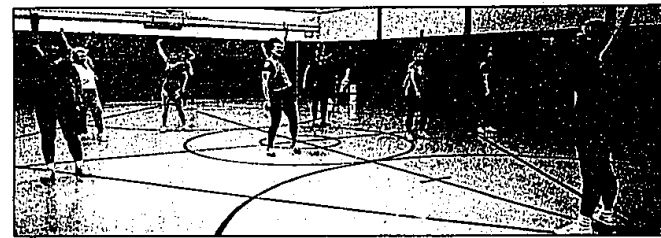




Emphasis on community education grows



Joan Vallivona (right) leads a group of hardy adults through the rigors of an exercise class at the 10 Mile School.

By Casey Hans
staff writer

EVERYONE HAS the right to a good education, but some people are not getting it.

So says Rose Govig, adult education coordinator for the Clarenceville Public Schools/Farmington Public Schools consortium. She believes community education can help.

Citing a statistic of 2.7-million illiterate Michigan adults, Govig said many people do not fit traditional school system molds and need alternative education.

"I don't know how you can function as an adult if you can't fill out forms at the post office or take the driver's license test," she added.

A desire for "quality education for everyone" led to her involvement in the Clarenceville/Farmington consortium 1 1/2 years ago. The 54 part-time, certified teachers are committed as well.

"They attack the program as if it's full-time and their lives depend on it," Govig said.

THERE ARE many special needs in community education so teachers are especially perceptive, she added.

There are also community residents involved in teaching — some paid and

others volunteer.

Program ideas develop through community suggestion and need, and many residents who request special programs find them offered the next semester. Today's communities demand practical skills, Govig said.

Govig did a community survey to determine people's needs. "I had biases and thought I knew what people wanted. They proved me wrong and it was wonderful."

Community education consortia with two or more districts are common, Govig said. Clarenceville Schools acts as a financial conduit for the local program, keeping the books and applying for state-funded programs, which are paid on a "per student" rate.

"Farmington supplies the people," Govig said. Farmington previously had a community education consortium with Walled Lake, she added.

THE CONSORTIUM holds programs in 21 buildings throughout Farmington and Clarenceville; 18 are hosts for senior citizen education programs. Farmington Place alone is holding classes in geography, social studies, home economics and science — all at residents' requests.

Programs in the consortium include Adult Basic Education, including high

school completion, Merrill Hall program for unwed mothers, English as a Second Language (ESL), plus leisure activities classes.

Program headquarters are in Clarenceville High School and in 10 Mile School, a former Farmington elementary. Both schools are filled days and evenings. Space is at a premium as community education classes become more popular.

The program offers day care at 10 Mile School where students can leave children "of walking age" for a "minimal fee" while attending classes.

The state audits community education programs heavily, Govig said. The program is reviewed several times each year because of the many programs.

Govig said she is busy hiring teachers — some who are only hired to teach one class — scheduling classes and record-keeping.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION follows a regular school year, with two 15-week semesters. Govig estimates that more than 100 residents will attend community education classes during winter. She has already registered 43 students for daytime classes.

Class enrollment for General Equivalency Diploma (GED) preparation



English teacher Nancy Carlson (left) helps Maria Wilson of Italy with a question at the 10 Mile School.

classes is up from last year, which Govig said is not the trend statewide. These state-subsidized classes work on a "fee or free" basis that Govig established. The fee, if paid for the high school equivalency classes and leisure classes, is a flat \$35, Govig said.

Govig began her community education career in the Livonia district in 1976 when alternative education was in its infancy.

Because of declining enrollments and growing interest in adult and community education, programs continue to grow, she said. "Districts have to keep the buildings heated and maintained, so we make good use of them."

"The challenge of the program is that it requires a lot of pre-planning, but at the same time, it's flexible," Govig said.



AT LEFT: Kyoko Hatakama, a native of Japan, studies her English lesson in an intermediate English as a second language class at the 10 Mile School.

Staff photos
by
Randy Boret

inkwell

Inkwell provides news and information about Farmington-area primary and secondary schools. The column appears throughout the school year as part of the Observer's "School Page." Send news items to: The School Page, Farmington Observer, 33203 Grand River, Farmington 48024. Include a telephone number where a contact person can be reached during the day.

