



Playing bridge: A card game interests (from left) Irene Hareluk of West Bloomfield, Ruben Katz of Novi, Margaret VanDusen of Farmington Hills and Bessie Katz of Novi.



Hard at it: Warren Schultz of Farmington Hills paints at the Senior Center.

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and craft classes, clubs, games, transportation, federally funded meals and outreach services.

About 80 people a day have a meal at the center and about 140 more meals are taken to home-bound seniors, but at least 6,000 seniors are registered for some kind of program or service.

"There are older people who don't need our services at all," Singer said. "But for some people, we're their support system."

Loretta Conway, a former employee of the year herself, supervises the center's many programs. She said seniors offer the community a great resource: their experience, talent and volunteer spirit.

"We have people who help with taxes, volunteer mailings for the American Cancer Society, do volunteer work for the cities and offer transportation," Conway said.

"We have community service programs, people who work with the Goodfellows and the Salvation Army," said Singer. "This year we had people collecting Christmas cards to recycle for St. Jude's Children's Hospital. People here are so resourceful."



STAFF PHOTOS BY SHARON LAMIRZUK

Center helpers: Loretta Conway (left), senior adult supervisor at the Senior Center, poses with Yvonne Singer, Farmington Hills' Employee of the Year for 1992.

Volunteers are helpful

In addition, about 400 volunteers from the communities give their services to the center and its programs. These services include everything from oil painting lessons to free legal advice.

And one of the most popular programs is the bridge club,

with as many as 60 people participating at one time.

"It's a very popular program," said Harry Kezerta, a volunteer for six years.

On any weekday, the center buzzes with activity. Women dance to a popular country tune as Maggie Loidas, a senior adult specialist, leads them with steps to the "achy breaky,"

A woman uses the center's special lift to get into the heated swimming pool during open swim time, and several seniors dab paint to canvas under the helpful tutelage of Farmington Artists Club members Pat Langner and Ken Lockwood.

Singer watches the dancers with obvious joy, and a certain amount of pride in knowing she's one of them.

"I'm 55 and I'm very proud of that," she said. "I became official (senior citizen). I'm also a grandmother (of two). That's one of my greatest accomplishments."

The center's continued growth appears assured, said Conway. Farmington Hills and the center are studying a possible future site or lease plans. The center currently leases from space from the Sisters of Mercy, but can only use the facilities during the day.

Singer has seen the growth, made friends and earned a reputation as "the bag lady" because she is usually carrying materials for senior projects in a large bag. Today, the center is the lucky recipient of slippers handmade by a resident of Greenery Extended Care Center.



'Achy Breaky': Millie McNinch of Farmington gets her exercise and learns creative dance.

"Look at these," Singer says as she opens the box of woven wool slippers, each a different color and each with different designs. "We can really use these

for some of our people in nursing homes. Every day is like Christmas around here." Yvonne Singer keeps that spirit the year round.

Fire extinguishers lead a list of precautions

According to the National Safety Council, 3,500 people died in home fires in 1991. In many cases, heating equipment was the source.

For that reason, Farmington Public Safety Fire Marshal Joseph Schornack says homeowners should have a fire extinguisher. The extinguisher should be clearly visible and accessible.

He recommends the minimum size should be a 2A-10BC, which is a multi-purpose, easy-to-use dry chemical type of extinguisher. Here are some tips to eliminate potential heating hazards from

the National Safety Council:

- If you have central heating, check the system annually and clean filters regularly.
- Keep portable or stand-alone heaters three feet from floor heaters, walls or other objects. Follow the owner's manual carefully.
- Use only K-1 water-clear kerosene for heaters. Be sure the heater is the proper size for the room. Never move a heater or add fuel when it is on or hot.
- Be sure electric portable heaters have a UL (Underwriters Laboratory) or CSA (Canadian Standards Association) mark and use the heater in dry areas only.

■ Fireplaces need a screen covering the entire opening to catch sparks. Be careful not to let clothing, pillow, blankets or newspaper get near a flame or hot surface.

■ A wood, coal or solid fuel heater should be checked annually for fire hazards and carbon monoxide leakage. Clean stove, flue and chimney connector at least once a year to reduce creosote buildup. For information on fire extinguishers or fire prevention, call the Farmington Department of Public Safety at 473-7262, Ext. 41; or the Fire Prevention Bureau of the Farmington Hills Fire Department at 553-0740.

Music students get chance for awards of excellence

Applications are now available for all students in grades seven through 12 who plan to compete in Farmington Musicals' Awards for Excellence in Music. This annual competition offers cash awards to students who qualify and who will use the awards to further their music education.

The competition is open to students who attend a Farmington public school, to children of a Farmington Musicals member, and to those whose primary residence is in Farmington or Farmington Hills but who attend school elsewhere.

Applications have been distributed to the music departments in all the middle schools and high schools of Farmington and Farmington Hills. They may also be obtained from Beth Shafe by calling her at 356-4758.

The application forms must be completed and returned, postmarked by midnight Saturday, Feb. 13.

This year the competition will be Saturday, March 6, at the Nardin Park United Methodist Church in Farmington Hills.

Categories will be piano, string instruments, wind and percussion instruments divided into three grade levels: 7-8, 9-10, 11-12. The vocal category will be divided into two grade levels: 9-10 and 11-12. Cash awards will be given in each grade division.

In addition, the Strey-McCallum Memorial Piano Award, a single award given to the piano student who is judged to be the "most outstanding pianist" re-

gardless of grade level, will be awarded.

First- and second-place winners will perform their winning composition in a recital at the Farmington Hills Library at 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 7. Awards will be presented at this time, and the Strey-McCallum Piano Award winner will be announced.

The recital is open to all those in the Farmington community who have an interest in the music education of young people.

The Farmington Musicals is a member of the National Federation of Music Clubs. Meetings and programs are held on the first Wednesday of the month in the Farmington Hills Library. For more information, call Beth Shafe at 356-4758.

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