She's the senior of adult ed grads

STAFF WRITER
Farmington, Hills resident Freds
Lewis gave herself one heck of a '
hirthday present this year.
The 84-year-old Farmington
Hills resident was one of 52 aren
adults to receive high school diplomas: through Farmington Public
Schools' Adult Education program
last week.

Schools' Adult Education program hat week.

The oblest grouter in this year's closs, who will be 85 in August. couldn't be prouder.

"It had been a long, long time." Lewis said. "They're very proud of ine—that I know."

The actogramian said it was mustly fear' that caused her not to go back to school soomen! It was her daughter Marion Severs, withouse family she lives in Farmington Hills, who motivated her to try ngain.

"I kept encouraging and encour-aging." Severs said. "It took three years, She has so much enthusiasm for learning." "She's the angel that pushed me," Lewis added.

This "going back to school" wa contagious in the Lewis-Severs household. Her mom's ambition gave Severs the impetus to com-plete her bachelur's degree at Ma-

donna University recently.

Freda Lewis had to drap out of grade, school in Pennsylvania after her father died and the family with 11 children needed help with money. "My mother needed the help," she explained, "We just dropped out. She ther sister) and I cried when Helt."

'Althought she was born in the United States, her Lebanese porcits, spoke Arabic around the house, so learning English was made even more difficult without school.

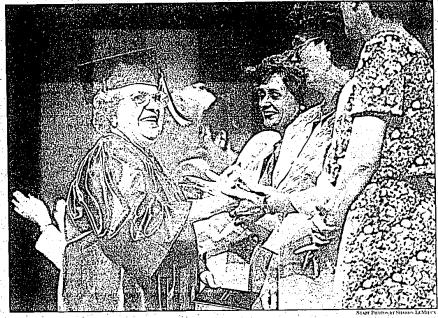
school.

She went on to get married and nise five children, and today has 10 grandchildren, nine great grandchildren and une great grandchild.

children and une great-great-grand-child.

Severs said she saw her mother's self worth suffering because of the lack of a high school degree. She said she has seen her mother blos-som academically, as well as social-by. The eigerlence has given her whole new set of friends and a fresh appreciation of education.

Mathematics was the subject she enjuyed most and English was the trughest. Next, she hopes to enroll in a word processing class "not for a degree, just for learning," she said. And what will Lewis do with her degree, "Tin. it on the wall," she said.



Never too old: Freda Elias Lewis, 84, crosses the stage to receive her diploma from the Farmington Public Schools.



Donning mom's cap: Five-year-old Katelyn Buckner wears the hat her mother. Kelly Buckner, wore during commencement ceremonies last week. The graduate's husband. Rick Buckner; helps his daughter.

Their achievements were a lifetime in the making

Life's a slap, but you're the captain

Nothing can stop you now Farmington Community Children's Chorus

By Casey Hans Staff Writer

Muzio Accettura always wanted to complete high school, but never tound the time

He finally achieved his goal this

"You feel complete—that's the way, I feel," said Accettura, a native of Italy who received a diploma for his academic efforts last week



New life: Ray Smith, 18, Daniel before the ceremo-

through the Farmington Adult Edu cation program, "I always wanted to go to school, but never had the op-portunity."

Accettura was born and raised in Italy where schools closed down due to World War II. After serving two years in the service, he got married and had three children who all went on in higher education; one is a law ver and two are doctors.

Acceltura gave one of three grad-uate speeches at the dune 10 cer-monies held at Farmington High School. More than 50 adults who had come back to school received their diplomas, Community Educa-tion director Terry Klencrat said this year's class ranged in age from 18-84, including one student who had never attended high school, and had natives of Italy, Iraq. Syria and Hong Kong represented among the graduates.

Nine students were from the first graduating class of the Farmington Alternative Academy, an alterna-tive high school program piloted in the district this year in the Farm-ington Training Center building in downtown Farmington. A tearful academy student, Jennifer Tularvzyk, thanked her parents for their patience in helping her get through school.

She was a good student and athlete until reaching high school, Tularcryk said, where "I often made all the wrong choices." She said it was easier to hung out un the school patin than attent class.

Last January, the senior was re-ferred to the academy.

"I found that school wasn't so had after all," she added.

'You feel complete that's the way Ifeel. I always wanted to go to school, but never had the opportu-

> Muzio Accettura high school grad

Michael Davis, who dropped out of Harrison High, came back to school two years ago and earned his diploma last week after realizing be needed a degree to get a good job.

Davis said he grow up the 11th of 13 children, and spent much time intimidating others. He was a poor reader which eventually caused him to became frustrated and quir school

"The anger directed toward teachers was unger at myself," he explained. After dropping out, he worked as a gas attendant and dishwasher while his former class. mates went to college and moved on with their lives

At commencement last week, hi At communication sayers, or add fellow graduates were "taking the first steps through the open door to our inture" and said "we share the same feelings of accomplishment and prode."

pissiment and proc-Entertaining at the commence ment were the Formington Commu-nity Education Children's Chorus-and the Formington Adult Commu-nity Charus, Diplomas were landed out by school board president Jack Carten, and students enjoyed a sort of "video gentbook"—a slide show of "video yearbook" - a put together by the staff

Adult grads: Older and wiser

The following students graduated grough the Farmington Public chool's Adult Education program

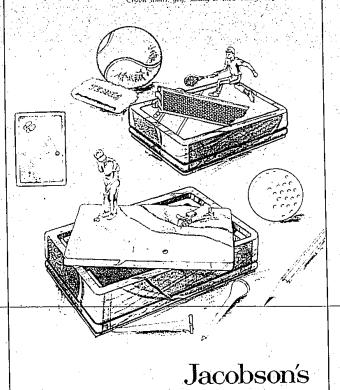
School's Adult Education program on June 10: Muzio Accettura, 'Mark Allen-ra, 'Mario Allen-Chauta Brown, Kelly Buckner, Shannon Cairns, Douglas Chelland, Christopher Cheuk, Alaa Dado, Mi-

chael Davis, Michael Dombrowski, chael Davis, Michael Dombrowski, Sandra Eliy, Anthony Engelberg, Christian Flood, Kimberly Garant, Patrick Gardner, Derek Goldy, Bri-án Gray, Vanesan Hill, Stephen, Humphrey, Christopher Jacobs, Constance Joskiel, Paul Karas, Mar-garet Kasgorgis, Freda Lewis, Ra-chel McKeithen, Kenneth McLau-tin, Tampile Moote, Kristin Nel-

son. Kyle Pace, Jeri Pearse, Suranne Randall, Tracy Robinette, Ranya Sabbagh, Nicolas Schram, Loura Semaan, Scott Silardi, Sean Silver, Arnold Smith, Danielle Smith, Christian Stiehl, Jennifer Struble, Jennifer Talarezyk, James Tomassi, Virginia Waara, Dawn Walker, Scott Wigner, Helen Wright and Mark Zemnickas.

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