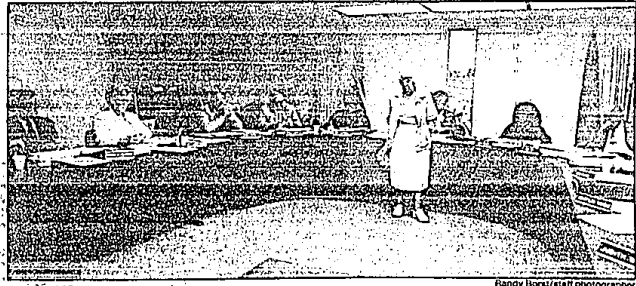


# Seniors protest change in adult ed program



Fay Nelson of Farmington Place Apartments pleads to the school board to save on-site adult education classes.

## Enrichment offered to seniors

By Noreen Flack  
staff writer

Moving adult education classes from senior apartment complexes to the Farmington Community School has prompted the Farmington Community Education Department to offer enrichment classes on-site for seniors this fall.

Independent living center administrators say the classes may prove to be worthwhile, but they will not replace the high school completion program available until now.

Academic classes were moved to the Farmington Community School, on Shawassee and Tuck, when Farmington Public Schools agreed to enter a consortium with Huron Valley Schools for adult education programs.

The change required adult education classes to be centralized in a designated educational building.

Many seniors say they won't be able to participate in the off-site academic classes because of poor physical mobility and lack of transportation.

The enrichment classes will also cost seniors \$5 each, a fee not charged in last year's academic classes.

"THE CENTER will not be paying for the classes," said Elaine McDermott, administrator for Marlon Oakland-West. "The individuals will have to pay, but they have never been charged before. I don't know if they will be interested."

Classes held on-site will include music, travel, exercise and crafts. Each class will run one hour a week for eight weeks.

Terry Klenczar, community education director, said teachers for the enrichment classes may be the same teachers who taught last year's academic classes. Seniors were pleased

with the teachers in the previous high school completion program.

Teachers in the adult education program are hourly employees of the district, but not affiliated with the Farmington Education Association, the collective bargaining unit for teachers.

"Our prime concern is excellence in education," said Peggy Osterbech, a Farmington teacher for 20 years. "I don't know if this is a social service or educational issue. But providing education is what is important for these people."

"These sites work on a budget," said Diane Troxell, a Farmington adult education teacher. "These people have no money and the sites can not afford to pay for the classes."

Seniors may call Terry Klenczar at Farmington Community School, 489-3333, for more information on full enrichment classes.

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ington Place, American House, Farmington Hills Inn, Detroit Baptist Manor and Marlon Oakland-West. None of the teachers face layoffs.

"These people have paid school taxes all their lives," Allen said. "They want to get their high school diploma."

"The school board is just closing their ears," said Elaine McDermott, administrator for Marlon Oakland-West. "They feel it is their way or no way."

The ones they're going to hurt are the seniors," McDermott said. She added that there's state money to run the program.

On June 23, Farmington Public Schools notified area senior apartment complexes that high school completion classes would be moved to Farmington Community School, at Shawassee and Tuck, the base building for adult and community education programs.

In past years, Farmington participated in a consortium with Clarenceville Schools acting as the fiscal agent for Farmington's adult education program.

Clarenceville then was an informal district which, under state law, enabled it to collect reimbursement for the program, said Michael Flanagan, acting superintendent for Farmington schools. As of July 1, Clarenceville went out-of-formula and could no longer serve as the agent.

AFTER RESEARCHING many options, Pam O'Malley, school/community relations director, recommended that Farmington participate in a consortium with Huron Valley, Flanagan said.

But the Huron Valley Schools adult education program requires classes to be centralized in a designated educational building, Flanagan said.

Diane Troxell, a teacher in the

Farmington program, said the Farmington/Oak Park consortium is willing to continue Farmington's original, on-site high school completion program.

A split in the program with Huron Valley is unlikely since a contract has already been signed, Flanagan said.

Helen Prutow, school board president, called for a thorough study and review to determine if a split indeed is possible.

Trustee Helen Ditzhazy said once all options are analyzed, the school board will have a better idea which way to go.

