

Suburban Life

Lorraine McClish editor/477-5450



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RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Eugene Nash, who created a vase, fills it with a plant cutting in one of the projects prepared by members of Farmington Garden Club brought to residents in Farmington Hills Inn.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Hazel Scheideman is one of about six Farmington Garden Club members who must assist as instructors for every garden therapy session in Farmington Hills Inn's activities room. The garden

Horticulture and therapy

Gardeners rev up for full spring schedule

By Lorraine McClish
staff writer

Garden therapy classes in Farmington Hills Inn will move outside this spring to begin gardens in a park area being developed on one side and at the back of the building on 12 Mile Road.

"We planted one garden last year, and I guess this large area they've got cleared for us tells us the residents liked it," said Pam Correll, speaking for members of Farmington Garden Club who bring the sessions to the inn residents. "This spring an area three times as large has been cleared for lawns, walkways and decorative plants."

"We'll get another vegetable garden going too. That takes more work than

we can really do to keep up, but that was maintained last year, mostly, by the men who live here, and they say they want to do it again," she said. "I don't think there'll be any classes inside for a while."

All of the classes, inside or out, are arranged in cooperation with Lynn Ellis, the inn's activities director, and all classes circle around crafts made from natural materials, horticulture, flower arranging or conservation, the facets that make up a garden club.

COIRELL IS on her own in laying out the schedule of activities and projects for a year of garden therapy classes, but she depends on the entire club membership for help. Committees are called to gather up whatever materials

a particular project requires, or called to put them all together in the form of a kit for the individual class participants.

"One project this winter was making lace wreaths," she said, giving an example. "We needed styrofoam balls, ribbon, lace, Spanish moss, bows, silk or straw flowers. This involved bags and bags of materials, all separated and placed into individual bags for a wall hanging that was about 6-inches tall."

She also needs names on a sign-up sheet that will assure her of at least six club members who will act as instructors for each session.

That part of her job is easy. She's never found herself without help. What isn't so easy is knowing how many residents are going to show up for a class on any given day.

"This isn't a schoolroom with a specific number in a class. Our students come when they are in the mood to come and when they want to come. We have a nucleus of between 25 and 30 regulars, but people do get sick, or they are away for a holiday, or visiting with their families. Or some who've said they weren't interested will show up," Correll said.

Another not-so-easy part of her chairmanship is finding projects to satisfy all talents, interests and capabilities of the participants with an age range that runs from the mid-60s through the mid-90s.

FARMINGTON Garden Club members will take on the job of developing the expanded gardens at Farmington Hills Inn while they continue the maintenance of the Herb Garden on the Farmington Historical Museum grounds, the maintenance of selected gardens on the Farmington Community Center grounds, and the maintenance of a triangle parkway on Grand River, west of Farmington Road.

Club members furnish flower arrangements for Farmington Historical Museum special events and create and donate the flower arrangements that are changed every month in both Farmington and Farmington Hills Branch Libraries.

Members assist in decorating the Farmington Community Center for the annual Christmas Walk and parade a memorial tree every year on the Farmington Historical Museum grounds on Arbor Day.

The club earns the money to do these things through an annual Make-It-Take-It-Bake-It silent auction, and periodic rummage sales.

Currently, members are getting ready for their standard flower show, a requisite for membership in Federation Garden Clubs of Michigan, set for June 14-15 in Nardin Park United Methodist Church.

Club membership is limited to 100, and stands at 86. The club is the oldest garden club in the area, parent to several others in the area, and the only one that meets during daytime hours.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Ninety-four-year-old Emma Poca (at left), the oldest student in the class, takes her lesson from club member Maureen Wienmester.

Ecumenical gathering planned for 2 days of education, celebration

"Praise Fest '85," is sponsored by First United Methodist Church as an ecumenical gathering to congregates, educate and celebrate Friday and Saturday, May 3-4 in the church at 33112 Grand River. The fest begins with an evening worship Friday and a drama performed by the "Covenant Players" and continues with a full day of workshops Saturday. It concludes with dinner and a concert that night.

Tickets for all events are \$10, or \$35 for a family. Tickets for individual events are available. Registration deadline is Monday, April 29, and reservation information is available by calling Carolyn Wik, 474-2032.

"We do not wish to limit this program to our church, or even to Methodists," Wik stressed. "It is designed to be ecumenical and our Saturday workshops offer some very effective and fine leaders."

DR. JERRY Smith, director of music at Livonia's Bentley High School and minister of music for Ward Presbyterian Church, will be the music clinician for the fest.

Dorothy Fellhouse comes to the fest with a vast background in Christian Education to lead a church school workshop. She is a certified laboratory instructor who has trained teachers for the Methodist church in Ohio, Indiana

and Michigan conferences.

Manila Sanders, a volunteers on the Pastoral Care staff at Oakwood Hospital, will lead a workshop on personal devotions.

Barbara Laughlin will lead a workshop discussion on achieving effective worship. Bev Ellis, Beverly McDowell and Rena Swanson will lead on workshop on how to create and enhance worship settings with flowers, banners and other special effects.

PARTICIPANTS in the workshop called "Parent-Child Relationships" will view a series of videotapes by Dr. Ross Campbell, a Christian psychiatrist and professor in the department of pediatrics and psychiatry at University of Tennessee's College of Medicine. The tapes will be followed by discussion led by Clint Allen, Mike Johnston and Mike Marks.

James Peramle will lead a workshop called "A Walk Through the Bible" and Rev. Arthur L. Spafford will give a Holy Land travelogue called "A Modern View of an Ancient Land."

Guest artists for the Saturday afternoon concert are bass soloist Michael Begian, dance artist Dorothy Bolis, and instrumental ensemble from Birmingham Korean First, the Novi Generation, and a vocal keyboard duo by Clara and Arthur Walker.

