

# Commission on aging opens with public forum

By LORAIN McCLISH

The Farmington Area Commission on Aging has scheduled its first public meetings as open forums.

Persons from Farmington can voice their opinions on what direction the new commission should take at 7 p.m., Thursday in Farmington City Hall, Grand River and Liberty.

The forum will be repeated for Hills residents at 7 p.m. Friday in Farmington Hills City Hall on the southwest corner of Eleven Mile and Orchard Lake.

Both are expected to run until about 10 p.m.

"Don't make us guess what you want us to do. Tell us what you want us to do," said Nancy Bates, chairman of the seven-member body.

"Seniors, especially, must tell us

their needs, wants and desires, but we want everyone there who works or lives or has anything at all to do with the aging," she said.

WITH MRS. BATES at the forums will be John A. Kiefer, affiliated with Catholic Social Services and the Area Agency on Aging; Loretta Conway, coordinator of senior citizen services in Farmington Area Recreation Commission; Sister Clare Nicholas, minister to the aging from Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church; John A. Stewart, from American Association of Retired Persons; and Joan Crane, a recent graduate in gerontology from Madonna College.

The Rev. Meredith Moshauer, who has announced his sabbatical leave from Nardin Park United Methodist Church, will be replaced.

The commission is not an action

agency, but a study group. The members are charged with gathering information and sending it on to the city councils with suggestions for implementing new services and programs.

The overall goal of the commission is the establishment of community awareness and attitudes which promote and protect the rights of older adults by providing the opportunity to live independently, with dignity and to receive recognition for their contributions to the past and present.

This goal will be carried out by identifying needs in transportation, a senior center, housing, health services, legal services, recreation, education, tax assistance, "or any other concerns they might have," Mrs. Bates said.

AFTER THAT point the commission, Mrs. Bates said, will be "acting

as advocate for older adults by representing their interest at the public and private levels."

By developing resources and referral sources for the elderly, "we will be able to reach that one individual who is hurting or has some kind of unusual personal problem," she said. "We just want to meet these unmet needs."

The new commission, she said, "wants to hear from anybody who feels they've got anything to say. When we get the problems lined up, we're prepared to spend all summer doing our homework so we have some solutions to hand over to the councils in the fall."

Mrs. Bates organized the first seminar for older Farmington area residents through her work and member-

ship with the University Hills Christian Center several years ago.

The lesson of that session was that seniors wanted more opportunity for creative, rather than passive, activity, and from this stemmed the Gathering Place, housed in Farmington's American Legion building on Grand River.

The format of that first seminar has since been duplicated by cities and towns, churches, synagogues and other groups throughout the state.

She re-emphasized the importance the commission attaches to the forums. "If you ask us what we are going to do about transportation, for example, my answer to you is going to be, I don't know what we're going to do about anything until you tell me what you want."



NANCY BATES

## Holly Ann Schmidt is ready to vie for 'Miss Michigan'

By LORAIN McCLISH

Eighteen-year-old Holly Ann Schmidt is in the final throes of getting ready to represent Farmington in Muskegon during the week of June 20, when she will vie for the title of Miss Michigan.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Schmidt, 3438 Lakehurst, took the title of Miss Farmington during the Founders Day Festival activities almost a year ago, and she's been actively working towards the next competition ever since.

"I couldn't have done it without my mother or my sister, Connie. I don't think I'd be as ready as I am if it weren't for them," she said.

Lorraine Schmidt drove her daughter to piano lessons all through the winter. This was important, she said, because talent scores make up 50 percent of the contestant's overall tally.

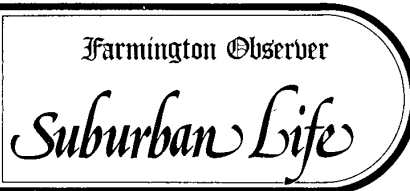
The contribution from her older sister was, she said, "Super taste. She somehow knows just exactly what to wear and where to wear it."

Her sister also had a hand in picking out her music for the competition. She will play "Flying Leaves," by Carl Kolling. She describes the music as "very light, airy, graceful, good for the stage. We thought the Beethoven I did at the Miss Farmington Pageant was maybe a little heavy."

A LOT OF TIME was spent choosing her wardrobe for the week.



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(F11B)

*'I would encourage all girls to get into a pageant. Whatever you put into it, you'll get more out of it. Just by being in it, you've already done more than the girl who didn't.'*

—Holly Ann Schmidt

selves in an introductory presentation to the judges, based on a circus theme.

Hers will be that of a tight-rope walker: A sequined leotard with high collar, flowing cape and plumed hat.

The problem here is how to keep the hat on while she is dancing, but she is sure that will be solved, somehow, before showtime.

An accompanying problem is that Miss Farmington is not a professional dancer. "I've never had a dance lesson in my life, but I'm planning to learn fast."

HER SELF CONFIDENCE runs steadily throughout her conversation, and when this was commented upon, she said, "Self-confidence is a must, and it is certainly one of the first benefits that comes for any girl who enters a contest. You learn quickly that you can't crouch or crawl on stage."



HOLLY ANN SCHMIDT

## McFee clan gathers for 'surprise' reunion

A Farmington woman and her mother were united after seven years at a family reunion June 12.

The nine children of Norma McFee Worrall, of 22114 Cora, have been decorating her home throughout the spring, then arranged to bring her mother, Neva McFee Alward from Garden Grove, Calif. for the surprise reunion. Mrs. Alward and her husband, Carl, will remain here for a month, guests of Mrs. Worrall's daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Tony Klenner, 23890 Springbrook, Farmington.

Her other eight children and their families at the reunion are Joan Swift, Jack Worrall, Judy Hurst, Jill Cooley, Jerry Pierce, Joey Worrall, Jove Small and Jeff Worrall.

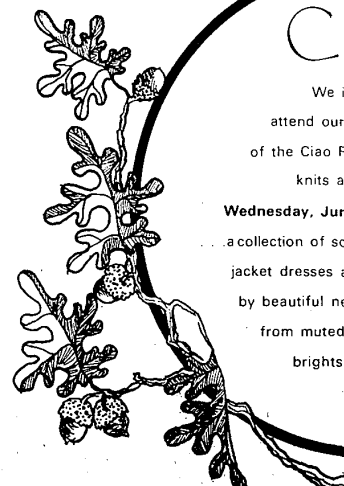
The Worralls have lived in Farmington for 23 years, where Mrs. Worrall is employed at Wash Hut Laundry. She is Mrs. Alward's only daughter.

Mrs. Worrall has 17 grandchildren, who joined with other friends and relatives at the reunion.



### A bit of pizzazz

Teenage girls can learn how to add a bit of pizzazz to shirts or jeans this summer in a four-session class offered by the Farmington Community Center. Student Christine Thurman (at left) models a shirt perked up with applique and embroidery taught by Lorraine Fenster. But students also can learn how to decorate with beads or hand-painted fabrics. First class begins June 27. Registrations are now being taken by calling the center, 477-4484.



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