

Digging in: North Farmington Garden Club members plant annuals on the grounds of O.E. Dunckel Middle School in Farmington Hills.



## Show helps garden club's green grow

On Saturday, Nov. 6, the North Farmington Garden Club will sponsor its 15th-annual craft show, featuring the juried work of more than 80 crafters. Admission to the show is free. This craft show was begun in 1978 to raise funds to provide additional landscaping at the O.E. Dunckel Middle School on 12 Mile Road. Since then, members of the garden club have planned and planted beds of bulbs, annuals and perennials to grace the front lawns of the school. This summer the display of

hot pink petunias, silver dusty miller, blue salvia and pink ever-blooming roses could be seen by passerby on 12 Mile Road. Club members take turns caring for the beds throughout the summer months. Tasks include watering, weeding and fertilizing to maintain the beds at optimum bloom throughout the summer months. Proceeds from the annual craft sale help to defray the costs for fertilizer, soil replacement, tree maintenance, fresh

plant material and mulch. Additionally, the North Farmington Garden Club has planned, planted and maintained a Garden of Five Senses at the Farmington YMCA. Here a circular planting area with cement walks and benches provides space for five individual gardens, one for each of the five senses. Annuals, perennials, vegetables and herbs are featured. The club also finances this project with funds raised at the annual November craft sale.

# Block grant money to aid elderly, disabled residents

Seniors and people with disabilities will benefit from Community Development Block Grant money the City of Farmington receives through Oakland County. Farmington's grant is \$51,943 for 1994-95. The city council approved that \$41,943 be earmarked for the senior center and \$10,000 go toward barrier-free improvements. A public hearing has been set for 8 p.m. Monday, Nov. 1, in city council chambers regarding the CDBG program application. The allocation is similar to the 1993-94 grant and brings the total money available for the senior center to \$89,000. More than like-

ly, the money will be spent on any possible renovations at the recently acquired property at the Mercy Center. "Our seniors are an important user of that," said assistant city manager Robert Schultz. Barrier-free access projects being considered include audio improvements in city council chambers for people who are hearing-impaired, a TDD phone at the Department of Public Services, and widening the west entry doorway at city hall. Schultz said the city will look at signs and doorways for other barrier-free projects. To be eligible for block grant

money, a project must either benefit low- or moderate-income people; prevent or eliminate blight; or meet an urgent community need. Farmington offers home-improvement and home-repair programs to residents. Six home-improvement programs are under way, with five more pending. Some \$4,000 of block grant money is available for minor home repairs. The county also provides money for major home repairs. No area in the city fits Housing and Urban Development criteria for blight or potential blight, according to Schultz.

## Optimists sponsor essay contest

The Breakfast Optimist Club of Farmington/Farmington Hills will sponsor an essay contest titled "The Boundaries of Freedom" beginning soon. All high school sophomores, juniors and seniors are eligible to participate, according to Duane L. Reynolds, attorney, club chairperson for the event. The local club will select a first-, second- and third-place

winner in its contest, the first-place entry will be automatically forwarded to the district competition where it will be judged against other club winning entries. The first-place district winner will receive an expense-paid, four-day trip to the Freedoms Foundation in Valley Forge, Pa., in July 1994 for the Freedom and Leadership Conference.

The first, second and third International Essay Contest winners will win scholarships in the amounts of \$5,000, \$3,000 and \$2,000, respectively. All essays must be original and submitted by Dec. 1 to a local Optimist Club. For information, contact Sharon Hain, Hearts & Roses, 33238 W. 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills 48334, or phone 553-7699.

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