

Farmington Observer & Eccentric

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Declining enrollment relief

District could qualify for additional state aid

By RON GARBINSKI

The Farmington School District could qualify for almost \$40,000 in additional state aid as a result of a clause in the Michigan school aid bill that provides funding for districts experiencing declining enrollments.

Inder the bill approved last Friday by the House, districts with a student decline of two per cent of its total enrollment from the previous year figures will receive approximately an extra \$50 per pupil.

Since district administrators predict a student decline of 400-500 students next year, this means the legal system may qualify for a maximum of \$40,000.

The most important thing about this clause in the school aid bill is that it helps ease some of the burden of districts with declining enrollments, said William Keith, Farmington's treasurer of the bill.

The legislature has appropriated \$200,000 in the state school aid formula to districts having students

ated declining enrollment funds will be prorated to the district seeking aid.

I look at the \$40 figure a little realistic, Keith explained. What I've been telling my districts is that they will more likely receive only about 70 per pupil.

In the past two years, the Farmington School District has lost 85 students. During this time, state aid per pupil for the district has declined from \$220 to only \$198 per child.

With the declining enrollment problem there is a double impact on the community.

FIRST the district must cope with fewer students. Then as the number of students declines, there is a higher assessed value behind each student.

This is where districts get trapped in the school aid bill, said State Rep. Wilbur Brochert, R-Farmington. As the Farmington district loses students, it also loses state aid because more money is allocated to each student. Under the aid bill, schools really lose out because of the way the aid formula is set up.

The bill is a feeble attempt to recognize the fact that districts need money for students no longer in the system. A good thing about the clause is that it will give the district about one-third of the funds it will lose because of the loss of a student. If the district receives about \$25 per pupil from the state, that extra 50 will help somewhat.

As the state legislature worked last week to finalise the bill, local school officials expressed their satisfaction with the clause's purpose.

They will be very helpful for districts

like Farmington that are in the middle of a declining enrollment problem," said Lewis Schulman, Farmington's superintendent.

Board agenda

The Farmington Board of Education will meet in a special session 8 p.m. Friday at the Administration Building, 33500 Shawwassee. Highlights of the meeting will include the board's reorganization and a special "Status of the District Report" as of July 1 as raised by Lewis Schulman, the district's new superintendent who took office this month. As usual, the public will be able to ask board members questions or voice their concerns about school matters. Other items of importance on the agenda include:

- A. Election of officers
- B. Approval of expenditures
- C. Oakland Training contract
- D. Study of possible grading and personnel policy
- E. Reappointment of administrators
- F. Conference expenses for trustees
- G. Purchase of car for superintendent

The clause recognizes what is going on in many of the districts around us and it will have a significant effect on our financing.

It's a most sensible bill in a most critical time for schools," he continued. "And since we rely on state aid to help us pay the bills it will at least give us some relief."

WHILE BROCHERTON said the clause gets back to the idea of the assessed valuation per student when allocating funds, did voice some dissatisfaction with the bill.

I think it's OK, but it's not what I wanted to see approved," he said. "I had a bill pending in the House that would have given districts 50 per cent or half of the state aid values lost when a district experiences a decline in students.

This approach is alright, but I would have liked to have seen some more money funneled to the districts," he added.

But Keith expressed a different view, saying, "I'm absolutely elated we got the school aid bill done before we finished for the summer recess. At least now the districts statewide will be able to plan a little better."

There was a general feeling in the legislature that year of belt tightening. It didn't want to fund any new programs, no matter how important. That was the general attitude in Lansing.

But I am delighted we approved almost \$60 million more than the governor recommended for the state school aid bill. And that's great for most school districts," Keith concluded.



Wally Christensen, manager of the Farmington American Legion Baseball team, shows a look of dismay as his team faced defeat in a contest against the Berkley American Legion Post. For details of the game, turn to the sports section. (Staff photo by Graig Newman)

Hills Ambulance contract appeal falls on deaf ears

By STEVE BARNABY
Farmington editor

An appeal by the Farmington Hills Ambulance Company for a continued contract with the city of Farmington Hills has fallen on deaf ears.

