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Boundary plan irks parents

'We are extremely vocal, extremely angry and extremely committed to stopping this plan — and it will be stopped.'

— Jerry Piasecki
parent organizer

By Casey Hans
staff writer

Parents from several Farmington elementary schools are organizing to block efforts to change school boundaries which they say will be "detrimental" to their children.

"We are extremely vocal, extremely angry and extremely committed to stopping this plan — and it will be stopped," said Jerry Piasecki, a parent from Wood Creek and member of the newly formed Concerned Parents Coalition.

□ School board states forum on boundaries, 8A

About 35 parents representing several schools appeared at this week's board of education meeting to show their opposition to boundary changes. Their feelings are based on information from a report compiled by a board-appointed citizens panel.

Many parents had already received copies of the report, but school board members said this week they had not yet seen it. The

report is scheduled to be presented during a study session next Tuesday.

"They were formed as an independent committee at the building level," Superintendent Graham Lewis said of the citizens panel, appointed in early October to study boundaries and facilities usage. "The board has kept their distance from the committee. The findings will be clean and independent."

The Jan. 19 session is designed not only to hear the panel's report, but to also to get feedback from the community, according to school officials.

It will begin at 7:30 p.m. at the Farmington High School gymnasium and will address boundaries and facility uses at all school levels — elementary, middle school and high school.

The issue is being studied because of excessive growth on the west side of the district, which has caused overcrowding at some schools.

"The hope is to satisfy everybody — it's a very difficult task, I know," Lewis added.

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Farmington FOCUS

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BUZZ the fuzz. That's the name of a new monthly radio show premiering today on Metrovision's Channel 10, Farmington Public Schools' cable access channel.

The 30-minute, call-in show was broadcast this morning. Officer Sandle Rochford of the Farmington Hills Police Department's Juvenile Section discussed personal protection. No set schedule for future monthly programs has been released.

MOVING on. Fire technician specialist Gary Mies has left the Farmington Hills Fire Department to take a position with the Warren Fire Department.

The West Bloomfield resident had served Farmington Hills since 1979.

Mies was a member of the department's Special Emergency Response Team, represented the city on the Western Wayne County Hazardous Materials Team and served as an arson investigator.

MAINTENANCE. That's high priority once planned public improvements are completed in Farmington's central business district, said Downtown Development Authority member Ron Ogelsby, who chairs the maintenance committee. City manager Robert Deadman, also a DDA member, called for a "package, not piecemeal" approach to the maintenance.

FOOTNOTES: One year ago this week — A community meeting is planned to combat acts of teen rowdiness along northern Orchard Lake Road in Farmington Hills.

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THE DETROIT AUTO SHOW

SPECIAL SECTION IN TODAY'S ISSUE



From the warmth of his Farmington home, state Rep. Wilbur Brotherton reflects on his many years of public service, now that he has decided to end his 30-year political career. Brotherton announced this week that he will not seek an eighth consecutive house term.

Brotherton ends 14 years in state House

By Casey Hans
staff writer

State Rep. Wilbur "Sandy" Brotherton said this week he will not seek re-election when his seventh term in office expires this year.

The announcement was really no surprise — the Farmington Republican has been hinting retirement for the past four years and wavered before announcing in 1985 he would run again for his 69th District seat.

"Although many legislators wait until closer to the spring filing deadline to make a decision, Brotherton felt the time was right. "I had pretty well decided," he said. "I kept people dangling long enough."

Brotherton, 65, entered the state political arena 14 years ago, after serving a two-year term on the Oakland County Board of Commissioners and 14 years on the Farmington City Council, where he also held the post of mayor.

While working in his previous career as a sales executive in the auto industry, a career planner told Brotherton he had the quality of "desiring to be of service."

He took it as his calling and with the prompting of family, friends and colleagues, ran for the state House.

WHEN HIS term as representative of the 69th District expires this fall, he will have served the Farmington area for the past 14 years, and Southfield Township and the communities of Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms and Franklin for six years. This difference in years is due to a change in legislative district boundaries.

"I've enjoyed it and I'll miss it, but . . . to some extent I'm probably going to stay involved. It gets your blood racing," he said.

Brotherton's years of political service have brought both satisfaction and frustration, he said. What has been most frustrating is serving in a minority party in the Legislature. "It's hard to provide leadership," he explained. "The only way to get something done is to be a team player."

Brotherton has been a "team player" in several areas, including economic development and energy, public utilities and home rule for local cities. But he will be remembered mostly for his 14 years on the House Public Health Committee, where he has been instrumental in bringing

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Quints delivered by Hills doctor

By Loraine McClish
staff writer

A West Bloomfield obstetrician and gynecologist with offices in Farmington Hills and Clawson has delivered Michigan's first quintuplets born through in vitro fertilization.

"It has been a remarkable day. In fact, quintessential," quipped Dr. Lenny Hutton at a press conference Tuesday, less than 24 hours after the five babies were born in William Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak. The quintuplets were delivered by Cesarean section a minute apart shortly after 10:30 p.m. Monday.

The infants, four girls and one boy, the children of Raymond and Michele L'Esperance of Clawson, "are doing fine," Hutton said.

"They are on moderate amounts of oxygen. There is no evidence of any complications. Their chances for survival are extremely good," said Dr. Daniel G. Batton, director of Beaumont's Neonatology Unit. The babies are about five weeks premature.

The odds of having quintuplets are one in 50 million. The chances of all surviving are even less. With the L'Esperance quintuplets' birth Monday, Please turn to Page 6



Wellington "Pete" Hulin, a member of Farmington Township's first black family, shares a bit of Freedom Acres' history. Hulin, who moved to the area to live with his grandmother, a former slave, died at 79.

'Pete the TV Man' of Hills dies at 79

By Bob Sklar
staff writer

Wellington "Pete" Hulin, who received a Farmington Hills Historical Commission plaque honoring local families living on land settled by their ancestors more than 100 years ago, died Jan. 7 at St. Mary Hospital, Livonia.

A member of Farmington Township's first black family, Hulin, remembered as the beloved operator of Pete's TV & Repair Service, was 79.

"Known as Pete the TV Man, he was very friendly and widely respected," said family friend and Farmington High schoolmate Kay Briggs, now Farmington Hills Historical Commission chairwoman. Hulin lived on Freedom Acres, the family's five-acre farmstead on 11 Mile, near Orchard Lake Road, since 1914. That's when he, then 8, moved from Detroit's old Hastings neighborhood to the country to be raised by his great-uncle, Mary Wilson.

The country household included Hulin's cousin, Claude, a Detroit United Railway (DUR) worker who went on to become Oakland County's first black deputy sheriff, and his maternal great-grandparents, Ellen

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Spicer House studied for historic district

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

The Farmington Hills Historic District Commission will consider putting the 82-year-old Eleanor Spicer estate house in the city's historic district.

Despite complaints from some city council members, the historic district commission will also study additional uses for the one-story residence in Herlago Park on Farmington Road, between 10 and 11 Mile. "I think it's only fair that we give

the most interested commission a chance . . ." said Mayor Jody Soronen, who suggested requesting the study from the historic district commission.

Farmington Hills has a historic district ordinance designed to promote historic preservation. Putting a building in the district "confirms the city's commitment to historic preservation," said councilwoman Jean Fox, a former historic district commission member.

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