

# Business program termed a success

**By Casey Hann**  
staff writer

A job program to help "children base their decisions on reality" was a success this year, according to a recent report from organizers at the Farmington YMCA.

Sixteen students, seven from Farmington Public Schools, participated in this year's six-week Job Exploration and Training Scholarship program, according to YMCA community program director Sue Brooks.

Because of its success, organizers plan to coordinate the JETS program again next summer, Brooks said. The YMCA was ready to accept up to 25 students in the first year of the program.

Brooks spoke recently at a Farmington school board meeting, where trustees have joined with the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce and committed to a jointly sponsored Partnerships in Education program.

When the JETS program was introduced last June, YMCA organizers called it a launch for the whole Partnerships program.

The JETS program is designed to train students in appropriate attitudes and skills, to give students an opportunity to explore feelings and to give students an opportunity for positive adult role models at work and to help businesses participate in the education and value develop-

ment of youth.

Students 14-16 years old were given a \$300 stipend to "study" at a business location. JETS is a national program that has worked well throughout the country, officials said. YMCA executive director Kevin Bush called the program a "job shadowing" experience.

"It's important for the students to look, listen and feel on the job," Bush said at June's launch.

"The program isn't necessarily to develop skills," Brooks added, but to

give the student a feel for the work environment.

This year's JETS participants worked in a variety of businesses, including Jervis B. Webb Co., for the Southwest Oakland Cable Commission, the chamber of commerce, and Farmington summer school.

JUDITH WHITE, assistant superintendent for curriculum and staff development for Farmington Schools, said she was pleased with the JETS program. "It gave kids as

much of an opportunity as possible," she said. "They could really articulate what they saw" on the job.

The Partnerships in Education program is coordinated by chamber of commerce board member and past president John Handley and Earl Baumunk, director of vocational and career education for Farmington Public Schools.

The partnerships program began nationally when several reports in the criticized the state of American schools.

# Annual accounting report gives city good marks

**By Casey Hann**  
staff writer

The city of Farmington is operating in a healthy state, according to annual financial statements released this month showing information from the past fiscal year.

Auditors completed field work for the year ended June 30, 1987 in early September, and statements were subsequently audited and reported by the firm of Plante & More at an October city council meeting.

Farmington ended the fiscal year with a General Fund surplus of \$1.36 million, up from \$1.2 million the previous year.

Only \$137,321 undesignated for specific projects. The remainder of the extra General Fund money is earmarked for Orchard Lake Road improvements, accrued employee benefits, and a future long-term loan of \$400,000 promised to the Downtown Development Authority for central business district rejuvenation.

A \$3.7 million General Fund budget was approved during the 1986-87 fiscal year, based on operating mileage of 10.76. Actual revenues totaled \$35 million while expenses came in under budget at \$31.6 million, according to the statement.

THE CITY received most of its revenue, \$2 million, from local property taxes. It also received \$687,000 from the state, \$326,000 in revenue for city services, and \$106,500 in interest on city investments.

The largest expense for the year was the city's public safety department, which totaled \$11 million, followed by \$697,800 in general government expenses, \$626,500 spent for the public services department and \$504,700 for employee benefits and insurance.

The only change noted in the 1986-87 financial statement, was the reporting of \$420,500 held by the city in a trust and agency account. It includes money for tax collections, miscellaneous deposits and money from employees who have deferred this money from their pay.

In previous years, the city was not required to report this on financial statements, according to Patsy Cantrell, treasurer. Most of the money has accumulated over many years of contributions by employees and can only be taken out in the event of an employee termination, retirement, death or unforeseeable emergency, according to the report.

The accounting change was deemed necessary by the Government Accounting Standards Board, Cantrell said.

During the current 1987-88 fiscal year, the city is operating on lesser tax of 10.65 mills, but with a larger budget totalling \$4.2 million that was approved in June.

# College tests motivate Clarenceville students

**By Suo Mason**  
staff writer

Counselors at Clarenceville High School have found a new tool in motivating students — the American College Test and the Scholastic Aptitude Test.

Fifty-three students took one of the tests last year and their composite scores are equal or better than state and national averages.

"We're pleased with the results," said Patricia Vickery, administration assistant for instruction. "Because of this we had 18 students qualify for scholarships."

The high school counselors have begun encouraging students to take either the ACT or SAT, even if a student is undecided about his or her future.

They then use the data to help students find areas of study where they will be successful, Vickery said.

Forty-seven Clarenceville students took the ACT and earned a composite score of 18.8. Three of those students were non-English speaking youths who earned "respectable scores," Vickery said.

THE ACT tests students in four areas — English, mathematics, social studies and natural science. Clarenceville students scored 18.6 in English and 19.1 in mathematics, higher than state and national averages, but their scores of 16.4 in social science and 21.0 in natural science were lower, Vickery said.

Six students took the SAT, scoring 416 on the verbal portion and 525 in mathematics for a composite score of 941, lower than the state average of 992, but higher than the national average of 906.

Their verbal scores also were lower than the state average and higher than the national scores exceeded both.

While the counselors are using the scores to help the students, the district is using the results as they relate to its curriculum, Vickery said. Clarenceville students "are good with the facts and have the knowledge" when it comes to social science.

And even students are looking at the scores. They are "very anxious to get them," Vickery said.

"The students definitely look at where (what college) they can make scores are higher because those are easier to test on paper."

The Clarenceville School District includes portion of Livonia, Farmington Hills and Redford Township.

# Head Start students offered meals

CHILDREN WITH family criteria falling below the following guidelines can receive free meals under the child care food program:

- those with a family size of two and a yearly income of \$7,150,
- those with a family size of three and a yearly income of \$9,620,
- those with a family size of four and a yearly income of \$14,560,
- those with larger families: add \$2,470 to the above figures for each family member.

The Farmington Head Start Program is sponsoring a child care food program to provide meals to children in child care centers, outside school hours programs and family day care homes.

Meals are available free, or at reduced prices, to all children 12 or under, migrant children 15 or under, and older handicapped children enrolled in Farmington Head Start.

The child care food program is coordinated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. No child will be discriminated against because of race, national origin, sex, age or handicap, according to information from the district. Complaints should be directed to the Department of Agriculture in Washington, D.C.

CHILDREN WITH family criteria falling below the following can receive reduced price meals under the program:

- those with a family size of two and a yearly income of \$13,690,
- those with a family size of three and a yearly income of \$17,205,
- those with a family size of four and a yearly income of \$20,720,
- those with larger families: add \$3,515 for each additional family member.

Anyone interested should contact the Farmington school district at 477-1300.

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