

Farmington Observer

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Utilities duck obligations to senior citizens

Farmington area older persons who are having difficulty paying their utility bills can expect some budgeting help from power companies, but at least two firms say they are reluctant to give special treatment to elderly customers.

While lauding legislative efforts to help seniors pay for utilities, Detroit Edison and Consumers Power spokesmen say the companies perceive the situation as a social problem that is outside their realm.

Utility spokesmen argue that the programs put the burden of payment on the rest of the consumers and on the companies.

desirable program, according to Kathy DeGrow, of the Republican's senior citizens' program staff. Stamp programs have problems attracting many of the elderly who could qualify.

MEANWHILE THE COMPANIES are faced with helping consumers who are having difficulty in meeting their payments. Since last winter's reports of an elderly man freezing in his Ohio home after the power company cut off the heat, utilities are careful to personally contact the customer before pulling the plug.

"We won't turn off the power in winter until we have eye-to-eye contact with the customer. We don't want to be a party to something like what happened in Ohio," Blumbach said.

Drab OCC interior gets colorful mural facelift

Changing working environments can affect a person's outlook on life, according to Orchard Ridge graphic arts instructor John Davenport.

"I used two warm tones and two cool tones for balance. I tried to organize the color scheme so that each part of the wall would balance with the other," he said.

had my own cubicle. I would see a salesman once in a while but I knew I could come in and do my job and not have to see another person all day. I could have been an island," he said.



John Davenport is finishing up his graphic in Orchard Ridge campus' administration building. He estimates that the project will be completed by the first week in June. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

City alters schedule for garbage pickup

Some residents of the City of Farmington will have to break old habits next week.

will be changed from Wednesdays and Saturdays to Monday and Thursdays.

By LYNN ORR

If the Farmington School District reworks organizational structure to include middle schools (grades six, seven and eight) rather than the traditional seventh, eighth and ninth grade structure, there will be plenty of changes ahead for Farmington students.

who has taught at the junior high level, believes the current method of blocking students (the same group of students moving from class to class) often disrupts teaching.

The SOS Task Force was appointed as the result of the Task Force on Declining Enrollment's recommendation. Declining enrollment will most drastically affect the junior high age level, the task force's findings projected.

Other task force members include Chairman Earl Baumunk, director of vocational and career education; resident representatives Betty Nicolson and Jack Ikin; administration representatives Donald Keen and Al Langgan; Farmington Education Association representative Douglas Cooper; and Parent-Teacher Association representative Ms. von Ende.

Sewers prime target

Farmington Hills residents in the southwest of the city will benefit from a sewer improvement by the federal government.

storm sewer running approximately 1 1/2 miles from just east of Mill Creek to Whitlock, bordering on the City of Farmington and south of Grand River.

South end to reap federal rewards

The program is established to aid persons of low and moderate income to fix up their houses, according to Doran. In addition, the area of eligibility has been expanded to include the area bounded by Ten Mile on the north, Eight Mile on the south, City of Farmington boundary on the east and Foster Road on the east.

Ms. Adams, who currently teaches a fifth-sixth combination class but

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