



IN THE PAPER TODAY

No strike talk: Nearly 30,000 students and all Oakland County taxpayers have a stake in teacher contract talks at Oakland Community College, which so far lack the militancy of some school districts./10A

Gambling probe: Two adults have been charged in connection with an investigation into gambling by Farmington-area high school students./4A

OPINION

Readers write: Readers let their views be known on several subjects./8A

TASTE

Green tomatoes: Pick tomatoes while they're still green and make some folk delicacies like fried green tomatoes and green tomato chutney or pickles./1B

El Tesoro: Tequila's image is changing, it's gone upscale. Discover El Tesoro De Don Felipe Tequila, imported by a small company in Birmingham./1B



SPORTS

Grid preview: The Harrison football team faces the challenge of rebuilding its lineup after losing every starter from its state championship team./1C

Golf outlook: The high school golfers have tested their skill in early competition and look forward to the 1992 season./1C

CABLE TV WEEKLY

Local access: "Dollars and Sense" will be presented on Channel 12. Check your cable guide for time and date./

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Tentative teacher contract reached

By TOM BAEH
STAFF WRITER

Tentative agreements were reached Sunday afternoon between the Farmington Board of Education and three bargaining units whose contracts were due to expire that day, according to district and union sources.

School will be in session today, Monday, Aug. 31, as scheduled.

Terms of the new three-year contracts were not available pending ratification by the board of education and the union membership, said Pam O'Malley, assistant to the superintendent of schools.

"We're not to release them (terms) by mutual agreement," she said.

The district has been negotiating since June with the three Michigan Education Association-affiliated units — including the Farmington Education Association, which represents 738 teachers.

Sticking points in the bargaining had been salaries, health insurance and instructional time, O'Malley said.

A union membership meeting was held Sunday afternoon at Mercy High School. The contracts were explained, but no vote was taken, sources said.

Zan Alley, negotiator for the three

units, could not be reached for comment Sunday, and teachers contacted outside Mercy High had little to say about the new pacts.

Asked if he liked the new teacher contract, a man who would identify himself only as an elementary school teacher said, "Yes and no. This is probably as good as it is going to get."

Said another unidentified teacher, "It was a tough time."

Alley last week issued a statement that seemed to imply a serious weekend deadline for settling the contracts. Negotiations took place late into Friday evening and then continued Sunday at

Farmington school headquarters. Tentative agreement was reached at about 3:30 p.m., O'Malley said.

"Everyone worked very hard to reach an agreement before a crisis developed," she added.

School trustee Susan Rannels said she was pleased with the contract, although she wouldn't discuss terms.

"I'm very pleased," Rannels said. "We have an exceptional group of teachers. This (settlement) is best for the teachers and best for us. We're looking long range and so are they."

Board president Jack Inch said, "I feel good about the contract."

Angry residents



Accident scene: Rita Stron (left), Rachel Steingold, Regina Storrs, Holly Delling, Sandy Simpson and Mary Rivers gather at the scene of a fatal accident two days after it happened. They're concerned about the safety of their children who wait for school buses.

Bus stop moved after accident



Crisis teams are counseling students from Duncel and North Farmington who saw a motorcycle killed near their regular bus stop. So Farmington school officials have temporarily moved the bus stop off busy 13 Mile in the Strathmore subdivision.

By JOANNE MALISZEWSKI
AND CAREY HANS
STAFF WRITERS

Farmington school officials temporarily moved a bus stop into the Strathmore subdivision from a site on 13 Mile Road where on Tuesday 25 secondary students watched a motorcycle die just feet from where they

wanted for their ride to school.

Students at both O.E. Duncel Middle School and North Farmington High School are being counseled through their respective school crisis teams because of their trauma.

"We're going to institute it (the change) immediately, based on the in-

formation we've gotten and the trauma to the kids," said Don Cowan, director of building and student services for the district, who had fielded calls from a number of parents after the accident.

"It's not because there's anything wrong with the bus stop," he added. "An accident like this could happen anywhere in the district — inside a subdivision and without. We're very concerned about the emotional state of the kids."

Meanwhile Farmington Hills police continue to investigate the Jeep/mo-

torcycle accident, which occurred at 13 Mile and Strathmore, an entrance to the subdivision and where students from both schools wait for the bus. The temporary bus stop, which Cowan said would be in place for six months to a year, will be at the corner of Strathmore and Kennedy — one block into the subdivision, said transportation supervisor Julie Tesdy. The decision to move the stop was made on Friday morning and was to be instituted immediately.

See ACCIDENT, 2A

Residents get warning on lead in water

By JOANNE MALISZEWSKI
AND CAREY HANS
STAFF WRITERS

Farmington and Farmington Hills residents should watch their mailboxes for some crucial reading material about lead in their water.

"There is nothing to panic about. But we can't minimize this," said Jean Barrett, assistant to the Farmington Hills

public services director.

Farmington residents will receive a brochure available from the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department, which supplies water to both cities. Farmington Hills residents — both city water users and those with their own wells — will receive the brochure plus a letter summarizing the concerns.

"Lead in the water is not unique to

the water supply. It is unique to a (home's) plumbing system," Barrett said.

That's why well users also are getting the information. The problem is not the water, but the plumbing through which the water travels, Barrett said.

The public information campaign is required by the federal Environmental

Protection Agency in light of water sampling results gathered by both cities. Cities must have any lead problems rectified by the late 1990s.

In May and June, 40 houses in Farmington Hills were sampled. Six of the houses were higher than EPA-allowed action levels of 15 parts per billion.

See LEAD, 4A

Anyone for parenting?

The Farmington Youth Assistance's Family Education Committee will conduct two parenting classes beginning in September.

"Systematic Training for Effective Parenting of Teens" starts Thursday, Sept. 10, and runs for 10 weeks each Thursday from 7:30-9:30 p.m. "Children: The Challenge" for parents of elementary age children begins Thursday, Sept. 17, and also runs 10 weeks each Thursday from 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Both classes will be at the Ten Mile School in Farmington. The fee — \$20 per family — includes books and materials. To register, call Farmington Youth Assistance at 489-3434.

Food assistance

Emergency food — provided by the Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency (OLHSA) for those

FARMINGTON FOCUS

who qualify — may be picked up at St. Alexander Catholic Church, 27835 Shiawassee, Farmington Hills, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 10.

The following documentation is needed to register: proof of household income for the past 90 days; Social Security cards for family members and personal identification.

For more information, call OLHSA's Community Services Office at 858-5139 or 1-800-482-9250.

Junior gardening

A group of junior gardeners will meet at the Farmington Branch Library, 23500 Liberty from 4-5 p.m. the first and third Tuesday of each month beginning Sept. 15.

Co-sponsored by the Farmington Garden Club and

the library, the group is open to youngsters in grades 3-6, or those who were members last year. Call the library at 474-7770 to register.

Memory Lane

From the Aug. 28, 1982 issue of the Farmington Enterprise:

● Four unoccupied houses in Farmington Township were targets of vandals during a one-week period, according to police. Vandals trashed one house on Cors Street twice, scattering papers and household appliances throughout the rooms. Nothing was taken.

● Farmington police were set for a heavy flow of auto traffic through the city over the Labor Day weekend.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 21898 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336, or dropped off at the newspaper office.