

# Space being sought for senior activities

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

**F**INDING ADDITIONAL space for senior adult activities is what a new, joint Farmington-Farmington Hills committee will busy itself with for the next few months.

"More and more, there seems to be a feeling, a concern among senior adults that they don't have places to have their programs," Farmington Hills city manager William Costick said.

In the long term, the committee will study "the needs and alternatives available for providing adequate facilities for senior citizen programs," Costick said.

The Farmington Hills Department of Special Services Senior Adult division has been using a large activities room, gym and swimming pool at Mercy Center, 11 Mile and Middlebelt, for activities. The gym and pool are available eight hours a week.

But the need for space has grown as the programs have expanded. The division's stroke support group, for example, uses the Farmington Hills City Council chambers for its meetings, Costick said.

"There are always conflicts with timing," he said, adding the committee will study possible use of other facilities as well as whether a new building should be constructed.

But equal consideration will be given to remaining at Mercy Center. "We aren't foreclosing better utilization of our use of the Mercy Center," Costick said.

**ADULT SENIOR** supervisor Loretta Conway agrees. "We work very, very well with Mercy. They go out of their way to be good to us. That's worth a lot."

The Farmington Hills City Council Monday approved a new \$41,792 lease for continued use of space at the Mercy Center to June 30, 1989.

"What we're looking at is that

some of the people are upset that we have classes in different rooms (in Mercy Center). It's unsettling to them," Conway said.

Currently, the SENEX program for frail elderly adults is sponsored in cooperation with Mercy Services for Aging. The program is scheduled in a particular room rented for SENEX that the senior adult division has also been able to use for other programs. "There is the possibility of arranging something more like that," Conway said.

The 14-year senior adult division offers more than 20 programs and has about 150-200 participants daily. "Sometimes, it's almost like all the programs are fighting for our attention (in space needs)," Conway said.

The seven-member committee's first order of business is to draft a mission statement that will be required to pass muster before the Farmington and Farmington Hills city councils.

**CREATION OF** the committee also has Farmington city manager Robert Deadman's support.

"I believe it is timely that the facility needs of our senior citizens, and perhaps the general community, should be studied by a committee appointed by the two city councils," Deadman said in a report to the council in June.

The new committee is expected to meet with the Farmington-Farmington Hills Commission on Aging in August. At that time, it's expected to be determined whether some members or the entire commission should serve on the new committee, Costick said.

The committee is comprised of Farmington city councilwoman Shirley Richardson, Farmington Hills city councilman Aldo Vagnor, Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Commission chairman Dennis Fitzgerald, Sister Mary Weber, a Commission on Aging member, and two residents, Dara Tolbert and Ken Hill.



THOMAS ARNETT/staff photographer

Seniors Helen Evans (left) of Farmington Hills, Bill Micus of Westland, Ellen Jaseck of Redford Township and Julius Pallinas of Novi relax in the senior center pool.



THOMAS ARNETT/staff photographer

Shirley Singer of Southfield stretches during an exercise class in the senior center.



THOMAS ARNETT/staff photographer

Leonard Satz (left) of Farmington Hills, Bill Grant of Farmington Hills, Maria Gernacy of West Bloomfield, frail elderly coordinator Patti Mato, Chick Ward of Farmington Hills, Frances Finnegan of Farmington Hills and Laura Shea of West Bloomfield sing songs to Leonard's accompaniment.

## Former governor Swainson to speak on blessings of liberty

John B. Swainson, former governor of Michigan and former justice of the Michigan Supreme Court, will speak on "The Blessings of Liberty" in Farmington Hills on Sunday, Aug. 14, at Heritage Park.

Swainson, president of the Michigan Historical Commission, will stress that these "liberties" are treasured today because of their protection under the U.S. Constitution, now in its 201st year.

The Farmington Area Committee on the Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution is host for the free picnic, to be held 4-7 p.m.

Featured at the affair, the first major event to be held at Heritage Park, will be the Franklin Village Band, which will play a Salute to Irving Berlin on his 100th year. The band is under the direction of Dr. Conrad Lam of Woodcreek Farms.

Guests at the picnic are encouraged to bring their family stories of why they or their forefathers came

to America. If you have such a remembrance (which may be as short as one or two minutes) please call Farmington Hills City Hall at 473-9603 and let the Committee know so you may be part of the afternoon's program. Residents of Farmington and Farmington Hills, as well as neighboring communities, are invited.

Swainson, born in Canada, was seriously wounded during World War II during an assault on Metz in Alsace Lorraine, France. His wounds necessitated the amputation of both his legs, and he recuperated in Percy Jones Hospital in Battle Creek.

He earned a law degree at the University of North Carolina, returning to Michigan, and was elected state senator from the 18th District in 1954 for two terms. In 1958, he was elected lieutenant governor, and in 1960, at age 35, he was elected governor.



John Swainson  
elected governor in 1960

In 1970, he was elected justice of the Michigan Supreme Court, from which he retired in 1973.

## Blood donors can give today

Plagued by a shortage of blood, the American Red Cross will host two blood drives in Farmington Hills.

Drives are scheduled for:  
• Today, 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Farmington Community Library, 28777 13 Mile, Farmington Hills.  
• Call Richard Nagler, 643-4362.

• Sunday, 2:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., North Park United Methodist Church, 28777 11 Mile, Farmington Hills. Call Cory Lapinsci, 471-4163.

The drives are sponsored by the Red Cross' Detroit-based Southeastern Michigan Regional Blood Service.

**OFFICIALS ARE** hoping for good turnouts at the drives.

"We can't understand it," said Bob Batchelor, Red Cross donor resources development director. "Collections at our donor centers have picked up but are bombing at blood drives. Donors should all be getting the same

message: blood donations are down and blood is needed to meet patient needs."

Community groups and businesses are urged to schedule on-site blood drives, Batchelor said. Call the Red Cross at 484-2790 to schedule a blood drive.

Anyone between 17 and 70 who weighs at least 110 pounds and who is in good general health typically can donate blood. Blood may be donated once every eight weeks.

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