

At recreation center

Seniors join in Christmas spirit

The five-day-a-week programs for Farmington area senior citizens are growing rapidly in both number of participants and variety of things being offered. Those age 60 and over can enjoy free lunch.

Lunch without charge five days a week is the newest addition to the program which is held at the Gathering Place, American Legion Hall, 31775 Grand River, 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The nutritional luncheon is a cooperative service between the Farmington Area Recreation Commission and the Oakland-Livingston Human Services Agency, Oakland County Commission or John J. McDonald worked with the sponsoring groups to organize it.

Earlier this week, seniors at the Gathering Place donated and wrapped 250 Christmas packages for Northville Residential Training Center residents. Some 875 items were donated with the help of Thomas Beahan Junior High

School students. These were put into gift bags made by Troop 410 Scouts under leader Sue Cromwell. The seniors decorated the gift bags, which were delivered to the training center this week.

The expanded activities program now includes crafts, painting, exercise classes, movies, bingo, cards and special trips.

Ms. Loretta Conway, the recreation staff and community volunteers are

all involved in the varied program.

Another special service for seniors is provided by the Farmington Community Library. Every Tuesday a selection of regular and large-print books are brought to the Gathering Place.

Librarians Beverly Daffern and Chris Perkins come along to take requests by subject or title from seniors.

Once a month the library sponsors a special film program which offers more complete library service to residents of Farmington and Farmington Hills.

All Farmington area senior residents are welcome to drop in at the center whenever it is open.

Douglas Gaynor, director of the recreation program, said the American Legion Post 346, was most helpful in setting up the luncheon program.



The Gathering Place, a senior resident drop-in center in the American Legion Hall, offers a variety of activities for seniors. Some like to

read while others chose card games or crafts (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

Board meetings to be rotated

Despite a warning from school board attorney that the school board will turn into a "peripathic circus", the Farmington school board decided at their Tuesday meeting to hold the second meeting of each month at various schools in the district.

William Corliss, president of the board, said that varying the meeting place of the board will "create an opportunity for the board to be less isolated."

The board will meet throughout the school district while school is in session. The superintendent will choose the meeting place.

"I suggest we simply do it on a geographical basis, so we get the four corners of the school district," Supt. Marjorie Van Amedy said.

Robert Kelly, board attorney, who does not have voting power in issues before the board, voiced his disapproval. "The most disastrous of the school board was when it became a peripathic circus."

He believed that school board members meeting before parents who wouldn't normally be able to attend would give board members the opportunity to make speeches trying to win over the audience to their side.

Kelly said increased exposure may not be too helpful to the school board.

The turnover on the board was highest when it moved around. "When the school board moved around, you passed no mileage issues, no bond issues."

The move, Kelly said, might also make it harder for some people to attend meetings at the schools than at the administration building on Shawassaw Street.

Trustee Anne Struble supported the rotating meetings. She believed it would give the board the opportunity to view the schools and keep in touch with parents.

Corliss, who suggested the change in meeting places to the board, voted against the change.

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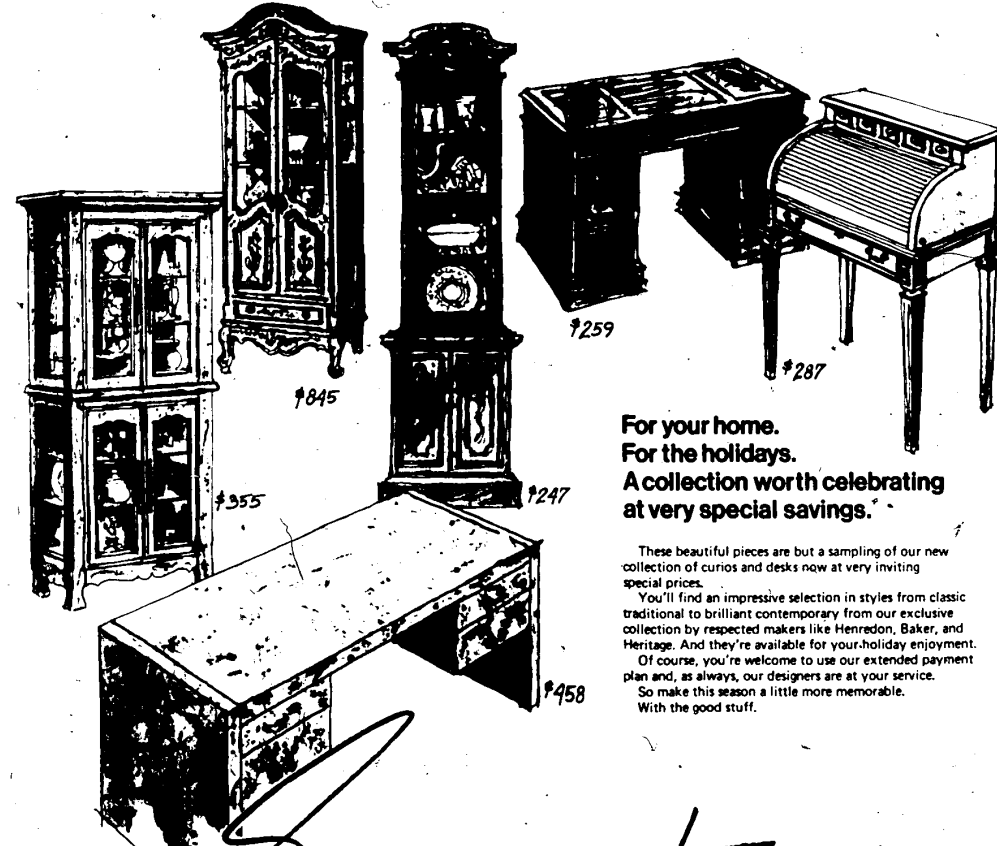
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