Homemaking class has changed with the times

Growing out of the more traditional home economics classes, Farm-ington Public Schools' Life Manage-ment program has expanded to in-clude less time in the kitchen and more time for learning coping skills.

A major review of the program is underway, as educators seek better ways to teach all atudents, male and female, how to handle life.

"We deal quite a bit with how kids . . . feel about it," said Earl Baumunk, director of vocational and career education. "The focus is a little different."

This shift began in 1984 with a change in state financing rules. Farmington changed the name of the

program to "Lifo Management" last year so today's student would be more comfortable in the program. And improvements are continuing.

A four-year self-evaluation and "action plan" guides the stalf, and just last month, the district went through a major "peer review" process, when a team of educators from across the state toursed classes and interviewed those in the middle school and high school buildings about the program, Baumunk sald. visory board for the Farmington program. She believes programs like Farmington's are necessary in to-day's schools to help students build salf estence. day's schools to help students build self esteem.

"There are too many children to-day who are not getting it," said Goiter, a private counselor in Farmington Hills and teacher at Oakland Community College. "I really feel strongly about what they're (Farmington schools) doing, Children have to be taught self-esteem.

"Children do need more than calculus in order to survive in this society. Life management is important no matter how you live or where you live."

A FINAL written report from the team, expected in June, will offer the district suggestions on low to better the program, Baumunk and, the expects much of the focus to be on the middle school area, when Life Management curriculum begins.

Margaret Cotter serves on the ad-

COTTER HAS had personal experience with adults who did not receive life skills training during

their school years; her Positive Liv-ing Skills class at OCC has been pop-ular with adults for 10 years. Traditional home economics pro-

Traditional home economics programs used to prepare young women for careers as homemakers, but the needs have expanded to include the living akills Cotter mentions, Baumunk sald.

Today, Farmington's program focuses on essential day-to-day living skills, human relations and parenting skills, career awareness, teaching students to make decitions and manging the transition from adolescence to adulthood.

THE FARMINGTON program is a requirement for middle school stu-dents, and an elective offering in the three high schools. The Farmington

district receives about \$15,000 each year to help support the program. Money is used for up-to-date materi-als, supplies and in-service training for the 12 Life Management teach-

for the 12 Life Management teachcers.

About 1,200 students benefit from
the courses offered each year, Baumunk sald. "It can have a significant
impact on a number of kids."

Baumunk sald the district is still
trying to overcrome the "home economics" label. It is encouraging
more boys to sign up for classes,
which range from nutrition, commonity work and teen issues to one
called, "On Your Own," which gives

seniors independent living skills.

The revised curriculum promotes the growth of the whole individuality of life, said a statement in the statisfier control of the said control of the s

Eateries, stores to be in revamped plaza

Three familiar names will join a well-known health and beauty aids store in the remodeled former site of Tally Hall at Hunters Square, 14 Mile and Orchard Lake Road, Farm-

Mine and o'tament inglon Hills.

Marvin's Mechanical Museum, an entertainment center with old-time amusement machines, Anita's Kitchen, a restaurant with a Middle East

cuisine, and the Honey Tree, a res-taurant with a Greek cuisine, will join the 30,000-square-foot F&M health and beauty alds store.

"Watch Us Grow!" proclaims a sign in front of the 40,000-square-foot site, being remodeled by A.J. Etkin Construction Co. of Farming-ton Hills. The remodeled site is ex-

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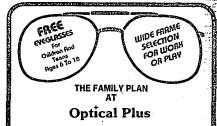
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pected to re-open this summer.
Tally Hall opened as a festival food court in 1981, growing to 45 food booths in 1881 and 1891.
Last December, Robert Schostlak, vice president of Southlield-based Schostak Brothers & Co., managing agent for Tally Hell's owner, Hunters Square Limited Partnership,

said: "It's time for a change. The fes-tival food court concept is no longer an attraction for the upper-locome shoppers who dominate the Hunters Square trade area."

During changeover at the former Tally Hall sile, it has been bettness as usual for Lochmann's and the 34 other stores that make up the rest of Hunters Square.



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