

Chief makes changes

C. Robert Maxfield, new superintendent of the Farmington Public Schools, put his stamp on the district with a realignment of executive duties. Many administrators will have new duties.

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Though he's been on the job since March, the C. Robert Maxfield era arrived officially at Farmington Public Schools Tuesday.

The superintendent announced a reorganization of central office staff, signaling an end to the transitional phase of his tenure and the first major

implementation of his management style.

The Board of Education backed the plan unanimously.

Several administrators have new titles and responsibilities in the reshuffling, which creates three separate divisions for instruction, staff and community relations, and operations and finance.

Administrators have more autonomy under the restructuring, Maxfield said. Also, they'll be more accessible to the public and the move creates a "one-stop shopping" for people.

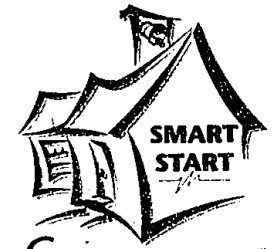
"We want to convey that central office is a service center for the community," Maxfield said.

Changes include:
■ Director of Employee Relations Susan Zurvaloc has been promoted to assistant superintendent for staff and community services.

See CHANGES, 3A



C. Robert Maxfield



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IN THE PAPER
TODAY

Ah, accord: The union representing school administrators and the Farmington Board of Education have reached a tentative agreement on a new two-year contract. /2A

Step on it! Driver education students will have to step up the classroom work before they step on the gas. /5A

They'll be around: Democratic gubernatorial candidate Howard Wolpe will be spending plenty of time in the Farmington area and the rest of Oakland County between now and the November election. /10A

OPINION

Survey says: A recent Farmington Observer reader survey netted some kind words about the newspaper. /16A

On development: Some areas are just perfect for commercial and residential development, says guest columnist and Hills resident Richard Zerbo. /17A

SPORTS

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Hoop season: North Farmington boasts one of the area's top girls basketball players in senior Alisha Gordon. /1B

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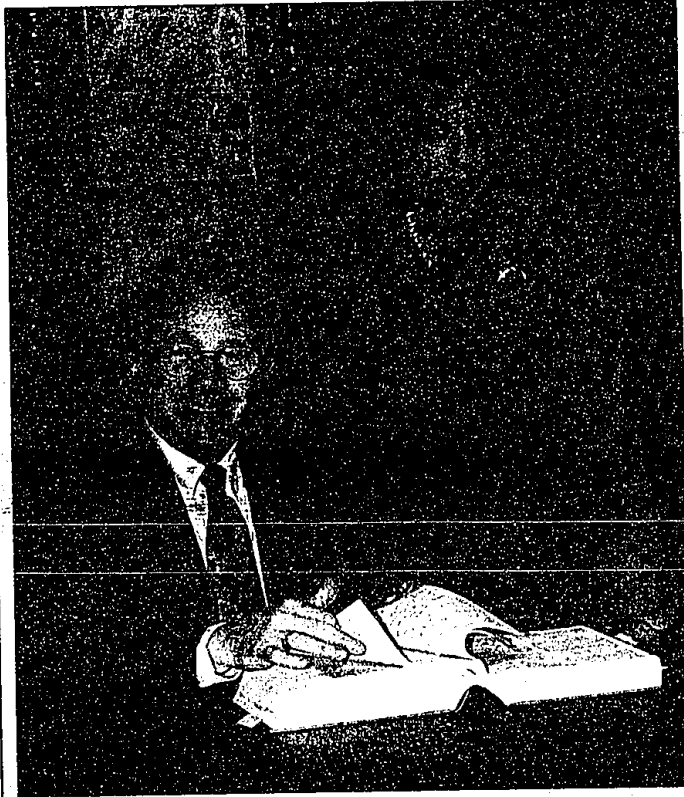
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Back to fashion



AND HEALY/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Clothes for court: Attorneys Henry Bashin and his daughter, Dana, model business fashions from Graham & Gunn and Joan & David at the Somerset Collection in their Farmington Hills law offices. For more looks at what's hot for fall, read the fashion supplement in today's Farmington Observer.