Berney Slobin, owner of the privately run rescue service, recently appeared before the city council and offered to contract with the city for \$12,000—half the price of the last fiscal year's contract. Funds were cut from this year's budget for continuation of the service.

COUNCILMAN FRED LICHTMAN turned up the council's sentiments about the situation.

"The deplorable thing about this whole situation is that citizens suffer because the council can't come to a definitive decision," said Lichtman.

The council, said Lichtman, is caught between contradictory statements made by the private ambulance company and the Hills volunteer fire department. Both still hold primary responsibility for the rescue service. The city has opted to let the volunteers handle the human rescue service this year.

"While I am convinced that the private contract system is the way to go, I just don't have confidence in the Farmington Hills company," he said.

"IT IS A SHOESTRING OPERATION and has too many reported breakdowns. On the other hand, I don't have confidence in the volunteer fire department."

It is obvious that the volunteers can't handle it all. But the Hills Ambulance Company doesn't enjoy the confidence of the fire department, and public sentiment is against the ambulance company.

Caseworker charges Hills cops with bypassing FYA

By YVONNE B. DEVLIN

The Farmington Hills police department has reduced juvenile referrals to the Farmington Youth Assistance (FYA) since it moved to the basement of the Farmington police department one year ago, charges John Pinkerman, FYA social worker.

"That's because the Farmington Area Advisory Council (FAAC) is better qualified to handle the problem that come up," says a high ranking Farmington Hills police officer who prefers to be unnamed.

The FYA is closing cases when the juvenile or the parents don't want to continue. Even when there is a court referral, FYA still sends a letter closing the case just because the letter doesn't want to show up anywhere," says the police official. They're supposed to refer these cases back to us."

"THE CASES ARE (CLOSED) if the persons don't show up for three appointments," says Pinkerman. It is a voluntary program and if they're not responding to our services we just close the case. The FYA is sponsored by the Oakland County Probate Court and is used by the police and the courts for referring youngsters when involved in a crime, says Pinkerman.

"FYA is part of the court system but the child doesn't have to have a record with the court to be referred.

The increase in the number of minors found in possession of alcohol has also increased the number of referrals but these kids also are getting records with the courts, says FYA social worker Chris Jaroszewicz.

There have been 100 minors charged with possession of alcohol in the last 16 Fridays, according to the police.

"We don't bring the kids in unless they are intoxicated. We just issue tickets and then the kids have to go through the courts," says the police source.

"There are just too many violations and if we started bringing them all in we'd be tied up waiting for their parents and with paperwork all the time."

Instead, the minors are issued tickets

go to court and then are indirectly referred back to FYA. The direct referrals would save everyone a lot of time and effort, says an FYA source.

FYA has a full-time social worker and one part-time. Probate Court pays their salaries and provides the administration, says Pinkerman.

John Pinkerman has only one full-time secretary and is tied up doing his own paperwork," says Farmington Hills Detective Linda Harris. "The fact that FYA is in the basement of the City of Farmington Police Department doesn't help its image much."

There is a stigma attached to the police in uniform, she says.

There are no unfurnished police rooms in or out of the FAAC building," she says. The FAAC building is on Middlefield south of Ten Mile.

If a child had to report twice a month for six months—that's 12 times—how many individuals would see him walking in and out of that police station," she says.

Both organizations are good but the one that has the most to offer is where we lean, she says.

MOST OF THE CRIMES that are committed

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Steve Allen was the guest artist at a concert given by the Max Davey Singers this week where Farmington Observer & Eccentric newstaffer Corinne Abbot was invited to watch the preparation of a musical and narrative tribute to the bicentennial. "On watching a rehearsal with Steve Allen" is told in story and pictures in today's Farmington Suburban Life section.

