

# Schools study change in senior-adult policy

By Casey Hana  
staff writer

The Farmington school board will review plans to move adult education programs out of senior apartment complexes and into a centralized building this fall.

At least one teacher believes the change would make it more difficult for seniors to obtain their high school diplomas.

But administrators say state scrutiny of such programs almost requires they be centralized, or they may lose the program altogether.

THE ISSUE was brought to the board's attention July 10, when a longtime teacher in the program appeared before the school board, saying she was concerned area seniors would be prohibited from participating because of the change.

"I feel it is an imposition for them (seniors)," said Jeannie Allen, who has taught in the Farmington program since 1972 and has lived in Farmington for 20 years.

"A lot require continuing care. Their minds are active, in many cases, but their bodies are frail. I would like to see the programs continue at the senior sites. I'm very upset about it."

TEACHERS in the adult education program are hourly employees of the district, but are not affiliated with the Farmington Education Association, the collective bargaining unit for teachers. Allen estimates six teachers will not have enough enrolled to teach this fall if the program is changed.

In the past, adult education programs were offered at area centers such as American House, Detroit

Baptist Manor, Farmington Place and Farmington Hills Inn so seniors could get their Graduate Equivalency Diploma, similar to receiving a high school diploma.

School administrators said they will now offer on-site enrichment classes at these locations, but want to centralize the academic classes. The program would be housed in the Farmington Community School, at Shawassee and Tuck, the base building for adult and community education programs. Starting this fall, Farmington will participate in a consortium with Huron Valley Schools for all adult education programs.

"THESE PROGRAMS are closely scrutinized by the state, and it's better to get it into a school building," acting superintendent Michael Flanagan said. "It validates that program from the state's point of view. Otherwise, we might lose it."

"We do have the luxury of having a school building," school/community relations director Pamela O'Malley said. "We believe the state would prefer we offer them (adult ed classes) in a school building."

Other districts are handling their programs in much the same way, she said.

"We feel it's the best option for all people," she said. "We're really getting in line with other districts."

ALTHOUGH THERE was not a lot of discussion by the school board, trustee Helen Ditzhazy clarified Allen's position.

"That really means the people she's discussing will not be part of our program," she said. "Some of the people we have served, other districts have not. We'll be cutting."

School board president Helen Prout said she would recommend a board committee discuss and review the situation as soon as possible.

ALLEN SAID she was pleased the policy was being reviewed.

"I was pleased that it's not cut and dried," she said. "I think there is a growing senior population — these people have enjoyed the program."

"It keeps their minds alert — it keeps them active. They look to us as their family. This is so beneficial."

She said the oldest graduate from one of her classes was 103 years old. In last year's program, which handled seniors in the Farmington and Clarencville areas, approximately 90 people were registered, Allen said.

The education programs are different from what is offered at the Mercy Center, through the Farmington Hills special services department, according to Allen.

"That's an excellent program, but those people are ambulatory and healthy. This is different."

## Hills firm makes growth investment

Xsys Inc., Ann Arbor, will be the first Michigan company to receive growth capital from Farmington Hills-based Onset BIDCO Inc., announced Gordon Areen, president, Onset BIDCO.

Under terms of a financial agreement, Xsys Inc. will receive \$500,000. Dr. Fred H. Hamblinton, vice chairman of Xsys, said the funding will be utilized to further develop its and customer support capability.

Xsys Inc. specializes in "CAD-Acces" systems, and their products include Multi-CAD and Multi-IGES.

"CAD-Acces" refers to the ability to communicate, integrate and accurately display data from several dissimilar computer-aided design (CAD) systems. CAD-Acces systems allow managers, non-designers, designers and engineers to retrieve, analyze and manipulate information from their own systems as well as CAD systems independent of their own.

This process simplifies the manufacturing communications link not only between the supplier community and automotive customers, but also internally within a company.

For example, engineering, manufacturing and purchasing departments can exchange part, model, drawing and material specifications using CAD-Acces systems.

"We are excited and pleased to have selected Xsys Inc. for investment," said Areen, "because this high technology computer software firm not only has unique products for a major growth market, but also closely matches Onset's objectives to provide a source of needed capital to spur that growth."

Onset BIDCO Inc. was formed under a 1986 Michigan law that permits creation of private companies, named Business and Industrial Development Corps. (BIDCO), for the

purpose of funding certain businesses.

Explained Areen, "The Onset team's mission is to work with the automotive industry to build an innovative technology supply base in Michigan."

"Onset BIDCO Inc. provides growth capital, in amounts ranging from \$300,000 to \$1 million, to companies in Southeastern Michigan whose capital requirements fall between commercial banking and high risk venture capital — these are companies which are in the financing gap."

"Onset BIDCO is focused on companies important to manufacturing, not necessarily automotive related."

## Student performs in opera

Jennifer Dautermann of Farmington Hills made her debut with the Ohio Light Opera at The College of Wooster in Ohio.

She portrays Olga in "The Grand Duchess of Gerolstein," Javotte in "Cigarette" and Angelina in "Trial by Jury."

A graduate of the Interlochen Arts Academy, Dautermann's first stage role was Lady Psyche in the Interlo-

chen National Music Camp's "Princess Ida."

She appeared as Barbarina in the Michigan Lyric Opera's production of "The Marriage of Figaro" and in Interlochen opera workshop productions as Susanna in "Figaro" and Mrs. Nolan in "The Medium."

Currently working toward her bachelor of music degree at the University of Michigan, the soprano is a student of Lorna Haywood.

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- Natuzzi 5-seat curved sheared back. Your choice of blue or tan, was \$4275, now \$1975
- Nicoletti high back 7-seat with ottoman and chaise in lavender, was \$9925, now \$5954

### Leather Sofas & Loveseats

- Nicoletti contemporary grey and black (2-tone) sofa was \$2575, now \$1544; loveseat was \$2225, now \$1334
- Natuzzi over-stuffed 4-piece grouping in taupe. Sofa was \$3600, now \$1795; loveseat was \$3195, now \$1595; chair and ottoman was \$3595, now \$1595
- Nicoletti contemporary multi-velvet high back, taupe and grey (2-tone) sofa was \$2500, now \$1488; loveseat was \$2075, now \$1244
- Natuzzi tan sofa/loveseat was \$5285, now \$2495

### Leather Chairs & Odd Pieces

- Gorman's Own contemporary black chair and ottoman was \$1195, now \$497
- Natuzzi velvet chair was \$995, now \$398
- Emerson leather and exposed wood chair was \$1050, now \$459

- Natuzzi armless sectional chair, cream, was \$1170, now \$325
- Natuzzi chair, white, was \$800, now \$322

### Bedroom Furniture

- Henredon white lacquer 4-piece king size set, was \$3345, now \$1595
- Gorman's Own 4-piece queen-size set, your choice of grey, white or black, was \$1589, now \$599

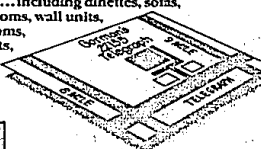
### Dining Room and Dinette Furniture

- Henredon white lacquer set, includes table with 8 chairs, was \$3786, now \$1799; matching buffet was \$1340, now \$584
- Henredon black marble and oval glass top dining table, was \$2320, now \$995
- Ello round marble and glass with brass supports, was \$1500, now \$745

### Entertainment & Wall Units

- Henredon 2-piece black lacquer bar and entertainment unit, was \$4995, now \$1995
- Henredon 3-piece champagne TV bar and display unit, was \$6025, now \$3495
- Gorman's Own low entertainment unit, choice of oak or black lacquer, was \$675, now \$295

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