

Never too old

Seniors compete in various events during OCC olympics

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Approximately 800 senior citizens from throughout the state will be displaying their athletic and competitive talents at the sixth annual Michigan Senior Olympics Saturday at the Oakland Community College Orchard Ridge campus in Farmington Hills.

"We encourage people to come out and watch," said Kathy Crawford, the city of Novi's special recreation coordinator and one of the original founders of the olympics. Admission is free.

The olympics will begin at 9 a.m. in OCC's gymnasium in Building II with

opening ceremonies highlighted by a grand march. Events will continue throughout the day until at least 4 p.m.

The olympics are open to those who are at least 60 years old and who have pre-registered for events, Crawford said.

PRIOR TO opening ceremonies, some of the seniors will participate in a one-mile run beginning at 7:30 a.m. The finishers will run into the opening ceremonies in much the same manner as athletes do during the world Olympics, Crawford said.

Other events that seniors will participate in include a one-mile walk, shuffleboard, softball, checkers, dancing, diving, Frisbee accuracy, table tennis, golf, lawn bowling, horseshoes and track events.

Medals are awarded to the top three contestants in each event.

Senior citizens will also have an opportunity to show their more creative and artistic talents with an arts and crafts show and baking competition, Crawford said.

"The olympics are really to heighten people's awareness to the fact that seniors are not the frail, rocking chair-sitters that people have in their minds," Crawford said. "They are very vital and active people. This one single

day seems to do a lot for their egos. They do get a sense of accomplishment. It really sort of enhances the whole health thing. It promotes health awareness."

TO MARK the daylong competition, the merchants of Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi have scheduled a senior day at the mall on Sunday. Olympics participants will receive special discounts. Entertainment will be provided by senior musical and dance groups.

Although pre-registration is required to participate in the events, volunteers are still being sought for the program, Crawford said. Anyone interested in

helping with the events need only arrive at OCC when the olympics start and offer their services, she said.

"It's really all done primarily by volunteers," Crawford said.

Dystrophy funfest set for September

The Muscular Dystrophy Association's plans for the second annual Family Funfest are under way.

The festival, held in conjunction with the Jerry Lewis Labor Day Telethon, will take place on Sept. 2 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. in the parking lot of the Southfield Hilton on Nine Mile east of Southfield Road.

This year's festival will offer live entertainment, games for all ages, and a wide variety of food.

Also, WJBK-Channel 2 will be broadcasting live throughout the day from the festival. People and businesses wishing to become involved with this year's festival are encouraged to contact Pete June, Festival Project Coordinator, at 399-8800 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

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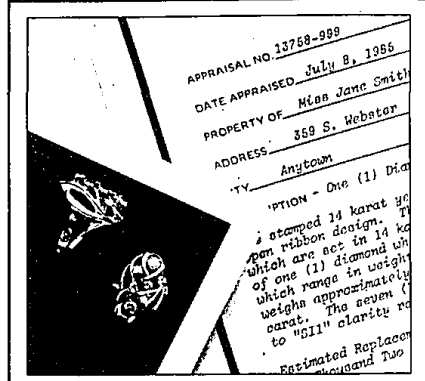
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