

Keeps students busy

Chore program aids seniors in maintaining homes

By MARY GNIEWEK
For senior citizens who live alone and who may be afflicted with a debilitating disease, minor home chores loom as one more obstacle to continued independent living.
Changing screens and storm windows, moving furniture or mowing the lawn can stand between keeping the house or moving into a nursing home.
On that premise, the senior adult chore program was established last October, and has since aided more than

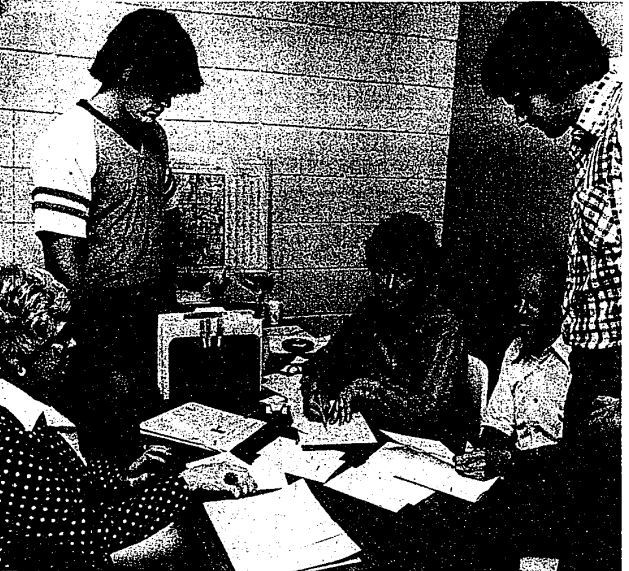
100 Farmington and Farmington Hills residents.
Yard work, snow shoveling, basement cleaning and minor repairs are some of the routine jobs home chore coordinator Maggie Loris dishes out from her office the Gathering Place in Mercy Center.
Mrs. Loris, a licensed practical nurse and a gerontology student at Madonna College, came to the program as a student intern.
Workers, mostly high school students

but also some retirees, are paid \$3 an hour. The program is funded primarily with a \$10,000 grant from the Area Agency on Aging.
The cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills also contribute \$1,250 each and workers are hired through Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation.
"The object is to keep seniors in their own homes, to keep them out of nursing homes," Mrs. Loris said.
"We don't do fancy lawn trimming. We just keep grass cut to keep them

from getting violations."
FIVE TEENS and two retirees are presently employed by the Home Chore program. Their in-service training included CPR, listening skills and sensitivity for the aged.
The teens cut lawns, move furniture, hang pictures and wash walls. ("Heavy duty things seniors wouldn't do," Mrs. Loris says.)
The retirees repair steps, fix doorbells and tighten leaky faucets.

"They may be minor chores to someone who can do them, but they're traumatic and major to seniors," Mrs. Loris said. "It's very frustrating to them. Especially for those who have been in good health."
The repairs are more than cosmetic treatment, more than repairing little nuisances. In some cases, they're almost life-saving.
"One woman was without heat all winter," Mrs. Loris recalled. "She didn't call a regular repairman be-

cause she was afraid it would be too expensive."
Hers was a minor repair job. The problem was fixed in one visit by a home chore worker.
The program is available to all Farmington and Farmington Hills residents over 60. Call for an appointment Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to noon, 474-1407.



Home chore coordinator Maggie Loris (center) dishes out work assignments to her crew at the Gathering Place in Mercy Center. The workers perform free home and yard chores for senior citizens. Clock-

wise from left are Scott Niemiec, Bea Hanstain, Rob Manilla, and Ray Nazelli. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

Alma names 2 honors list

Two Alma College students from Farmington Hills are among those named to the college's term honors list for outstanding academic performance during the 1979 winter term ending April 21.
They are Jeffrey Robbins, a 1975 graduate of North Farmington High School, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert G. Robbins of 32595 Chesterbrook, and Ann Simanek, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Simanek of 25104 Westmoreland and a 1977 graduate of Harrison High School.

WMU students earn degrees

A total of 1,600 students were awarded bachelor's, master's or specialist's degrees from Western Michigan University at its recent commencement to end the second semester of the 1978-79 academic year.
From Farmington Hills, the graduates are: Lynn T. Falk, B.A., Arthur C. Coble, B.B.A., Susan M. Cottrell, B.B.A., Gerald N. Koss, B.S., Susan R. Lee, B.B.A., Helen A. Lefevre, B.S., Dorothy Mantis, B.S., Steven J. Orr, B.S., Carolyn K. Roe, B.B.A., Ann Rogers, B.B.A., Susan R. Schaffer, B.S., and Dale Turton, B.S.U.

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