

Mayfair Nursery

A cooperative venture for the whole child

Mayfair Nursery School, a cooperative program revolving around teacher, parent and child, is now accepting applications for fall enrollment.

"The purpose of Mayfair," said Cherie Sowa, "is to operate a nursery school for preschool children in an environment that gives them freedom to satisfy their basic growth needs; physical, social, emotional and intellectual. At the same time, parents gain a better understanding of the needs and developmental patterns of their children."

Mrs. Sowa, mother of a four-year-old son who attends Mayfair, added: "The nursery stresses parent involvement, and provides parental education, guidance and counseling."

"It is not highly structured. The philosophy aims to teach the whole child, not just the intellectual child."

MAYFAIR WAS founded in 1955 by eight mothers, and now boasts a membership of about 85 families, with four sessions operating each week out of Orchard United Methodist Church, located at 3040 Farmington Road.

Currently children and parents meet with two teachers, Jane Fagen and Rachael McCormick.

Mrs. Fagen has taught at Mayfair for 21 years, and handles the morning sessions. Mrs. McCormick has been with the school for 12 years and handles the afternoon sessions. Both teachers are assisted by Mary Ann Coyle, as well as mothers who rotate for each nursery session.

The nursery is a non-profit organization, owned and operated by its members, and is an affiliate of the Greater Detroit Cooperative Nursery Council and the Michigan Council of Cooperative Nurseries.

A VISITOR TO the school will find areas sectioned off for crafts, music, science, books and puzzles. There is an area with a workbench for pattering and an area for the small fry to play "dress-up."

There is also an outdoor play area with playground equipment, and field trips are planned throughout the school year.

While there are certain times of the school sessions set for free play, music, story time, or snacks, Mrs. Sowa stresses that children are en-

couraged, rather than forced, to participate.

Self-directed play and group activities are always available. Both stress the social, emotional, physical and intellectual development of the child, and help to develop both small and large muscle coordination.

Classes are available five days a week. Morning sessions are from 9:30

to 11:45 a.m. and afternoon sessions are from 12:30 to 2:45 p.m. Four nursery school sessions are held each week, morning and afternoon.

Parents may choose from two or three day sessions offered, with a maximum enrollment of 22 children per session.

Mrs. Sowa will take inquiries by calling her at her West Bloomfield home, 681-1342.



Eric Prill, a preschooler who attends Mayfair Cooperative Nursery, tries his hand spinning discs, and maybe dreaming of his favorite disc jockey. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)



An experiment with colors, water and eye drop—Dina Zamezyk, (at left) Ryan Osterbeck and Johnny Pers brought about some unusual muted designs by Prihoda. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)



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What does a city commissioner of Plymouth have to say to a city councilwoman from Farmington Hills? Doubtless Beverly McAninch (right) is ex-

Women in politics tell their success stories

By SHERRY KAHAN

The discussion centered on who should run the political banyard, but you wouldn't dream of calling it a hen session.

Not when some of the brightest women of the area came together to talk about how they managed to be elected to area city councils and school boards.

The Livonia School District was represented at the non-partisan meeting of the Livonia Democratic Women's Caucus by Geraldine Joyner, Connie Hierta and Carol Strom. Both Mrs. Strom and Mrs. Hierta are Westlanders, living in an area served by the Livonia district.

The third Westlander was Gail McKnight, a member of that city's council and also a Wayne County Juvenile Court prosecutor.

Joining them was Beverly McAninch, city commissioner and former mayor of Plymouth, who is also a board member of the Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority (SEMTA). When the western suburbs have its say on regional transportation, she will be its only spokeswoman.

JOANNE SMITH and Joan Dudley, who made their first hurrah by winning a place on the city council of Farmington Hills, were also on hand, as was Nancie Blatt of Livonia, a member of the board of trustees of Schoolcraft College. She is currently campaigning for the job of state representative of the 35th district, the job vacated by Robert Geake, now a state senator.

"Don't wait to be asked to run," ordered Mrs. McKnight to the members of the audience. "No one asked me."

"And don't assume that men have more skills than you. Many are crum-

pling on budget matters. Some don't do their homework. They are not any better than you are. They just think they are."

Mrs. Blatt continued on the confidence issue.

"I had to run a couple of campaigns for other people before I decided I could run too," she said. "I have a good, healthy ego and am not bashful. But it took a while to convince myself I could be one of those people sitting up there."

"When you organize, you can do it," encouraged Mrs. Smith.

