

Teachers Won't Work Without Contract; Talks Continuing

By DAN MCCOSH

The opening of Farmington schools on time is hanging on the signing of a contract with the teachers. As of Friday, negotiations were continuing, but several contract items were unresolved.

The Farmington Education Assn. has taken the position it will not go to work without a contract, according to Roger Allen, executive director of the FEA.

Robert Coleman, chief negotiator for the district,

agrees in principal with the FEA.

"It leaves everything up in the air for everybody when you let it drag on," Coleman said.

Allen said the teachers would meet at 7:30 a.m. Tuesday, the day they are due at work, to take a vote on whether or not to "withhold their services" in the event a contract is not yet signed.

For the past several years, teachers have continued to work although a contract was not signed until the winter months.

They informed us this would be their position, in May," Coleman said. "It's no surprise."

The bulk of the agreement has been negotiated, with two major exceptions: class size and salaries.

"I would put class size at the top of the list," Allen said. "It's the kind of philosophical issue that you can stay very far apart on."

The teachers are asking for a "cap," or limit, to the total number of students in a single class.

Current practice is to stay

within a building average, which the old contract limited to 29 per class, but in practice is about 27 in a class, according to Coleman.

Allen said the administration agrees with the educational philosophy, but is trying to defend "an administrative prerogative."

The FEA has been conducting an unusually active campaign of newspaper ads and mailings, on the class size issue.

Allen says teachers want the "cap" because some classes are running well over

the building average -- up to 34 students in one elementary class.

Coleman says 77 per cent of the classes are under 30, and only one is as high as 34 out of 282 elementary classes.

On salaries, teachers say they are willing to go with a "wage guideline" type settlement of approximately 6 1/2 per cent, according to Allen.

"But right now, the administration isn't anywhere near that," Allen said Thursday. "The district expects about

16,000 students to return to classes" beginning Wednesday.

Elementary students will spend a full day beginning Wednesday at 9 a.m., according to Asst. Supt. Lawrence Freidman.

Junior High students report on a split schedule, with seventh graders coming for a whole day Wednesday, and higher grades at 12:15 p.m. for orientation.

High school students register on Wednesday, go for a partial day on Thursday, and start their first whole day of Friday.

Tax Analysis

The Farmington Hills council is embarking on a fight against a long-standing taxing policy of Oakland County which will have wider implications than the local tax bill. For background on the issue, see:

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Planners Attacked

A reader criticizes the Farmington Hills planning commission's past actions in a letter in today's Enterprise and Observer.

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Little Village

The Methodist Children's Village is located on a beautiful 65 acres of land in Redford Township on the south side of Six Mile Rd. Now the Village is sponsoring a day care center for the first time and it will have several special features. See our coverage on

Page 10A

Theater Season

Community theater groups in Southfield and Redford-Livonia have made plans for the coming season. To see what they are up to turn to the amusement section.

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She Is 101

A Livonia woman celebrated her 101st birthday this week and Observing Life's camera was there.

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Day Bond Set At \$50,000

By JACKIE KLEIN

The president of the First American Securities Corp. of Southfield has been arraigned on charges of defrauding investors of more than \$1 million in unregistered securities.

James Day, a former Farmington Hills resident, pleaded innocent in 47th District Court Tuesday to three felony charges brought against him by the Oakland County prosecutor's consumer protection division.

Farmington District Judge Michael J. Hand set bond at \$50,000. A preliminary hearing was scheduled for Sept. 7.

Day was charged with three violations of the state uniform securities act. The charges included failure to provide investors with information about their security purchases; sale of non-exempt securities; and obtaining the money under false pretenses.

The first two charges carry a maximum penalty of three years imprisonment and \$5,000 in fines. The third is punishable by up to 10 years in prison.

A July cease and desist order issued by the state Department of Commerce to First American, 2911 Evergreen, and Day stated that from September 1969 through August 1970, 27,600 shares of common stock, \$138,300 in unregistered securities, were sold to investors.

From August 1963 through February 1973, it was charged, Day, through the corporation and two other companies, sold more than \$1 million in unregistered stocks.

The order also states Day used proceeds of current sales of securities to pay interest and dividends on prior investments.

Investigation revealed Day had sold his home in Farmington Hills and moved to Florida. He returned Friday, and a warrant was issued for his arrest upon receipt of sworn affidavits by the prosecutor's office, and a complaining investor.

Contract Extended At C'ville

Clarenceville schools are sure to open for classes Wednesday, even though a new teacher contract is unwritten.

The school administration and Clarenceville Education Assn. (CEA), which represents the teachers, have agreed to extend last year's pact to Sept. 15. It likely would be extended beyond that date if contract negotiations still were under way, a school spokesman said.

While financial items still are unresolved, "progress" was reported. "We're moving very well," the spokesman said.



A DEAD ELM is a nuisance to most people, but the family of Mrs. James Donnelly, Farmington, turned the stump into two decorative octopi for their front lawn. (Photo by Fran Evert)

Elementary Teacher Plans African Trip

By DAN MCCOSH

stops on a sabbatical tour of west Africa, the first taken in recent times by a Farmington elementary teacher.

Rehn, a teacher at Middlebelt Elementary, will be working through the United

Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), studying their educational programs in Africa.

"The main point to a sabbatical is to enrich the district," Rehn's supervisor, Lawrence Freidman, said.

Rehn plans to spend most of his time in Liberia, "one of two African countries which were never colonized," with side trips to Ghana, Tanzania and the Ivory Coast.

Inspiration for the trip came from a routine kind of tour of the United Nations a year ago.

"I just walked into the UNESCO office," Rehn said, a side trip which led to communication between him and educational specialists in the west African nations.

He hopes to be able to compile both library materials and become a "resource person" as a result of the trip.

Although "high-level goals for the trip have been established, Rehn is finding practical obstacles."

Shirley is collecting materials for the education of their four children.

He expects to have trouble finding housing in Monrovia, the projected "home base" in Liberia.

Terms of the sabbatical call for half pay while he is gone, and an obligation to stay with the Farmington School District for two years after returns.

Boy Killed On Bicycle

William LaFave, 7, son of Mr. and Mrs. Roger R. LaFave, 2832 Tuck Rd., was killed when he rode his bicycle in front of a garbage truck near his home Monday.

Driver of the truck, Norman Gaultee, Novi, was not held. He told police the boy swerved in front of the truck traveling on 11 Mile near Middle Belt, and he was unable to stop.

Funeral services were held Thursday at St. Alexander Catholic Church.

Band Tries Camp Trip

Members of the North Farmington High School Band got together early at Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp to work on fundamentals of marching and preliminary preparation for half-time shows for fall.

A typical day included six hours of marching drills and concert rehearsals under the co-direction of Doug MacQueen and Dave Ramaker.

The remainder of the day was spent in recreation and evening activities.

"Improvement in the band is very rapid," MacQueen said, "and this year's marching band looks like it will be one of our best ever."



NORTH FARMINGTON High School band members gathered at Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp to prepare for fall appearances. Talking things over were (from left) Tom Bemis, drum major; Doug MacQueen, director, and Dave Ramaker, assistant.