

Seniors are on the move,



Gerry Bojczyk loads another tray of salads onto a table in the Mercy Center kitchen during preparations for opening day at the Gathering Place.



Bea Honstain was one of 140 seniors who toured the new location of the Gathering Place, last week.



Gertrude Chambers participates in the cafeteria-style luncheon at the Gathering Place 2.

discovering Mercy Center

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

Shimmering under the fluorescent lights, the pool in Mercy Center waits for a new group to disturb its waters. Echoes run through the center's gym in anticipation of the time when new group will shout and walk across the smoothly polished floor.

In the cafeteria, workers put the finishing touches on the meal they would present to the Center's new group. Salads, stew, bread and deserts displayed themselves in anticipation of the group's arrival.

Doors opened. To the tune of soft footsteps and whispered comments, Farmington area senior citizens were introduced to their new Gathering Place at Mercy Center Thursday afternoon.

Although they appreciated their first Gathering Place in Farmington's American Legion Hall, they noticed the roominess and brightness of their new surroundings.

"I have decided what I like best. I like the atmosphere here," said Mary Marshall, who frequents the Gathering Place.

RED TABLECLOTHS added to the festive air in the dining room.

"It's just beautiful," said Mrs. Leola Rammel. "You feel like eating when you come here."

While the newcomers enjoyed their lunch, they enumerated different features in the center that they are looking forward to using.

In addition to acquiring a larger room for bingo and cards, the group was ready to use the pool and the gym.

Mrs. Rammel was already thinking of dancing in the gym and maybe taking in a game of basketball. Her original high school basketball uniform consisted of bloomers and a middie blouse, a memory that brought smiles and similar stories to others.

"I had one (pair of bloomers) with pants. I thought it was something," said Athelia Trevisan, who's mind was more on the present state of affairs.

One advantage to Mercy Center is that Gathering Place members won't be faced with climbing stairs to get into the building, Mrs. Trevisan pointed out.

But the new location is out of walking distance for those who could hoof it to the Grand River location. That was seen by some as proof that there was a need for transportation service in the area.

ANOTHER NEW GROUP at the center will be visitors from Marian Oakland West, who may be stopping by for an afternoon of bingo, according to Mrs. Marshall.

In the meantime, the group was pleased by their reception.

"Everyone here is very nice to us," said Jean Kenewell, of Farmington.

"They even stood at the gate with signs to help us get here," said Mildred White, of Farmington.

"It's lovely," agreed Bea Honstain.

"I'm going to bring my bed and stay," she laughed.

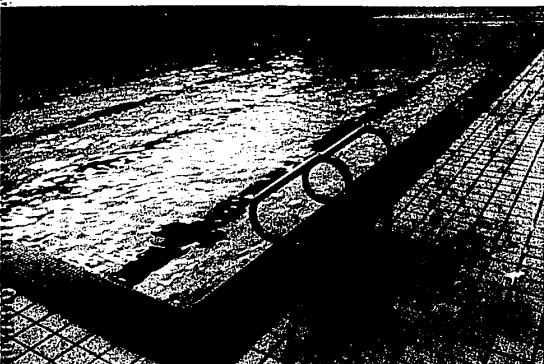


Seniors enjoy their first meal in the Mercy Center dining room.



Cards and swimming will be available to the seniors at the Gathering Place 2. Seth Johnson of Farmington considers his next move during a card game at the Center (top left). As of last Friday, seniors were swimming in the pool.

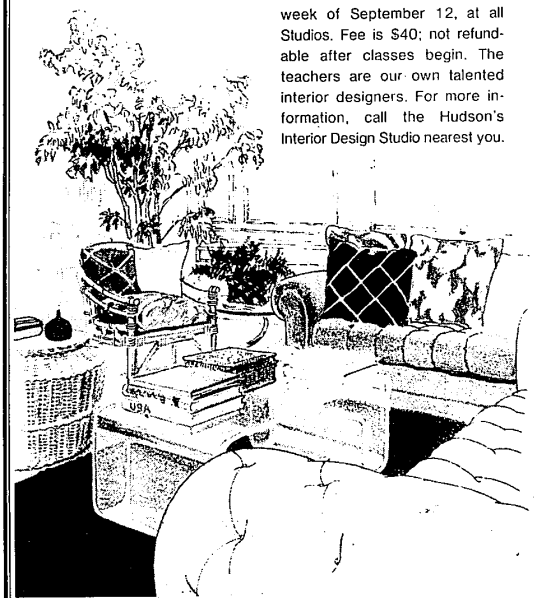
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