Many school districts would like to offer adult education classes at a centralized building but do not have the luxury of such space, Flanagan said.

Administrators from American House, Marlon Oakland-West and Farmington Hills Inn sent letters on July 10 asking Flanagan to reconsider the pending change in the adult ed program.

The administrators said Flanagan didn't respond, but he said the administration's position should have been clear after the change was brought to the school board's atten-

tion on July 10.

BEVERLY BURGESS, Farmington Hills Inn administrator, wrote to Flanagan:

"We average 35 to 40 residents in a class. If we had to transport to the community school, we could only accommodate 12 in our van. . . . With the growing senior population, it is difficult to believe a city like Farmington would take something away from its citizens."

"We enjoy the classes very much," said Evelyn Labelle of Marlon Oakland-West. "We were able to increase our knowledge and it gave us something to look forward to. We aren't just little old ladies and gentlemen who want to call a halt to everything."

"Don't take the program away from us," said Laura Delage, Farmington Place resident.

"You're never too old to learn," said Lyn Eilo, Farmington Hills Inn social director.

The Farmington Community Education Department will offer on-site leisure and enrichment programs such as music, travel, crafts, Great Books and exercise. The weekly classes will run for eight weeks at a cost of \$5 per student.

## New elementary school to be known as Hillside

Hillside Elementary School. That'll be the name of the new westside school targeted to open in September 1990 to help relieve crowding in Farmington elementary schools.

In naming the \$7-million, 600-student school by voice vote Tuesday night, the school board considered three choices submitted by trustees and the public: Hillside, Maple Hill and Christa McAuliffe.

Trustees Susan Rennels, Jack Inch, Helen Ditzhazy and Helen Prutow favored Hillside. Jack Cotton and James Abernethy preferred Maple Hill. Janice Rolnick supported Christa McAuliffe. Rennels had nominated Hillside.

Ground was broken for Hillside in June. The school will be on the south side of 11 Mile, east of Halsted.

No one renominated Challenger, an earlier choice rejected by concern about whether a school board nominating ballot in July was allowed under the Open Meetings Act.

## Group wants to link park, neighborhood identity

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grandchildren to the park to play.

"Our membership has increased 100 percent over the last few months," Roberts said.

A recent membership drive recruited new members.

"We're the largest homeowners group in the city," Kurzeja said. "We're the largest group, in density, in what we can represent."

As soon as all the easements are obtained, neighborhood signs bearing

the new name will be installed at specified entranceways.

"We have to maintain the signs. We had to place the signs with people we knew would help with the maintenance," Kurzeja said.

ACCORDING to Richard Lampi, community development coordinator, the city approved the purchase of six signs May 8, a "sealed down" request. Last November, an \$18,000 application for a new Neighborhood Builders Alliance grant was denied

by the state. The grant was expected to help buy subdivision entranceway structures to provide a long-desired identity.

The state viewed the project itself as a city capital project and thought it more appropriate to be funded locally.

Both Lampi and former mayor and present councilwoman Jody Soronen helped Olde Town residents apply for the grant.

The grant asked Alliance funding for the purchase of 40 residential

entranceway signs (\$5,465), six subdivision entranceway structures (\$8,500), and two security lighting structures for the neighborhood park. These improvements were viewed necessary for creating a new identity and improved image.

The parks and recreation department will build the signs, which will be made out of stained cedar with white or cream color letters. "It's a rainy day project," Lampi said.

Work on the signs will be done on days when weather keeps parks and

ree employees inside.

WHEN ALL easements are obtained, the signs are expected to be at Middlebelt and Shawassee (Mid-Nine Market), the Farmington Hills Fire Station at Wheeler and Independence, St. Francis and Eight Mile (Quaker State Mini-Lube), Shawassee near Inkster (a homeowner site), and at Waldron Park.

Easement is still being sought at Middlebelt and Scotton, south of Grand River, where the sign is expected to read Meadowbrook

Heights. Although this sign is part of the homeowners association, Meadowbrook Heights residents wanted to maintain their original name.

After all the easements are obtained, the Board of Zoning Appeals must give its approval, Lampi said. Installation may come as soon as October.

Soronen said that she originally brought the information about revitalization of older cities from a conference held last year by the National League of Cities in Las Vegas.

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