

November is Community Center Month



Farmington Community Center's program director Virginia Kochans (center) gives an informal tour of the building to visitors Jan Leitaao (at left) and Norma Truxwell. The stairway leads to the second floor where classes are conducted daily, and the trip up is a favorite with those who appreciate the architecture of the past.



The center's gracious dining room is the choice of Betty Schwehr (standing) to lead her bridge students onto a better game. The bridge director is a long time center volunteer and now president of the center's board of directors. Her next benefit is a card party luncheon, set for Friday, Nov. 2, in observance of Farmington Community Center Month.

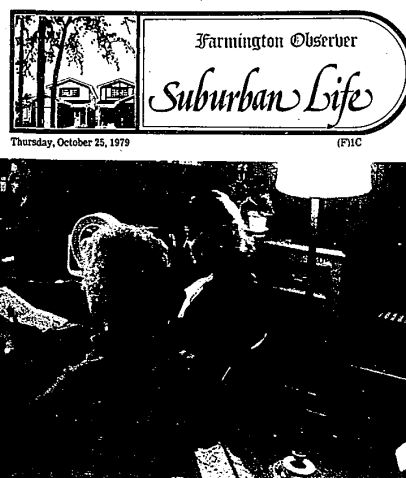
Staff photos by Randy Borst



Every foot of available space is used in the building on Farmington Road, north of Ten Mile Road, with classes and special events listed on new brochures that are mailed out four times a year. Staff members



It's business as usual for Marlene Coffey (third from left) who leads classes in the proper application of make-up. Ms. Coffey chooses the



library, with its rich, dark panelling and its warm atmosphere for her "Pretty Faces" seminars.

Month-long celebration planned

By LORRAINE MCCLISH

November is Farmington Community Center Month, proclaimed as the center launches its second decade.

The Longacre House, once the Luman Goodenough family homestead, was offered to the community 10 years ago after a successful fund-raising campaign. The building and grounds were refurbished, then opened as an activities and services center in the fall

of 1969.

The present month-long celebration gets under way with a Bowl-A-Then in Farmington Lanes, which runs through Nov. 12, as a benefit for the center.

Betty Schwehr, a longtime volunteer for the center and now its board of directors president, gives another of her Card Party Luncheons for the center's benefit on Friday, Nov. 2.

"A Tourist's Look at China," is set for Saturday, Nov. 10. Frances and Harold Gibson, who visited China in 1978, head up this benefit with a Chinese dinner followed by tales of the Orient.

On Sunday, Nov. 11, the doors open to the public for an open house when Betty Paine, the center's new executive director, serves as hostess for a tour of the house and grounds, coupled with displays and performances of some of the activities that take place in the center.

THE FARMINGTON Community Center staff has chosen November to introduce a new event, a Book Fair, set for four days, Thursday-Sunday, Nov. 29 to Dec. 2.

Center volunteers and staff for the December Santa Claus luncheons and boutiques spread out the events over two weekends now because of the overflow crowd last season, and they will add something new this year, a family pancake breakfast with Santa on Sunday, Dec. 2.

It has been a heady 10 years for Virginia Kochans, the center's current program director, who was there for the center's birth and has helped guide it through its infancy.

"The doors opened with nine classes to offer," she said. "Today there are 172 on almost every brochure that comes out and all designed for something to appeal to every member of the family."

She described her past 10 years as "an education." Still, she looks ahead with enthusiasm in planning for more growth in the areas of special events, trips and classes for the coming winter's session.



The sign that now stands at the center's entrance, announcing coming events, was a gift from Farmington Area Jaycees.

JUST PRIOR to the center reaching its 10th anniversary mark, the Michi-



New center staff member Wanda Discher, (at left) is shown the authentic log cabin on the grounds, by Sharron Zamczyk, the center's public relations director. Elanor Spicer, whose family donated their home to the community, played and slept in the cabin when she was a child. The cabin has its own fireplace and, years ago, was equipped with specially-built child-sized furniture.



The inscription in the walk that overlooks the center's natural amphitheater reads: "Oh Thou who has given me eyes to see and love this sight so fair, oh give me the heart to search for Thee, and find thee everywhere."