Mrs. Joyner, who recently announced that after 13 years on the Livonia school board that she would not run again, contended that women are a vital ingredient in public office because they have something to contribute.

BUT IN OUR eagerness to put forth a woman candidate, we have to consider what she can contribute," she said. "We must seek those who are best qualified so that when elected they can be successful."

It is Mrs. Joyner's belief that women are more sensitive to people problems than men, and that since some of them don't work fulltime, they are more accessible to the public.

"We're patient listeners," she claimed. But once in office after successfully having overcome voter prejudice about electing women, they found themselves victims of prejudice from their male colleagues.

Mrs. McAninch reported that as a Plymouth commissioner she was participating in a commission discussion on who would be the negotiator with local labor unions. She was interested in this question because in college she had studied labor relations.

Around the table, each commissioner was considered for the job.

"When they came to me, they skipped right over me and went on said Mrs. McAninch.

Mrs. Smith gasped loudly. But Mrs. McAninch had her day, becoming the negotiator, and spent a long hot summer bargaining with the union.

MRS. JOYNER "was never treated as anything but a lady and an equal," until the day board member John Sylmelski informed her that her place was in the home.

She recalled his telling her that if she wanted to get out, she should volunteer.

Mrs. Smith was distressed by remarks that singled her out as a woman—"who is going to sit with Joanne," instead of treating her like everyone else.

"Most chauvinistic things are said in jest," stated Mrs. Strom. "I don't feel that I am regarded as different."

She noted that in the midwest women are more accepted in public office as opposed to the south where it is rare for one even to be on a school board.

Mrs. Dudley observed that she has felt no prejudice from the men on the Farmington Hills city council. "But often when a man takes a political post, it is taken for granted," she said. "But when a woman does the same, she has to prove herself."

Mrs. Smith remarked, "If a group of businessmen came to the council to present a case, they would be better accepted than women doing the same thing."

Mrs. McKnight stated that life is OK on the Westland City Council, but that "our role hasn't been so quickly

Arts, crafts, food—all in country style

Farmington's Order of the Eastern Star will furnish the food, country style, in keeping with the spirit of the Country Art Fair coming to the Farmington Community Center May 21-22.

Wilman Songer and Mary Legg are heading a committee to prepare box lunches of country-fried chicken, cornbread, beans, and a host of options, all reminiscent of early American picnics and fairs.

The chapter is supplying the country food in a fund-raising effort in cooperation with the Michigan Artists and Craftsmen's Guild, which is re-

turning to the area for the second year.

Director of the guild is Ann Roth, who in addition to lining up 101 guild members to show and demonstrate their arts and crafts, has invited Farmington Artists Club members to participate in the two-day event.

Two blacksmiths from Ann Arbor will demonstrate contemporary aspects of this traditional process, in silver, gold and copper, as well as steel.

The art of the dollie will be shown in an exhibit of needlework techniques, brought from the Center for the History of American Needlework in Pittsburgh.

The Farmington Historical Society will show photographs of Farmington and a collection of dolls from the 18th century.

Ten antique quilts will be lent by various quilters to show the impressive amount of creativity in design and color used in this functional product.

The Farmington Genealogical Society joins with a booth staffed with persons who will help fair visitors get a start in tracing their family lines.

MUSIC WILL RUN continuously. Tom Neill, from Ann Arbor, and Bob Hubback, from Birmingham, will be playing the hammered dulcimer, an American instrument from the Appalachian Mountain area.

Strolling musicians will furnish Blue Grass, country and folk music with voice, guitar, mandolin, flute, harmonica and dulcimer.

One of the unique parts of the fair, Ms. Roth says, is that there will be many areas where children and adults may try their hand at an Early American craft.

Food and beverages will be available throughout the fair hours, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday and from noon to 6 p.m. Sunday.

Money raised from the food sales will be used by the Order of the Eastern Star.

"Our purpose," the order's Jean Miller explained, "is to protect the widow and orphan, to comfort the afflicted and to relieve the destitute and distressed." She is worthy matron of the local chapter.

The group's treasury is disbursed to educational funds, the Masonic homes, heart funds, the Shrine Hospital, cancer research and senior citizens.

Shuttle buses will run continuously between the Oakland Community College Orchard Ridge Campus, the Ten Mile Elementary School and the center. No parking will be allowed on the center's grounds.

Admission to the grounds is free.



Members of the Eastern Star, with help from Worthy Matron Jean Miller for Country Art Fair. The women will be ready with box lunches for fair goers May 21-22.