

Paula Hardin: Sewing is a skill that will last a lifetime

By Christine Bordelon

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Home economist Paula Hardin said everybody can learn to sew. That was evident at a recent "Sit and Sew" class she was giving with women and men of all abilities sitting side-by-side in the same room.

"All levels are welcomed," Hardin said. "Everyone works on a project of interest to them."

Many students have been coming for years.

DeAnn Sullivan said she

advanced from the sewing basics and is now a costume designer. She has been taking a variety of Hardin's classes with her friend, Heidi Girardot, for 11 years.

She enjoys "just coming in and talking it out and doing it with other people. I'll be thinking one way and Paula says, 'Make it simple.'"

Hardin will be teaching a variety of courses this summer at Hobby Lobby locations in Harahan, Harvey, Covington, Slidell and Hammond. Attendees can bring their own machine or use

those provided.

In addition to Sit and Sew, the "Kids and Teens Can Sew," class is very popular. Here, new students will make a skirt, shorts, pajamas or a tote bag. Repeat students work on more advanced projects.

Window decorating is another summer course offered on two Saturdays – May 30 and June 6 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Students will learn draperies, curtains, Austrian shades, balloon shades and simple topper treatments, Hardin said.

A serger class where students learn how to use their own serger will be given Aug. 1 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Harahan Hobby Lobby location.

"I love what I do," Hardin said. "It's the best job in the world."

Hardin said most classes are offered to those as young as age 8. For the most current class list, visit www.paulassewingschool.com (the summer list will be up April 1), call (504) 884-9627 or email her at paulahardin@live.com.