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Veteran school trustees call it quits

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

The longstanding careers of Farmington School Board veterans Emma Makinen and Richard Wallace are drawing to a close.

Both school board members recently announced they will not seek re-election, leaving the race for their vacancies wide open when their four-year terms expire in June.

Although candidates for the two four-year terms must file nominating petitions by 4 p.m. Monday, April 8, "no one has filed yet," said Scott Bacon, district administrative assistant.

Makinen and Wallace echoed similar sentiments about their decision not to seek re-election.

"I have served eight years. It's just time," said Wallace, board treasurer. "It's someone else's turn."

Calling her tenure on the school board "a most rewarding 12 years," board secretary Makinen said, "I think you should leave when things are going well."

"I think the school district is in very good hands with the members left on the board."

IN THE 1981 election, Makinen and Wallace were uncertain about running although both were re-elected that year.

"I have worked with them for endless years," said Lawrence Freedman, assistant superintendent for instruction. "Both board members came to the board with a total commitment of improvement and maintenance of the total curriculum."

Prior to her election to the school board, Makinen, a former educator, was active in the Farmington Parent-Teacher Association.

'I have worked with them for endless years.'

— Lawrence Freedman
assistant superintendent

on the budget and school finances, whether state or national," Freedman said. He took his professional skills, brought them to the board and applied it as an elective official.

"He's helped board members and the public understand school finances," Freedman added.

NOMINATING PETITIONS for candidates are available at the Board offices from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

To be eligible as a candidate, a resident must be a registered and qualified school elector. Property ownership is not a requirement for candidacy, Bacon said.

Candidates must acquire names of 20 registered voters on the nominating petitions.

Bacon is available to assist candidates with information about filing and campaign finance requirements.



Richard Wallace



Emma Makinen

New members may soon join library board

By Julie Brown
staff writer

Members of the Farmington Hills City Council will consider expanding the Library Board from four members to eight members at Monday's meeting.

The item was originally on the agenda for last week's meeting, but Hills council members agreed to consider it tonight.

"There were a couple members of the council who felt there may be some people in the community who wanted more information on this," council member JoAnn Soronen said Friday.

"We agreed there certainly wasn't any reason we couldn't postpone a decision."

"I don't see it as a controversial issue at all," she said. "The consensus seemed to be that it's a good idea, and we'll probably go through with it."

Members of the Farmington City Council unanimously approved the expansion at their meeting last week. The Farmington council approved the expansion, pending approval by the Farmington Hills council, Farmington City Manager Robert Deadman said.

"I understand what's happening is the city government is interested in having as many people as possible participate," said Gordon Lewis, director of the Farmington Community Library.

"It's an effort to involve more people in the city in various aspects of government."

"My feelings are a larger board could have a positive impact," he said. "It's up to the councils to decide such things. Whatever they decide is fine with me. It does provide for additional citizen participation."

A district library, such as the Farmington Community Library, is organized by an agreement between municipalities.

"A district library is defined as any library that serves more than one government," Lewis said. "In our case, we serve two."

Currently, the Library Board consists of four members — two from

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Farmington and two from Farmington Hills. A 1978 change in state law allowed additional board members to serve.

Each city council appoints its own members, Lewis said. Board members are appointed in equal numbers by each of the councils; if the board is expanded, each council will appoint four representatives.

THE LEGAL authority to operate the library system rests with the Library Board. Board members approve such things as library policies and services, bill payments and building projects.

"They are responsible for approving the budget every year," Lewis said. The budget is then submitted to each city council for final approval.

Library Board members, who receive no pay for their services, also consider suggestions submitted by library patrons. Board terms are for four years and are on a staggered expiration system, Lewis said.

"All we are authorized to do is set their budget," Soronen said. "We do not hire the director. That's a Library Board function."

The library director's role is similar to that of a city manager, she said.

"He handles the day-to-day operations of the library. I think it's very much the same relationship."

In appointing Library Board mem-

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RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Doug Cooper, Farmington's science coordinator, organizes supplies in the Woodcreek Science Center. Supplies are used in the district's hands-on approach to learning science.

Science class has come a long way

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

For some time, there's been a letter missing from the three R's — reading, 'riting and 'rithmetic.

The missing letter has been especially noticeable since society plunged into the world of space exploration, computers and high technology.

The missing letter is "S" for science.

