

# Suburban Life

Lorraine McClish editor/477-5450



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## Senex

### Volunteers called to help launch a new day care center for adults

By Lorraine McClish  
staff writer

**T**ARGET DATE FOR THE opening of Senex, a day care program for the frail and elderly, is Thursday, Oct. 16. It is jointly sponsored by Mercy Services for Aging and Farmington Hills Senior Adult Center.

Representatives of the two groups have all plans cemented for the service that will provide socialization for those who might otherwise be homebound and at the same time give respite for a day or two a week to the 24-hour caregiver.

"We're in the last stages of getting the word out and calling for volunteers who will be the mainstay of the program," said Christie Hicks of Mercy Services for Aging, which suggested the format for Senex.

"There aren't too many requirements for the volunteers. The people who will respond to this will be coming to us with all the built-in love and caring that is needed," said

Maggie Loridas, who heads up the floor and swim exercises as well as the dance classes in the senior adult center.

"We're going into this with full confidence and no reservations at all," said Loretta Conway, executive director of the center. "We've had other adult day care centers bring their seniors here for a field trip. Everyone blended in with whatever we were doing just beautifully. But it was really our group for stroke patients that actually served as a pilot program for us. They interact with us now so well we know this will work, and work well."

SENEX is a Latin word that means "senior" and carries the connotation of deep respect. The entire program is built around that concept.

"We will be providing support and supervision to the frail elderly so that he or she can participate in as many of the existing activities as possible," Hicks said. "And we will be providing special programs and activities, which enhance life satisfaction."

"The most important aspect of this is to reduce their isolation," Loridas said. "If participation isn't possible, then they can get involved by watching. Any new experience equates to a better quality of life. Just being in a new social situation is beneficial."

Senex will serve older adults who are experiencing any number of problems such as stroke, Parkinson's disease, severe arthritis or memory disorders.

"Any one who is unable to stay by themselves, have difficulty walking or using the bathroom or who need assistance in finding their way would benefit from Senex," Hicks said.

Hicks will be training the volunteers the first part of October. They will be asked to work four hours one day a week in the senior adult center. Their role will be to befriend, listen and assist in activities as needed. A volunteer might be assisting one or two clients, depending on the need.

Senex will be in operation from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, with all the facilities in the Farmington Hills Senior Adult Center housed within Mercy Center complex on 11 Mile, east

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RICK SMITH/staff photographer

Martha Elhers (at left) and Dianne Richard both wear versions of the Chanel look that guests will see during "Fall Fantasia." Elhers' three-piece suit is in black and white, while Richard's is fashioned in cream and white. Both were made exclusively for Talbot's, whose Novi store is furnishing the fashions as well as the commentary on the "in" look for fall.

## Fall Fantasia focus is on the Chanel look

A fall luncheon and fashion show romances Farmington Community Center's biggest fund-raiser. The event was initiated in the late '60s by the center's first board of directors almost immediately after the building and grounds were purchased and has never failed to draw more reservations every succeeding year.

The luncheon and show this time around begins with cocktails at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 1, in the Novi Hilton, with fashions that accent the Chanel look coming from Talbot's of 12 Oaks Mall.

"We've sold ourselves out of every available spot in Farmington or Farmington Hills," said Judy Antishin, a longtime center volunteer who is chairing the event. "Having our biggest fund-raiser outside of our boundaries is certainly not the way we would chose to have it, but last year we even outgrew what Sheraton-Oaks can accommodate."

The first luncheon and fashion show was sold out for the number that could be accommodated in Glen Oaks Country Club and was staged by what Antishin called "a handful of supporters determined to get their

new building under way as a cultural and meeting place for the residents."

Today the benefit is staged by the center's Volunteer Guild and Antishin is not going to be surprised when the 500 available tickets, the largest number ever printed for the event, have been sold out.

MODELS FOR the show come from a response to a small article that was printed in the Farmington Observer in mid-summer. "They'll all be from anywhere (in age) from their late 20s into their late 60s, with all the size ranges that entails, modeling clothes with the classic or tailored look, for the young careerist through retirement age, including women at home," Antishin said.

Antishin and her co-chair Tina Jensen, will choose about 15 women to model the Chanel look from the 30

responses they received from the newspaper article.

"I really don't think these women responded so much to model as they did because they just wanted to help," Antishin said. "There is certainly no end to the volunteering one can do, but the center always gets the help it needs because so many of us are possessive about this grand house and know the value of keeping its doors open."

Offers of help have come from local hairdressers and makeup artists, and a host of local merchants. Heene-Sundquist Funeral Home's contribution was printing all of the tickets and all of the flyers.

Brenda Shelton, chair of last year's show, is lending her expertise to the volunteer committee and initiated reserved seating for the event, that will be in effect for the first time this October.

Tickets for the reserved seating are handled by Doris Harper. They are \$15 each, available by calling the center, 477-8404.

ON HAND AT the event will be Gerry Tobin, another Volunteer Guild member, who with her committee compiled "The Good Enough Cook Book." The book of recipes, to be sold as another fund-raiser for the center, will be on sale during the luncheon and show.

Dianne Rickard is heading up the committee gathering both door and raffle prizes for the guests.

Other women taking significant jobs working toward the day are Kay Briggs, Kay Blakeney, Audrey Buellman, Dee Carey, Gwen Paine, Helen Musial, Elaine Simpson and Betty Beausoleil.



Clarence Van Dell posed for this picture that appears on the cover of Mercy Services for Aging's latest brochure listing the many ways the agency responds to needs of the elderly. The Farmington Hills resident is one of the 150 area seniors who visit Farmington Hills Adult Senior Center every day for participation in one program or another. Van Dell comes for the exercise classes.



RICK SMITH/staff photographer

## Western Wing Ding

Judy Wantuck (at left), Susan Bernhardt and Becky Sharp model the costumes they'll be wearing for Western Wing Ding, sponsored by Welcome Wagon. The club offers sports leagues, couples' activities, card groups, luncheons, a book club and a babysitting co-op for newcomers to Farmington and Farmington Hills. Western Wing Ding begins at 7 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 20, in Pelonago Club, West Bloomfield. Reservation information is given by calling Sharp at 681-0720.

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