer Patsy Smith and Farmington detective Tom Daniels with a \$329.78 check. The check represents the donations for kites and refreshments at the recent Ciandiggers Kite Fly-in that attracted hundreds of area residents earlier this month. The money will be used to fund FYA programs. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

# The Stroller ... Some ironic switches

By W. W. EDGAR

There's a bit of irony in the fact that the two dollar bill returned to our currency in the same week that the auto makers took the convertible car from the market place.

For years they have been symbols of the sporting blood of America and played a big part in the day's lives of those who sought to be recognized as "sports."

Then, 10 years ago, the powers that be decided that the \$2 bill was a confusing bit of currency and that the public could well get along without it.

AT THE TIME no thought was given to the fact that the \$2 bill was a handy bit of money at the horse parks across the land. It had been established that \$2 was the lowest wager that could be made. Hence the \$2 warden the most popular of all betting tickets.

Away from the race track the \$2 bill was a handy bit at the crap tables and the poker games—especially in the days of the volunteer fire companies in the small towns.

The volunteers often gathered for their card games and played far into the night. And many a word was said in protest.

There was good reason for the lack of criticism of the card games. For as long as the game was going on, there always were men available to answer an alarm—and many a home was saved because the men were in the basement of the fire hall waging their \$2 bets.

Now the tide has turned after a decade and the \$2 bill is coming back. Officials claim its return was prompted by the fact that the \$1 bill has a short life—and that it wears out in a few months.

With that the claim that the pressure will be off the \$1 bill and will save the country millions of dollars. Funny, it took them 10 years to find out this twist in our economy.

THE CONVERTIBLE car is another matter. From the day that Henry Ford built the first automobile it had a fold-down top. In those early days it was called a "phaeton" and was looked upon as just a new mode of travel. No one gave a thought to the fact the open job some day would be history.

However, American ingenuity being what it is, the builders put their imaginations to work. First, they copied the style of the horse-drawn funeral cabs, and designed a body for the automobile that would protect the passengers from the wind and dust.

In those days, the passengers had to wear goggles and dust robes as they rode about the country roads. (There were few concrete highways).

The proponents of the open car didn't give up. Instead, they set about dressing up the old phanton. And when they finished they had what they called a sporting car.

Well, the Stroller remembers one of the first. It was owned by the bachelor coal dealer back home, who was a sort of hail fellow, well met.

He purchased a Thomas car. It was a cream-colored job with red-leather upholstery. But its main feature, aside from a big black belt to hold down the hood, was a rumble seat. It was an easy chair type of seat for one and it was on the top of the trunk.

You can imagine what a hit that made among the townfolk. And most everyone wanted to ride in the rumble seat.

The next step was to make the rear facility a two seater—on top of the trunk.

Finally, the seats were taken from the front of the trunk and were placed in rear of the front seating to make a five passenger convertible.

These were the popular type—especially for disparities in parades and others who wanted to make a show of an event by riding in the convertible.

NOW THE convertible is gone—the victim of air conditioning in late model cars. The sports will have to look elsewhere for a symbol of prestige.

But to the average fellow—and the clerk at the betting windows at the horse parks—the return of the \$2 bill is welcome. It is just a bit of irony that the switch of the \$2 bill and the passing of the convertible happened in the same week.

Now The Stroller wonders if the old



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# Farmington to help in running OTI

Action by the Oakland Schools board of education on April 15 paved the way for the decentralization of the Oakland Training Institute (OTI), a facility in Berkeley, Mich., for trainable mentally impaired young people aged 14 through 25.

The five-member county board of education authorized the Oakland Schools administration to negotiate contracts with four receiving school districts which will administer the programs of the OTI.

The four are Farmington, Pontiac, Lamphre and Waterford. Students will attend the center nearest to their homes. The contracts will be approved individually as each is ready.

Decentralization of the operation will provide additional space, easier accessibility and reduced transportation. The centers will be operated by the school districts in which they are located in the same way that other special education programs are handled.

When Valley Woods Elementary School was closed in Birmingham last June, the Oakland Schools had a tentative agreement with the Birmingham Board of Education to transfer the facility's operation to Valley Woods for the 1977-78 school year and to Barnum Junior High after its scheduled closing in June 1978.

However, the tentative offers were withdrawn while two suits were pending in the matter.

A Valley Woods parent group brought suit against the Birmingham Board of Education over the Valley Woods closing, and other parents filed suit against the Oakland Schools for alleged illegal and unwarranted interference in the rights of the Birmingham School District.

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