Ring a bell, listen to tale

Library summer experiences vary

Ring a replica of the Liberty Bell. Listen to little known tales of the American Revolution. Learn about Zoo and the art of motorcycle maintenance. Travel 20,000 leagues under the sea.

The Farmington area branch libraries have a variety of summer programs, serving readers of all ages.

When Doreen Flynn of Troy brought a copper copy of the Liberty Bell, he placed it in the foyer of his home. Weary of hearing his eight children ring the bell, he is offering it for display to schools and service clubs.

The Farmington Hills Branch Library will display the bell for one week, until July 13. The display will be set up by Oakland County Bicentennial Coordinator Benjamin Franklin Thomas IV.

The Farmington Branch Library has obtained cassette series of Mike Wharf's bicentennial program, "The Sounds of Glory." The late Louis Gosson and his wife donated the set to the library. In the name of the Farmington Historical Society, Patrons can borrow a cassette from the series for their private enjoyment.

"ZEN AND THE Art of Motorcycle Maintenance," by Robert Pirsig, will be

discussed at 7:30 p.m. July 15 at the Farmington Branch Library's adult discussion group. Registration isn't necessary and copies of the books which are discussed are available at the Farmington Branch Office will be served.

Herman Hesse's "Demian" will be discussed at 7:30 p.m. July 20 at the Farmington Branch, "Demian" by Ernest Hemingway, will be the group's topic, at 7:30 p.m., Aug. 12.

The group will conclude its summer discussion with "Marathon Man," by William Goldman, at 7:30 p.m., Aug. 28.

An adult Great Books Discussion Group will begin in October at the Farmington Hills Library.

The Farmington Branch Library and the Hills Branch will present a series of films for junior high school students and older children.

"Born Free," the story of a young English couple in Kenya who adopt a lion cub, will be shown at 7 p.m., July 22 at the Farmington Branch Library. The branch is also showing "Up the Down Staircase" and "20,000 Leagues Under the Sea."

"UP THE Down Staircase," the story of a young teacher's experience in a New York City High School, will be shown at 7 p.m., Aug. 2.

Julius Verne's science fiction adventure, "20,000 Leagues under the Sea" will be shown at 7 p.m., Aug. 15.

The Farmington Hills Branch will show the film, "To Sir With Love," at 7 p.m., July 20. Sidney Poitier plays the teacher in this story of a young black teacher and his class of rebellious, prejudiced students in a London inner area.

A scholastic team-age girl and a deeply disturbed boy form an unusual friendship in the movie, "David and Lisa." Based on a fictionalized case study, the movie can be seen at 7 p.m., Aug. 12.

School age children can see the antics of the Vienna Boy's Choir, the drama of a young man's adventures during the American Revolution and occupation of Zorro at the Hills and City branch libraries.

The Vienna Boy's Choir members are "Almost Angels." Their antics on tour can be seen July 8. The Farmington branch will show the film at 10:30 a.m. to noon and the Hills branch will present it at 2 p.m., 4:30 p.m.

"Johnny Ransom," the story of a young man who lived during the American Revolution will be shown July 22.

THE HILLS branch will show the film at 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The city branch will present it at 2 p.m., 4 p.m.

"The Signs of Zorro" and "Happy Birthday U.S.A." will wrap up the series on Aug. 5. The Hills branch will show the film at 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The Farmington branch will show it from 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Music of America will walk through the Farmington and Hills branch libraries, Tuesday, July 8. Preschoolers are invited to join in the program which is part of a series designed for them. The program will be at the City branch from 10:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. The Hills branch will be with the sound of music from 2 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Monkey House, Donald Duck and Goofy will star in a cartoon festival, July 20. The program will be presented at the Farmington branch from 10:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. and at the Hills branch from 2 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Preschoolers can register to have their bodies painted at the library at 9 a.m., July 15, in person or over the phone at the library nearest to them.

The body painting on August 3, will color

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inside

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Not too long ago, this ad appeared in a Thursday edition of the Observer & Eccentric:

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