War on drugs

Recruits armed with education, information

Twenty-five people, who recently joined the war on drugs, will take part in the battle without playing the waters off the Florida coast. Nor will they dart around a dockside warehouse in dark of night, or even wear a badge.

The heaviest weapon any of these "troops" will carry will be a movie projector or an armful of pamphlets. Their goal is education.

The 25, who received certificates April 1, were cited for completing 72 hours of training that will enable them to teach communities about drugs and alcohol.

The training these volunteers received is the core of a community awareness project jointly sponsored by Henry Ford Hospital and the Junior League of Birmingham. Classes began in September at the hospital's Maple Grove centers for treatment of chemically dependent adolescents and adults. The graduates will now add their voices to those of 100 who preceded them. As volunteers, they will share the information they have learned with people in the three-county Detroit area by speaking to groups which range from first grade class to a senior citizen health education series.

Graduates of the Henry Ford Hospital/Junior League of Birmingham Alcohol and Drug Education Awareness Training Program include: Beth Brooks, Livonia; Betty Cooper, Pleasant Ridge; Jennifer Dale and Chris Hagedorn, Troy; Judy Ernst, Franklin; Barbara Eisenberg and Ann Hurley, Huntington Woods; Joanne Hurley, Orchard Lake; Nancy Fleischmann and Karen Hoody, Bloomfield Hills; Karen Foley, West Bloomfield; Peggy Frank and Rene Kreitman, Southfield; Kathie Goodrich, Judith Kamins, Mary Klein, Lynn Roland and Kathy VanHulst, Birmingham; Harvey Moody, Walbridge; Betty Nicolay and Jan Griebel, Farmington Hills; Eileen Ross, Warren; Suzie Scott, Hazel Vranesich and Linda Tuomala, Royal Oak.

"YOU MIGHT say our goal is to take the customers away from the pushers," said Sis Wenger of Birmingham, who is community education

coordinator for Henry Ford Hospital's Maple Grove, and co-founder of the 5-year-old awareness project. "We've spent a lot of time talking to young people, telling them what drugs and alcohol can do to their lives and bodies, helping them understand that some of them, especially those who are children of alcoholics, won't be able to stop using once they start. We're trying to bring a whole generation to feel that the 'in' thing to do is 'not drink.'"

"We estimate that since the first group of trainees graduated in 1981, our volunteers have spoken in combined audiences of more than 80,000," said Kitty Burch of Birmingham, assistant community education coordinator.

She points out that one volunteer, Barbara Roller of Rochester, made eight presentations during the month of March when she spoke to some 320 elementary school children in Birmingham and Rochester about how drugs and alcohol affect the body. She also spoke to some 30 teachers and administrators.

"I used to be that we had to beg people to let us send a speaker," said Wenger. "Now the pendulum has swung. Even with all these new people, we're going to be pressed to fill all the requests we are getting. We're already working on the fall."

"We see the community education program as preventive in nature," said Burch.

A major goal of the volunteers will be to help teachers and parents identify children of alcoholics, and to encourage development of extra programs and the giving of extra love and attention which can help these children. Volunteers can also assist in identifying a community resource which offers additional help. Still another goal is to help children understand that it is OK to "tell," because this is often the only way help will come to a friend who is in trouble with chemicals.

SOME 90 percent of the awareness project is directed at the schools. "We have got a lot of school districts to take



Betty Nicolay, who heads up Farmington Families in Action (FFIA), is one of the new certified trainees who will put her knowledge into action within the sister cities. The training dovetails into FFIA's philosophy to spread the word on the damaging effects of alcohol and marijuana to both parents and youth.

a look at the issues of drugs and alcohol," said Burch. Some are building this education into their curricula, she said. Others, like West Bloomfield and Southfield, are forming concerned persons support groups for children of alcoholics.

"We try not to say we'll talk to the kids unless we can work with the faculty, too. And we prefer to have the teacher in the class when we talk to the kids. We need their support if the piece we do is not to get lost," she said.

"Actually, our goal in the schools is to put ourselves out of jobs," said Burch. "We see our program as a catalyst, and we encourage school districts to send their staffs for professional training, so they can take over the work our project started."

Recent project graduates come from 14 communities in, the metropolitan

area. Another 35 completed training in November, in a special class held on the city's east side. "We are happy to train them and send them back to their own communities to do their work," said Burch.

"I think with each new group of trainees entering the class, we are getting more people who have some background already in the field of alcohol and drug education," said Veverly Conley of West Bloomfield, who is co-director of the 1984/85 training program with Brenda McLandress of Birmingham.

PEGGY FRANK of Southfield is a social worker by profession and a former member of the Oakland County Office of Substance Abuse Advisory Board. She says she hopes to use the knowledge she has gained in the course to put together a guide for use by local parents next summer.

Trainees were requested to go through an initial interview for acceptance into the program. Each made a commitment of one year of volunteer work in drug and alcohol education.

"Over 90 percent of the speakers we have trained are still doing one or two programs a month," said McLandress. In addition, trainees go on to lead groups in their own communities. At least five area Families in Action group presidents have gone through this program.

Professional staff members of Henry Ford Hospital's Chemical Dependency Treatment Programs take on much of the responsibility for teaching the six-month-long program, which will begin again in the fall.

Anyone interested in information about the 1985/86 training program may contact Sis Wenger or Kitty Burch, 681-6170.

Information on the treatment programs of Henry Ford Hospital, including its newly opened Maple Grove Youth Treatment Center in West Bloomfield, is available by writing to Maple Grove, 6773 West Maple, West Bloomfield 48033, or call 681-6100.