

Farmington Observer

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State weighs boundary appeal

By Casey Hens
staff writer

Following a hearing last week, the state will consider the appeal of four Farmington Hills families to shift their property from Clareosville to Farmington schools.

Owners of the four property parcels on Parker Street south of Colfax have been fighting since last September to keep their children in the Farmington Public Schools. Although the families reside in the Clareosville district, at least three of the children have attended Farmington schools regularly over the past 11 years.

All believed they lived in the Farmington school district until last September when newly drafted

Board studies families' bid to keep kids in local schools

computerized bus routing in Farmington showed the errors.

"The kids have lived here all their lives, they've gone to Farmington schools," said parent Carol Colby, whose daughter lives in the Clareosville district, but attends Farmington High School. "I feel better this time. I'm hoping we will win." Her daughter has attended Farmington schools since the first grade.

COLBY PETITIONED the Oakland Intermediate School District

last fall, which held a hearing and denied the property shift in December. Parents met with a state hearing officer last Wednesday who will review the testimony, grant a recommendation on the case, and present her findings to the state Board of Education.

Clareosville superintendent Michael Stabler is against the shift for financial reasons. He cited loss of revenue from the four parcels, which currently route taxes into Clareosville, and the loss of total State Equalized Value for the district if the

change is approved.

"We 100 years have helped (existing) lines have existed," he added. "We see no reason why the schools change now."

The Clareosville district covers areas including the cities of Farmington Hills and Livonia and Redford Township. Farmington schools include the cities of Farmington Hills and Farmington and part of West Bloomfield Township. An drawn, traditional school boundary line do not follow the boundary lines of cities, townships and villages.

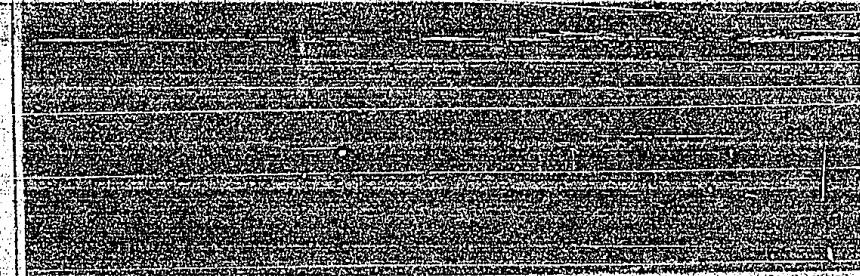
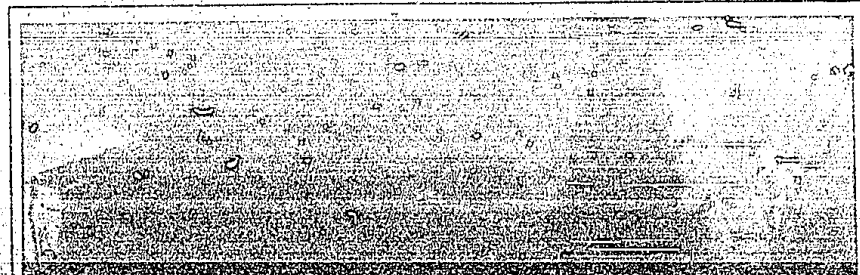
The state's Education Department office Farmington school officials discovered the thousands of errors and advised several Clareosville families they were attending the wrong school district.

Two lawsuits, Colby and William Kivimaa, appealed to the Farmington school board and were offered a one-year reprieve for their children. They were also given a partial reprieve on tuition costs for the current school year, if staying in the district.

Colby took the matter one step further, going to the OSD board. That board voted 6-0 to deny the request. OSD trustee Edna Prater did not attend the hearing, because she is a trustee on the Farmington school board, said Robert Nagel, OSD director of administrative services.

"We don't know the outcome of this. The decision will now be made.

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A Farmington Hills firefighter works at the scene of a training burn in the city. The fire department plans a number of these controlled burns each year for hands-on, spot training.

8-hour incident settled quietly

By Casey Hens
staff writer

A 10-hour-old Farmington woman's 8-hour incident was settled quietly after spending several hours in police custody and waiting for a hearing.

Officers from Farmington and West Bloomfield were involved in the on-called "E-Z" laboratory.

The city of Farmington may also settle the issue to have the woman freed for the virus and cancer. Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, because she is an officer during the incident.

A police officer at the scene received minor injuries from a hot hot bottle. No one else was injured.

RESPONDING TO an evening call from the family, March 31, Farmington police safety officers arrived and confronted the young woman, who brandished a butcher knife and threatened them at a home on Laboratory Street.

They spent the past eight hours talking and negotiating with her. Officer James Madigan was injured slightly with the knife and hit on the arm when officers finally restrained the woman early the next morning.

Others involved in the incident included Farmington Commander Michael Wigton, Farmington officers Mark Rouse, James Madigan and other officers who were responding.

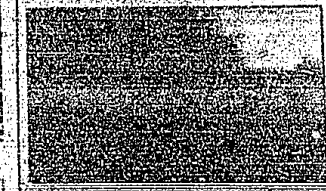
Officer Madigan, who was credited for his efforts due to his crisis intervention skills, said:

"The woman who lives in Clanton Valley Center by Southland, where she is awaiting a hearing."

FARMINGTON HAS received a letter from the Oakland County prosecutor's office, advising that the woman who lives in Clanton Valley Center by Southland, where she is awaiting a hearing.

But police safety officers, including Officer Madigan, who was injured with the knife, were not arrested. The woman will be held in the Clanton Valley Center facility for a hearing.

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Fatality free Hills had fewer fires in 1988

The Farmington Hills Fire Department reported continued improvement in 1988, based on its recently released annual report.

"Not too long ago, a typical year's activities included many major fires in commercial properties and numerous family accidents, as well as responses that only added to the demand," said Fire Chief Richard Marinucci in a March 3 letter to William Corbett, Farmington Hills city manager.

There were no fire fatalities in 1988. However, two fire deaths and six civilians were injured as a result of fire.

One of the three persons seriously injured involved a 40-year-old man who was transporting a barbeque propane cooker.

product to leak, cut which caused him and then caused the tank to rupture. The tank was replaced immediately, but had, destroying the victim's vehicle and causing first, second and third degree burns.

Marinucci, who has served as a full-time firefighter for 15 years, said that the multi-family buildings and residential properties drive a steady family population.

"Prevention and training is not enough if you have a fire and have to deal with it afterwards," he said last week.

Marinucci said that the fire department in 1988, there were more than a 10 percent increase in total fires as opposed to the same two months in 1987. He did not have a specific reason to explain these changes.

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Study gives Farmington area 'boom town' label

A study by the Michigan State University Center for Economic and Public Policy has labeled Farmington Hills a "boom town" because of its rapid population growth and economic activity.

The study, which is part of a larger report on Michigan's economic future, found that Farmington Hills has experienced a significant increase in its population and economic activity over the past several years.

The report also noted that Farmington Hills has a high percentage of its population in the service sector, which is a characteristic of boom towns.

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