Retirement residence hosts school reunion

It was a reunion unlike any other. Students and teachers of the for-mer Middlebelt Elementary School Joined residents of the American House Retirement Residence last

week.

"The Farmington Hills school, which closed in 1983 because of de-clining curoliment, was remodeled and transformed into a retirement home in 1984.

"Someone had the . . . idea that It'd be fun to have a reunion," said farol Hamilton, American House ac-tivities director, "We didn't know what kind of turnout it would be, but it's zood."

what kinu of turbose it.
[lt]a good."

6‡ "What's infique is to see how they opuld change a school into such a nice facility," said Karen Unruh, a former paraprofessional at the school.

school.

About 30 former teachers and 15 former students gathered in what was once the gymnasium on Sept. 20. They came back to catch a glimpse of how the building they once occu-

pled had changed.
"It's oxcliting. It's changed, These people are warm and friendly," said Trudy Danley, who taught second and third grade at Middlebelt Elementary from 1973 to 1983. "It was hard to find our room (classroom), it had changed so much.
"It's fun to see them (former students) and hear what they're doling," she added. "I didn't recognize them. They're all grown up."
Former first-grade teacher Barbara Loughlin greeted former student Richard Kouroujian with a hug. They hadn't seen each other in about 10 years.
Guest of honor was Beechview Elementary principal Walter Prince, the last several Middle.

ementary principal Walter Prince, the last principal to serve at Middle-belt Elementary.

TABLES AROUND the room dis-played former class pictures and books as well as photoo utuling de-velopment of American House. While some teachers and students laughed and chatted with each other, others wandered from table to table, pointing out a former teacher or stu-

dent, remarking how things have changed.
"We'd like to do this once a year," said Virginia Beardsley, who taught third grade at Middicbelt. "We make an effort (to see each other), but it's not easy."

not easy."
Most of the teachers at the reunion moved to other area elementaries after the school closed. The last students now attend middle or high

dents now attend middle or high school.

Jessica Pieti and Julle Liganos.

Jessica Pieti and Julle Liganos.

Jessica Pieti sudents now eight graders at East Middle School. Last week, they looked through old class pictures and had a chance to see their favorite teacher, Barbara Loughlin.

Heather Bonn, now a tuning of

Loughlin. Heather Bopp, now a juntor in Harrison High, is a former Middle-belt student who works as part of the dictary staff at American House.

"It's really neat to look at all the teachers and recognize old faces," Bopp said, "You look once and then you have to look twice to recognize them."

RESIDENTS MINGLED with the



Lucille Duchene (left), Lillian Malony and Windle Tarrents play their instruments as part of for the Middlebelt Elementary reunion.

former teachers and students, telling them what American House is like, giving tours of their rooms. Fifteen of the residents, a group called the Music Makers, sang and played tam-

can House resident Ruth May. "They can see what they've done to this place."
"This used to be a gym," she said, pointing to the room that was now filled with balloons and hors

The event was one of several planned by American House based on the theme "Do You Remember?" These special events will recall the early part of this century, a nostal-gic time for most American House residents.

fills officials eye penalties for ethics violations

(Spilinued from Page 1 Jognozzi agreed that disciplinary action is needed to strengthen en-forcement of the code. Removal of elected officials should be included astone penalty for serious violations, he said.

me said,

"Interpretation of ethics is somelimes not the same and there cannot
be any clear-cut distinction," Sever
said. "The charter is very vague on

how an elected official can be re-moved. But I don't think it is for other council members to decide. "I am reluctant to give council members the ability to remove an-other elected council member from office," Sever said. "The people put them in office, the people should take them out."

THE FINAL draft of the code will

(just for kids)

be approved by the city council and adopted as public policy, Sever said.

The code will act as a guideline on ethics for city officials and employ-ces. It will give the public and the city council the opportunity to "sin-gle out" an offender, Sever said.

Several public hearings are possi-ble before the draft is approved as

NO RESIDENTS helped write the draft, but city officials are encouraging the public to take part in the hearings. Copies of the draft are at the city elerks office at city halt, 3155 if Mile. "This is rather unique and new to the council as far as how we were going to handle this and what we were going to do," Sever said.
"It is the committee's interest and

sole interest of council to have the best possible document that we can have. If we need additional input from the public in a study session, then that's what we have to do." A study session will be held near the end of October or the beginning of November, Sever said.

of November, Sever said.

OTHER AREAS of the document are unclear, residents said.

The code frowns on city officials and employees accepting substantial glifts, either in-kind or money. But who is to decide what is substantial, Silver asked.

In the code, substantial is defined as "anything of significant worth and importance, or of considerable value as distinguished from something with Ittle value, social tokenism or merely nominal."

Silver used an example of a salesman who offers a city official a pen with the company name on it as an acceptable glit. The pen can be used acty offices and does not have substantial value.
"Say one gentleman comes in to

stantial value.

"Say one gentleman comes in to city hall to make a bid on a contract or something and sees the clerk is

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taking his bid and writing it down with a pen that advertises his oppo-nent, who is also bidding on the bid. He would feel like he was treated un-fair," Silver sald.

siLVER SUGGESTED the city follow the UAW code of ethics, which does not allow acceptance of any glits, she said.

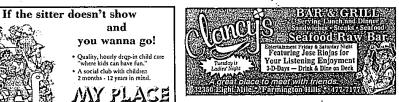
"I am of the feeling that anyone who works for the city shouldn't receive any kind of gift of any sort from anybody." Silver said.

"I feel that any kind of gift can be considered to have the appearance that would adversely affect the morality of the person accepting the gift and, therefore, the morality of my cliv government."

Sever requested that the public

Sever requested that the public submit suggestions in writing for the committee to review and discuss during the study session.

"Even after we adopt it (code of ethics), we can always change it," Vagnozzi said. "But I believe we are going to try to adopt it by the time the new council takes over so that they have guidelines to go by."







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