HE'S A WINNER

North Farmington High School junior Pat Lowe received a \$50 first-place prize in the 14th annual Autorama design competition, open to all junior and senior high school students.

Entries were judged by a panel of automotive designers and illustrators based on creativity, practicality and originality of concept, and mastery of pictorial art techniques.

Lowe placed first in high grade level. The 34th annual Detroit Autorama Custom Car Show in Cobo Hall and Arena in Detroit was held Jan. 2-5. Hundreds of custom car builders from 28 states took part. There were 100 categories for everything from custom hot rods, street rods and vans to classic antique and racing vehicles.

NEWLY HIRED

Four additions were recently made to the Farmington Public Schools payroll as approved by the school board in December.

In clerical positions are Diana Catlin, a clerk in the district's central office, and Joanne Halonen, a secretary at North Farmington High School. Nancie Eiken was appointed school store manager at Farmington High. DiAnne Hagan was hired as a special education aide at East Middle School.

STEPPING DOWN

Four Farmington Public Schools employees are retiring during the months of January to March, according to information presented at a December school board meeting.

Robert Benjamin, with the district since 1949, will leave his position as an elementary art consultant effective March 28.

A speech pathologist with the district since 1955, Joan Courville will retire effective Jan. 24.

After 28 years with the Farmington Public Schools, Doris McNally will retire effective Jan. 17. McNally is a third-grade teacher at Kenbrook Elementary School.

A first-grade teacher at Larkshire Elementary, Mary Biggar will retire effective Feb. 3. She began her career with the district in 1966.

THINKING SKILLS

A new program aimed at promoting critical thinking skills in the nation's schools was announced by the National Education Association (NEA) Nov. 17, at the start of American Education Week.

"We must help students develop analytical thinking skills — and the ability to make judgments," said Mary Hatwood Futrell, NEA president.

"Tomorrow's world will be truly international, and the culture schools transmitting won't be solely

ours. We can't live on an island called America," she said.

The new program will include a series of workshops and critical thinking activities developed by Marcia Heiman, director of the Learning to Learn Program at Boston College, and Joshua Siomianko, co-director of Learning Skills Consultants in Cambridge, Mass. Heiman and Siomianko are creators of Learning To Learn, a system of strategies to improve students' academic performance and retention rates.

The workshops, available next summer, will offer a range of critical thinking skills activities for teachers to use with students.

Specific thinking skills materials will be available in areas such as language arts/English, science, mathematics and social studies. The program will include books, filmstrips, workshop handouts, audio and video cassettes as well as a comprehensive trainer's guide.

For information about the multimedia program, write: NEA Professional Library, Room 601, 1201 16th St., Washington, D.C. 20036.

SAT WORKSHOPS

Detroit Country Day School in Beverly Hills will offer a two-session scholastic aptitude test (SAT) workshop from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturdays, Jan. 11 and 18.

Open to all area students, the workshop is designed to upgrade participants' performance on the SAT, a nationwide test used as an admission standard by campuses.

The workshop will include practice tests and a review of mathematical concepts plus instruction in test mechanics and strategies, analogy, reading comprehension and sentence completion.

The fee for the two sessions is \$35. To register, call 846-7717.

CALLING ALL DESIGNERS

High school juniors and seniors and adults who have designs on the future can explore their talents during two special design programs being offered on Saturdays by the Lawrence Institute of Technology (LIT) School of Architecture.

The design discovery and pre-college programs will be held on LIT's campus in Southfield Jan. 25 through May 24.

Students will gain preliminary exposure to beginning course work in the fields of architecture, interior architecture, or illustration/design. College credit toward a bachelor of science degree will be awarded upon successful completion of these courses.

Each of the three programs offer studio experiences in drawing and basic design. There also will be an art and architecture awareness seminar, which will include field trips to museums, art galleries and LIT's Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Affect House.

Participants may take one, two or three classes. Tuition for each class is \$120. The seminar fee is \$40. Materials are extra.

Applications will be accepted through Jan. 10. For more information, contact your high school art, drafting, home economics teacher or counselor, or the LIT Admissions Office at 24000 Southfield Ave., Southfield, Mich. 48034.

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