Recall group doesn't recoil

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

If at first you don't succeed, try again — and again and again. That's the philosophy of a citizens group trying to recall Farmington Hills Mayor Larry Lichtman.

"They (Oakland County Elections Commissioners and Lichtman) make this very, very difficult," said Sharon Stein, chairwoman of Voters' Voice. "They must really be upset."

The group submitted a petition for Lichtman's recall on Aug. 5. Commissioners threw out the language because the term "P.U.D." — which means planned unit development — is not familiar to the general public, Stein said.

A second petition, submitted last week, was also thrown out, this time because of the term "mayor."

"They said that because he would only be mayor for four more months, the recall would have no effect," she said. "He would have to be mayor for at least another six months."

T. Gordon Scupholm II, an attorney representing Lichtman, said another problem with the term was that Lichtman was elected as a city councilman, not as the mayor. Mayors are appointed by the council from its ranks.

"The people didn't elect him as mayor," Scupholm said. "They have to recall him as a city councilman."

Scupholm said he was surprised that a different person has filed the petition each time. Stein said that Voters' Voice has a lot of members and wanted to show that they were all involved in the process.

Stein brought in the first petition and Richard Smith submitted the second. Melvin Turbow submitted the third petition, now under consideration. It says:

See RECALL, 4A

Motorama engineers Gill-9 Mile complex



Fred Watson

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Farmington's most notable vacant lot will be no more. A new office-industrial complex is planned for the corner of Gill and Nine Mile roads.

Motorama Engineering, now located on Nine Mile Road, will move west down the street and make the proposed 75,000-square foot facility its headquarters. Completion date is set for June 1995.

Gov. John Engler is expected to attend a groundbreaking ceremony 1:45 p.m. Monday, Aug. 29, at the site.

The development could lead to 50 additional jobs — mostly in skilled trades — being created, Motorama president and owner Fred Watson said.

Farmington Hills, Novi and Plymouth were considered as potential sites.

"I have looked at other places, but I kept coming back here," said Watson, a West Bloomfield resident and 1971 Clarenceville High graduate.

Farmington's Planning Commission OK'd the site plan at its Aug. 8 meeting. Included will be a two-story,

office complex connected with a one-story manufacturing area.

DeMatteis Co. in Plymouth Township has been contracted for the project.

A provision in the site plan includes an additional 30,000 square feet of manufacturing space if needed. The seven-acre parcel is zoned for heavy industrial use, City Manager Frank Leuboff said.

In granting approval, the Planning Commission did ask that the build-

See MOTORAMA, 4A

Firefighting anyone?

The Farmington Hills Fire Department is looking for men and women who want to become "paid-on-call" firefighters.

Paid-on-call personnel are city residents who respond as firefighters when a call for emergency assistance is received by the dispatch center. The fire department handles a variety of calls, including medical emergencies, structure fires and hazardous materials spills.

"Few jobs offer the opportunity to save a life, but as a paid-on-call firefighter you could be called up to do it at a moment's notice," said Hills Fire Chief Richard Marinucci. "That is why we need people with a strong desire to help others."

Applicants must be at least 18 years of age, be in good physical condition and have good employment and driving records.

FARMINGTON FOCUS

The Hills Fire Department will hold an informational meeting on being a firefighter at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 13, at Fire Headquarters, 25711 Drake Road, between 12 Mile and 13 Mile roads.

Let the music play

The Farmington Area Philharmonic (former-season) will begin its 1994-95 season with "Rhapsody in Red, White & Blue," a concert to be held at 8 p.m. Friday, Sept. 30, at North Farmington High School on 18 Mile Road, east of Farmington Road.

William Albright, ragtime pianist and acclaimed composer, will be the featured soloist.

At 8 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 2, the Farmington Area Philharmonic will perform in "Buckaroo Holidays II" at the Farmington Hills Activity Center on 11 Mile Road, east of Middlebelt.

"We are proud to provide music that meets the highest possible standards yet keeps the cost of enjoying classical music affordable," said Karen Nixon, the group's founder and conductor.

Tickets are available by subscription before Aug. 31 and to the general public after Sept. 1. Call 478-2076 for more information.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 21598 Farmington Road, Farmington 48326; faxed to 477-9722; or dropped off at the newspaper office.