



STAFF PHOTOS BY BRADON LAMNICK

Leading the band: Fifth-grader Safet Cunmuljaj conducts with the held of his new music teacher in a Lanigan Elementary School classroom.

Take note: Lanigan has a new music man

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Naum Shulman takes music from his heart and places it into those of his students.

With little prodding, children rise to their feet and correspond in perfect chorus to an African song while the teacher plays an electric piano. The music instructor pauses between lecture and verse to ask how many of the assembled in the portable classroom at Lanigan Elementary School are happy.

Hands shoot up faster than dandelions after a summer shower. "I hope you enjoy learning music with me all year," said Shulman, 34, a Russian native who recently became a U.S. citizen and a Farmington Hills teacher.

He is one of 60 new teachers hired by the district, which has seen a rapid turnover rate through retirements recently.

Along with his passion for music, Shulman shares a bit of his life with students. He tells them how he started attending the School for Gifted Children in St. Petersburg at 3 years of age. He mentions his doctorate in music, studying at a host of universities stateside, including Oakland University where he earned his teaching certificate after coming to the U.S. in 1989.

There's not enough time, or perhaps understanding, to elaborate on his background to the children.

He plays the bassoon and was a member of the Leningrad Symphony. When he left Russia, he was joined by his parents, who

lived near Chernobyl — the site of a nuclear disaster in 1986.

"I didn't have a choice," said Shulman, who has been joined by other family members. "I thought it was important that my parents lived more years."

Material goods are plentiful here in the U.S. Shulman mentions how the musical instruments on the shelves at Lanigan would be a scarce commodity in Russian classrooms.

Other than that, differences are negligible. Music transcends borders. Apparently, so does the kindness

and enthusiasm of children. "The children have been very nice to me," he said.

He has big plans for them, too. He gives an affirmation when a boy asked if a friend will be allowed to play the electric piano.

The subject of solos also comes up. "I'd like to invite all of you children to make a solo," Shulman said.

Along with computer technology that will allow them to become acquainted with musical

keyboards, Shulman said they'll also use Carl Orff instruments such as the tambourine, triangle and symbols.

Shulman shuttles between O.E. Dunckel Middle School and Longacre Elementary as well as Lanigan. He previously served as music director at the Brookfield Academy.

As class concludes, students want to know how to address their new instructor.

"Can we call you Doctor S?," asked one boy. "Can we call you Doc? another inquired.



Naum Shulman

Bond-issue sign thefts charged in Farmington Hills subdivision

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

The Farmington Hills subdivision where Shelley Chness lives is one-square mile, the smallest portion of the Walled Lake Consolidated School District.

But Country Ridge subdivision is pretty hot turf in the continuing battle between supporters and opponents of the district's \$114 bond issue election, slated for Saturday, Sept. 28.

According to Chness, of Citizens for Walled Lake Schools, approximately 50 signs promoting approval of the bond issue were yanked between Sunday and Monday morning from lawns throughout her subdivision.

A complaint was filed Monday with the Farmington Hills Police

Walled Lake Schools

Department. Also, she said large "Save Our Schools" signs were stolen Saturday from the subdivision's main entrance on 14 Mile Road. The sub is bordered by Halsted on the east, Haggerty on the west, and 13 Mile Road on the south.

"It's laughable," Chness said Monday afternoon. "These are the measures our opponents are taking. It just shows how desperate they are."

Chness said she thinks the sign thefts might backfire against whoever swiped them, because it has unified residents in the subdivision to fight even harder to pass the bond issue.

"By removing the lawn signs (opponents think) it's going to prevent us from voting or change our vote," Chness said. "But if anything, it's giving us added incentive to get it passed."

Currently, their elementary school children are being bused several miles to Meadow Lake Elementary School, located in Birmingham, even though Maple Elementary School is only a mile away.

"Of any (part of this school district, this square mile has the most to gain by this passing," Chness said. "Our children are being bused right now."

Grand River corridor gets attention

BY WILLIAM COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

Efforts to improve the Grand River corridor are getting some attention around the state.

The Grand River Corridor Study Group will receive one of three awards for planning given jointly by the Michigan chapter of the American Planning Association and the Michigan Society of Planning Officials.

"A lot of work went into that project," said John Anhut, who chairs the group.

Anhut, who owned the Betsford Inn on Grand River for 42 years, has worked for the past five years on plans to rebuild, landscape and rejuvenate the area in the southeast part of the city.

Farmington Hills Community Development Coordinator Rick Lampi said the project was unusual because it came about so quickly.

"We planned this in 1994-95 and then just got started," he said. "A lot of times plans just stay on the shelf. But this was



Corridor booster: "This was put together and worked on right away," says John Anhut.

put together and then worked on right away."

The redevelopment scheme attracted about \$600,000 in combined state and federal grant money and city funds. The city has replaced curb, improved landscaping, bought and cleared property along the corridor from Eight Mile to Middlebelt and west, has added new lighting and gotten old utility poles removed.

Lampi said plans for improvements west of the West River Shopping center (Target store) to Farmington are planned.

In addition, several businesses have gotten into the act by either improving facades and landscaping or expanding.

Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Pop Boys, Blakeney's and Vladimir's have all been involved and McDonald's Corp. is considering a new restaurant on the corridor.

Jacobson's

Comino Attractions

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Saturday, September 21
Noon to 8 pm

Meet Jhane Barnes reps Gene Crowley & Nick Delaquilla for presentation of mens suits, sport jackets, ties and sportswear. Jhane has an ultra-modern celebratory line- "Retrospective". And "Platinum" (tailored, longer, lean lines with high-buttoned stance) is very 90's.

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