

Farmington Y spreads throughout community

The Farmington Young Men's Christian Association facility consists of 12.8 acres of grass and a small A-frame building, so it takes a certain type of creativity to provide programs for the Farmington community.

"What this means," says Gary L. Unruh, executive director of the branch, "is that we use all types of community facilities for our activities; churches, schools, privately owned buildings and homes. And, we are constantly looking for facilities to conduct YMCA programs to meet peoples' needs."

One of the most unique facilities used by the Farmington Branch is that of Mercy Center. In 1965 Mercy Center opened its doors as a Noviate for the training and formation of young women to be Sisters of Mercy. The building housed 125 women training as Candidates, Novices and Junior Professed Sisters. Shortly after the opening of Mercy Center, the Vatican Council of the Catholic Church suggested changes in the formation so in 1970, the center came into a new phase of activities; that of retreats,

conferences and serving the community.

IN 1972 THE Farmington YMCA entered into a contractual arrangement to use the Mercy Center facilities for its programs. The large gymnasium and olympic pool are for men's fitness, yoga, swim-nastics, women's trimmings, guitar, knitting, scuba, skin-diving and swimming classes which start at age six months.

The Farmington YMCA also serves as the renting agency for the public usage of the pool or gymnasium. Unruh commented that the facilities are available at a nominal fee and interested parties should call the "Y" at 474-3232.

Another community facility that is being utilized is the Westbrook Elementary School. This arrangement is made possible with the cooperation of New Horizons who are renting from the Clarenceville School system. The facility houses boys wrestling, coed Judo, indoor tennis and the gymnastics classes.

The Gym-J's are the current metropolitan gymnastic champions. Unruh stated that "the Farmington YMCA is extremely proud of the 16 young girls who are coached by James Hafke."

The use of the Novi Methodist Church and the Living Lord Lutheran Church have enabled the YMCA to expand its program opportunities. Pre-school, fitness, yoga and special interest classes are offered.

PRIVATELY OWNED facilities, such as the Novi Ice Arena and the South Downs Tennis Facility, provide another tool to meet the expanding needs. Unruh stated "the tennis craze has swept the area and the low cost YMCA classes are overflowing with participants. The Novi Ice Arena provides ice time so that classes can be taught starting with age five."

The use of community homes enable the local branch to have one of the largest and most active YMCA programs in the Detroit area. The utilization of homes for twice-a-month meetings enables the program to reach its goal of fostering a better relationship between parent and child. The program starts at the kindergarten level and the activities are built around fun and fellowship.

Although the Farmington Branch houses on 1,500 square feet, it still bustles with belly dancing, guitar and ballet classes. Babysitting class and craft classes are also offered. The Farmington YMCA, 28100 Farmington Road, also offers a state certified program in teen and adult drivers' education.

Unruh said "The YMCA is the people serving business and the Farmington Branch is using all available community resources to meet this goal."

Players' season leads with 'Damn Yankees'

The Farmington Players starts off the season with its production of "Damn Yankees" opening in the barn on Friday, Nov. 8, and continues for the next three weekends.

The comedy is being directed by Raye Bush, with Bud Matych and Peg Sisto leading a 26 member cast and chorus.

The Players will follow with George Bernard Shaw's comedy,

"Arms and the Man" scheduled for a February opening, and then "Goodbye Charlie," a farce by George Axelrod in April.

All of the shows will be held in the Players Barn, 32332 W. Twelve Mile Road, and all performances start at 8:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and at 7:30 p.m. on Sunday.

Tickets are available by calling Dolores Shevlin at 477-8746.

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Checking metal rings

Craig Kilkka, a worker at the new glass recycling center, checks for metal rings that must be removed from glass containers before the glass can be passed for recycling. The enclosed and paved glass shelter is located on the southwest corner of the city hall parking lot on Eleven Mile, just west of Orchard Lake. Workers are there from 9 a.m.-noon every Saturday. (Evert photo)

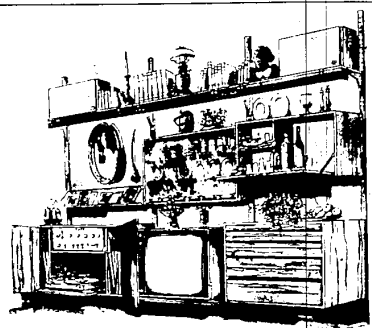
Art for children is program topic

The Farmington Public Library, 32737 W. Twelve Mile, will feature a slide lecture on art projects for children on Thursday Nov. 7.

Benjamin was a high school art teacher. He then became an elementary art consultant in 1953 after compiling a history of Mackinac Island, which is his birthplace. He is active in the Farmington Education Association and has been a representative from Farmington to the Assembly of the Michigan Education Association. He is also a member of the National and Michigan Art Education Associations.

The program starts at 7:30 p.m. and the admission is free.

Robert E. Benjamin, an art consultant for the Farmington Public Schools, will present the slide lecture and will demonstrate art projects that can be made by children. These projects can be used as school projects, decorations or can be given as gifts for the holiday season.



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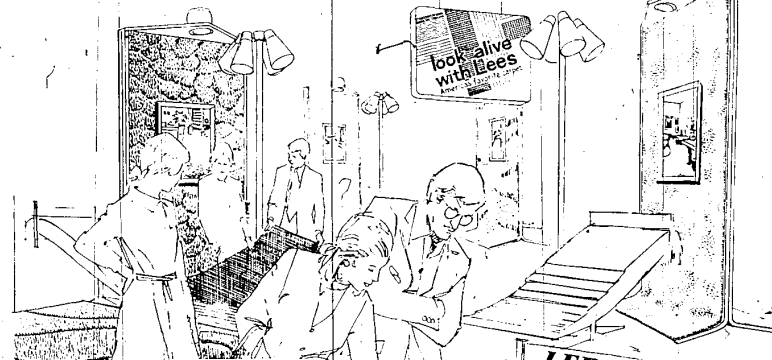
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