"We talk about the three R's but there is no S," said Doug Cooper, Farmington school district's science coordinator. "In this day and age, science is important."

For a long time though science took a back seat to other basic subjects in elementary school.

"National studies said science in elementary schools is not a strong subject," said Lawrence Freedman, assistant superintendent for instruction.

One reason for the absence of science as a key subject in elementary curriculum is that many elementary teachers are reluctant to delve into the subject.

"Most elementary teachers do not have science preparation in their college courses," Freedman said. "Science is not a mandatory part of their degree."

Zan Alley, executive director of the Farmington Education Association, agreed that while some elementary teachers have majors in science, most don't.

IN THEIR college programs, most elementary teachers concentrate on learning the teaching methods for basic reading and writing. But that's because the emphasis in elementary schools is on those basics.

"They probably feel more comfortable with the math than science," she said. Alley said math is fairly easy to approach in elementary grades while science, particularly today, is growing increasingly complicated.

Freedman agreed. "Science is a field that's constantly growing, and it's hard to keep up with," he said.

Consequently most elementary teachers had little experience in teach-

ing science and relied on the textbook provided.

In the Farmington school district times have changed. Science as an elementary school subject is demanding attention and importance.

"This district has for many years tried to improve the science programs," Freedman said. "Our programs probably were no better or

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Specialist aids learning

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Take a look at what's expected of students participating in the Kenbrook School Science Fair in April and there's little doubt science is being taught far differently than in the past.

Gone are the days when science only meant an awful lot of memorization and book reading. Today plastic foam balls representing the planets in a solar system just won't do as a project for the annual science fair.

Kenbrook students are expected to

present more than just a hodge-podge scientific project for the fair.

To prepare for their science activity that will go on display in April, students are expected to develop their project along "the scientific method."

THAT INCLUDES stating the problem, listing the materials they plan to use in their project, listing the steps in the method used, keeping track of all the data and results and stating a conclusion or answer to the problem they have tackled.

"We are moving toward change," said Doug Cooper, science coordinator

for the Farmington school district.

Much of the change going on in the district's elementary science program, is due to a two-year-old program that involves the help of science consultant Kathleen MacAdaragh.

Two years ago, when the school board was soliciting suggestions for ways to improve curriculum, teachers suggested they needed help in teaching science in the elementary grades.

That's when MacAdaragh's job as a science consultant was born — about

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By Teri Banaas
staff writer

Secret Service agents shut down the operation of the QPS Printing Co., 34733 Plymouth Road, in the early hours last Friday, arresting on federal counterfeiting complaints the Livonia owner and a second man, an employee of a Farmington Hills detective agency, federal authorities said.

Acting on a search and seizure warrant issued by U.S. Magistrate Lynn V. Hoce Jr., agents confiscated \$335,000 in counterfeit 50- and 100-dollar bills, plates, a press and other suspicious

printing materials. The items were seized from two locations in the city — the printing shop and the home of business owner James William Breen, 29340 Grandon, before 3:30 a.m.

Charged with Breen, 37, was Allan B. Silverman, 45, of Wesley Street in Farmington Hills. Sources said Silverman is a partner in Security Services Inc., 31171 W. 10 Mile, Farmington Hills.

The men were charged with violating a federal code banning the publishing and passing of counterfeit currency.

Authorities called the action a "ma-

ior counterfeiting ring" in the Detroit area and said it followed a seven-month-long investigation by federal secret service agents.

BREEN and Silverman appeared at a bond hearing before Magistrate Hoce and were expected to post 10 percent of bonds of \$50,000 and \$25,000 respectively by late Friday afternoon, said a clerk in the U.S. District Court. They were scheduled to return to court on Friday for a preliminary examination.

The offense is punishable by 15 years imprisonment and/or a fine of \$5,000.

The pair was arrested at Breen's house on the west side of Livonia fol-

lowing surveillance by Secret Service agents there and at the print shop the previous night. The raids occurred between 12:30 and 3:30 a.m. with Livonia and Farmington Hills police in assistance.

Wayne Welch, special agent in charge, said the Secret Service was first alerted on Oct. 16, when a 100-dollar bill was passed somewhere in the Detroit area. Since then, he said, between \$4,000 and \$5,000 in counterfeit notes has been distributed in the Detroit area and a couple phony notes appeared in Los Angeles and Orlando, Fla.