

# Adult education changes with the times

By CASEY HANS  
STAFF WRITER

Ten years ago, students in Farmington's adult education program were mostly middle-aged women who wanted to earn high school diplomas.

Today, they include men and women of all ages who want degrees, high schoolers who need an alternative approach to learning, and citizens of foreign countries who need help with English.

Pregnant teens and young mothers continue their high school education through the adult education program as do adult students with disabilities who need education and enrichment classes.

Farmington Public Schools adult education program supervisor Terry Leland said the district has changed with the times. "I've seen a

real change," she said. "Students are coming back sooner. They're learning the value of a diploma earlier."

Like all adult education programs at districts throughout Michigan, Farmington's is funded through the state on a per-pupil basis, so is self-supporting. Anyone can attend classes here, though 70 percent of those receiving diplomas through the adult ed program each year are from the Farmington community, she said. Another 20 percent are from other Detroit-area high schools, five percent are from out-of-state high schools and five percent are from foreign countries.

Some of the programs offered include:

- High School Completion — students 18 and over can take classes and earn a high school degree or

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enhance their skills. Those without a high school diploma can take classes free. Those with a high school degree who want to enhance their skills pay tuition. About 200 students enroll in this program each semester and a graduation ceremony for those achieving diplomas is held each spring. Sixteen part-time teachers participate in this program, which is funded through a consortium with the Huron Valley School District.

- English as a Second Language

— About 80 students each semester representing 25 different countries take classes to enhance their use of the English language. Most of the students — about 85 percent — are women. There are three part-time teachers in this program.

- Farmington Alternative Academy — The academy program started last year to help 30-40 students ages 16-18 who need a more individualized program. It is housed at the Farmington Training Center and

has seven part-time teachers.

- Adult Basic Education — About 90 developmentally disabled students over the age of 25 participate in this program which offers math, reading and computer skills. An enrichment program also gives them a chance to take classes like cooking, Leland said. It is also housed at the Farmington Training Center with six part-time teachers and seven paraprofessionals.

- Matrilac and Louise halls — This program aids about 40 young women aged 16-18 who are pregnant or who have recently given birth. The five classrooms serving these students from Wayne and Oakland County are on the Sarah Fisher campus in Farmington Hills.

Farmington's adult education program also offers one-on-one tutoring and some career opportuni-

ties including an annual career day and Career Explorations, a high school completion class.

High School completion classes begin on Sept. 14 and registrations are being taken now at the Farmington Community School, 30415 Shilwassee, at the corner of Tuck Road. Walk-ins are welcome, but Leland suggests those interested in enrolling for any program call to make an appointment at 499-3333, or to call that number for more information.

"We try to make our students feel as proud of themselves as they should," Leland added. "We try to preserve their pride — because many of them have failed at least once along the way."

"It's the caring, the nurturing of the staff here that gets these students to a final diploma."

## A gift from the Friends



SHARON LE MILLS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Four for the books: St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center teachers Mary Lettau (left), Carol Dodge (second from right) and Colleen Cavanaugh (right) receive encyclopedias from the Farmington Library's Bev Papai (second from left) at the center in Farmington Hills Aug. 24. The encyclopedias were purchased by the Friends of the Library, which designated funds from a summer reading program toward the purchase. The center offers residential care and treatment to children who have emotional problems due to abuse and neglect.

## Pro-life, choice advocates reflect on GOP convention

By JOANNE MALINZEWSKI  
STAFF WRITER

Republican state Rep. Jan Dolan isn't surprised that the Republican national platform still contains a pro-life plank.

"I expected that. It was not unexpected," said Dolan of Farmington Hills.

Nonetheless, the alternate delegate is disappointed after her trip to the Republican National Convention in Houston, where she and other pro-choice advocates had hoped to push the issue to a floor fight.

"I'm sad. If you look at the platform, it's excluding a major number of people who don't honestly believe the way they do," she said.

In fact, Dolan said she finds it sort of scary.

"I've talked to Republicans who say, 'I'm not voting for Bush' simply because of that issue. I am disappointed. It's like a revival tent."

Delegate Patrick Anderson, however, is happy that the Republican platform remained intact.

"The votes were clearly there to maintain the pro-life plank. We zoomed right on over them (pro-choice delegates). Everywhere you went you saw quite a few pro-choice organizations."

"They just didn't have the votes," said the vice president of government affairs for Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Co., Farmington Hills.

"Exhilarating and exciting" is how Anderson described the convention atmosphere. Dolan found the convention to be a media event with big name newscasters such as Tom Brokaw and Ted Koppel taking as much attention as some of



Patrick Anderson: Happy platform remained intact. The votes were clearly there.



Jan Dolan: Not surprised by pro-life plank, but had hoped for floor fight.

the convention speakers.

"I would not go again unless there was a real decision to be made," said Dolan, who said there were no surprises because all decisions were made before the convention began.

Anderson, who said Bush "exceeded my expectations," would go again. "Michigan's influence on the convention was considerable."

And Anderson heard what he had hoped to hear from Bush. "He said he made a mistake with the tax increase. I wanted to hear him say I made a mistake."

Anderson, an anti-tax advocate, said his reasons for attending the convention were fulfilled.

"I went to support the Republican Party and the economic growth and family values planks. I was pleased with the message and the direction it can give to (Republican) candidates all over — limited government and strong families."

Dolan, who is seeking a third term in the state House, said she didn't like a lot of what she heard, particularly the mud-slinging.

