

### Date set for bond issue

On Saturday, Sept. 28, a special election will be held in the Walled Lake Consolidated School District, which includes the northwest corner of Farmington Hills, asking voters to consider two separate bonds proposed by the school board.

If Proposal I is passed by voters, bond moneys will be used for the construction of new schools, classrooms, and technical support to alleviate crowding in schools and to keep school children current with the demands of the 21st Century, school officials said.

Proposal II will request a handicapped-accessible community pool to be built at Walled Lake Central High School. Citizens who wish to participate in this election must register to vote by Aug. 28.

All school district residents may register to vote at the Educational Services Center, 850 Ladd Road, Building D in Walled Lake, all local school offices, or any Secretary of State Office.

Classes started Tuesday in the Walled Lake District.

## Clarenceville schools given facelift

By MARIE CHESTNEY STAFF WRITER

Botsford Elementary teachers trying to get classrooms ready for the new school year have had the most trials to endure these last few days, as work crews scurry to complete renovations.

While work was done over the summer in all four schools in the Clarenceville School District, Botsford got the biggest facelift and suffered the most disorder as workers went about the business of putting in new heating systems and lowering ceilings.

Despite having to cram major renovations into a short time frame, Frank Sauro, project manager for J. S. Albert Construction Co., predicted Thursday that the bulk of the work will be done by the start of school.

"We will have 20 people working over the weekend," Sauro said Thursday during a tour of the four schools with members of the Clarenceville Board of Education. "All the major work will be done. We'll have a few minor items left. It will be 100 percent complete by mid-September. We've done \$2 million worth of work in two months."

Board president Gary Gasser said each school's "new look" — especially the new computer labs — should have a "subtle, positive affect on everyone."

"It's been such a mess; now it's all come together," Gasser said. "The taxpayers got what the district promised: a no-fills bond and sinking fund. For so long we've been putting out fires with repairs. Now we got good heating systems, and can free up money for programs."

Money from a \$4.4 million bond issue approved by Clarenceville residents in 1995 is paying for the repairs, renovations and the computers and cable systems now being installed.

To get residents to approve the 2.10-mill bond issue, school administrators promised to do only the essentials.

Over the next 30 years, repairs also will be done using \$2.1 million generated by a .075-mill so-called "sinking fund," also approved by residents last year. Money in that fund can be used only for building repairs.

Botsford students Tuesday will get to walk on new carpeting for the first time. It's the only elementary in the district with new carpeting. Workers were on their knees Thursday, still gluing down pieces. With the new paint and the new carpeting, "it almost smells like a new building," quipped trustee Ronald Sliye.

Teachers there have been working around the commotion to get their rooms ready for

school.

"They get in their room and stay there," said principal Jesse Baker.

All four parking lots have been resurfaced. All four schools have rest rooms that are now handicapped-accessible.

At Grandview Elementary, despite a floor that still needs to be finished, Sauro pledged students will be able to each lunch Tuesday in the newly renovated gym.

The least amount of work was done at Clarenceville High. But the work done there — the installation of a huge air-conditioned computer lab — will perhaps have more of an impact on students than any other renovation.

At Clarenceville Middle School, parts of the new elevator still lay boxed in the hallway. The elevator for handicapped students will be up and running within the next couple of weeks, said principal Carl Wagner.

This school, too, will have a new computer lab, with 30 Pentium-powered systems. The computers should arrive by October, Wagner said.

Complete with a new computer station, the school's library has been dramatically changed to reflect a more '90s look. School opened Tuesday in the Clarenceville District.

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Jay Fisher, M.D., graduated from Wayne State University School of Medicine in Detroit and completed his obstetrics and gynecology residency at Beaumont, Royal Oak.



Laura Gruskin, M.D., is a graduate of the University of Michigan Medical School in Ann Arbor and completed her obstetrics and gynecology residency at Beaumont, Royal Oak in 1994.

### Spanish from page A1

are few Spanish-speaking people in the area.

"As a Spanish teacher, I think it would benefit the students so much," said Charmaine Ragusa, who teaches at Harrison High.

"I was just in Florida last week and I sat there almost the whole time with a VCR control button, changing channels and taping commercials and other things that I thought that could help the kids."

"It's something so meaningful besides a textbook."

Ragusa and other Spanish teachers in the Farmington district have asked for Univision to be added. Ragusa, who lives in Farmington Hills, had children write letters, sign petitions while she met with then SVOCC Executive Director Lark Samuelian.

The frustrating part for those who want the Spanish-speaking

cable station is that people in nearby areas such as Brighton and Westland — already have it.

"All the language teachers feel the same way," Farmington High's Dolores Curiel said. "It's there and we can't have it."

Said Bjorklund: "Our goal is to

please as many of our customers as we can.

"For every channel we decide to put on, hopefully we're going to be satisfied a lot of customers."

"There's a few customers who are going to be upset because they want to see something else."

### Walsh from page A1

population, he said. Court reform has attempted to address the issue by giving judges more flexibility.

Walsh said courts are increasingly working with their funding agencies, bar associations and other groups that will be affected by the court reform.

Walsh will familiarize himself with the court files and finances for his first month or so on the job and make sure all department heads and staff are on the same page in terms of policies and practices of the court.

Walsh earned a bachelor's degree from Eastern and then returned to New Jersey and

worked as a chemist and sales representative before returning to school in Ypsilanti and earning a master's in public administration.

An internship with the University of Michigan Medical Center helped convince him that administration was his best path.

Walsh worked in the areas of budget, staff supervision, case management, technology and community relations while at the 22nd Circuit Court in Ann Arbor.

"I'm enjoying it," he said. "I'll have great people to work with here."

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