"I will not be against people. I will be against what they are doing. People have had enough of this kind of campaigning."

"Run on what you have done. If you haven't done anything and you are new, say it. Be honest. That's alright. Stop knocking everybody else."

## How to help hurricane victims

Farmington-area residents wanting to assist victims caught in the path of Hurricane Andrew in Florida and Louisiana can do so through the Farmington Hills Corps of the Salvation Army.

People should take food and other needed goods to the Salvation Army, 27500 Shilwassee road, Farmington Hills, early this week.

The following items are needed: bottled water,

dry or canned foods, baby food, paper goods, toothpaste, toothbrushes, blankets and linens. For those who would like to donate money, checks should be made out to "Salvation Army Hurricane Relief."

"One hundred percent of the donations will go to hurricane relief," said Capt. Homer Smith, who directs the Farmington Hills Corps. For more information, call 477-1153.

## OBITUARIES

### HARVEY JAMES BROWN

Mr. Brown, 86, of Phoenix, formerly of Farmington, died Aug. 21 in Scottsdale Memorial Hospital, North.

Born in Port Huron, Mr. Brown was a retired supervisor for Kelsey Hayes Wheel Company.

Survivors include his wife, Evelyn; son, William; daughters, Mary Youles, Virginia Deadman and Joyce Harris; brothers, James and Paul; nine grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

Services were Aug. 25 at Messinger Mortuary Chapel in Scottsdale, Ariz.

### ANNA FETZ

Mrs. Fetz, 93, of West Bloomfield died Aug. 23 in Windemere Nursing Center.

Born in Coblenz of the Rhine, Germany, Mrs. Fetz was a homemaker.

Survivors include her daughter, Frances Wisner of Farmington Hills; four grandchildren and two

great-grandchildren.

Mass was celebrated in St. Michael Catholic Church, Southfield, with the Rev. Kent Hajduk and the Rev. Michael Chowning officiating. Burial was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield.

Arrangements were made by the Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington.

### THELMA M. FAULMAN

Mrs. Faulman, 83, of Farmington died Aug. 24 in Botsford Hospital, Farmington Hills.

Born in Chicago, Mrs. Faulman was a bookkeeper for General Mills for 10 years. She was the first child model in Chicago (1911-1915). She was a member of O.E.S. Farmington, General Mills Girls Club and the Finnish Center.

Survivors include her daughter, Timi Case; five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Services were Aug. 26 at Acacia Park Cemetery Chapel, Birmingham, with the Rev. Mark Kieft of

Faith Bible Chapel, Acacia Park officiating. Memorials may be made to Faith Bible Chapel, c/o Marvin Jackson, 5133 Provincial Dr., Bloomfield Hills 48302.

Arrangements were made by the Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington.

### ISABEL MAE ROBERTS (RICHARDSON)

Mrs. Roberts, 90, of Farmington Hills died Aug. 26.

Born in Pontiac, Mrs. Roberts was a retired secretary.

Surviving is her sister, Elizabeth Richardson.

A Memorial Service was held Sunday, Aug. 30 at the Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington, with the Rev. Brain Tweedle of Ward Presbyterian Church officiating. Interment of remains was in Oak Hill Cemetery, Pontiac.

Arrangements were made by the Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington.

## FALL IS THE

## NEW SEASON

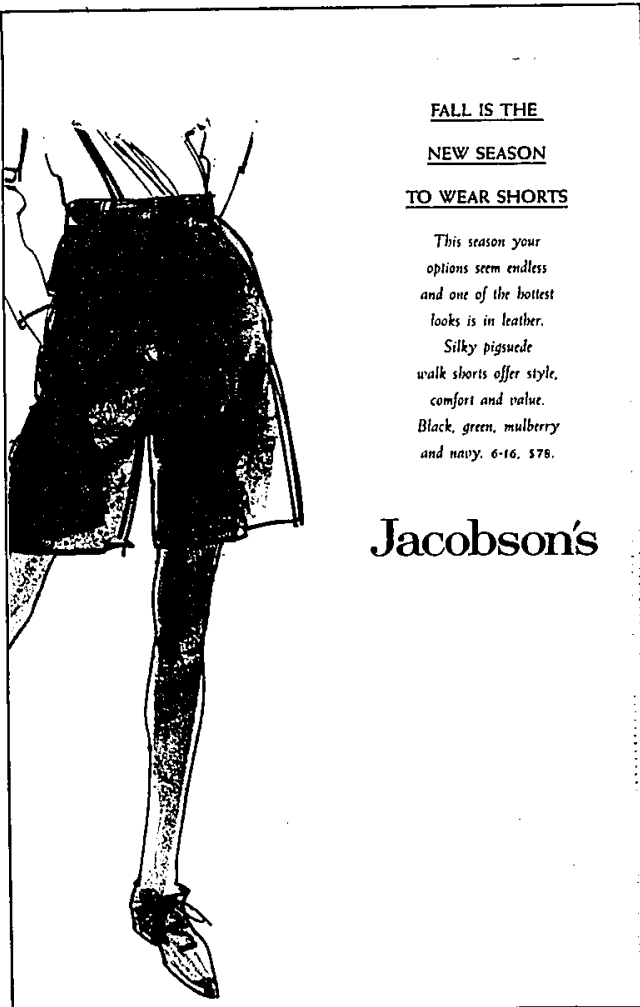
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