

# School board to probe money shortage

FARMINGTON—The board of education will hold an open study session at 8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 26, to discuss millage needs.

Shortage of funds has been a constant topic at school board meetings since the two recent millage failures.

Belt-tightening is evident in many

areas of the school system.

Bond Elementary School was closed for the school year, the athletic program was trimmed, the hot lunch program reduced and most pilot programs have been eliminated.

Now the district is faced with budget needs for the coming school year.

The amount of millage needed, when it should be sought and the programs it should be used for are three of the areas expected to be discussed.

School superintendent Marinus Van Ameyde is expected to ask the board to engage a research firm to determine population trends for future enrollment needs

and conduct a survey of community attitudes regarding schools.

Van Ameyde said that he hopes that this survey would provide answers as to why previous millages have failed.

The meeting which will be held in the board office at 32500 Shiawassee, will be open to the public.

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## Cloverdale meets needs of impaired

By JUDY OWEN

Initially, Cloverdale School appears to be a typical building.

A bulletin board near the lobby features huge Peanuts cartoon characters awaiting the great pumpkin.

There's lots of the usual playground equipment outside.

But a walk down the halls of Cloverdale, at 3300 Freedom Road in Farmington, reveals that the school is not at all ordinary.

Several of the rooms are equipped with cribs, all have specially designed chairs fitted with headrests and seat belts. There is even a room that resembles a small apartment.

A visitor may pass the school's full-time nurse pushing a cart to dispense medication.

And at noon, the school's cafeteria is open for business with hot food, a service no longer provided in other elementary schools in the district.

ACTUALLY CALLED Cloverdale Development Center, the school is one of five in the Oakland Intermediate School District that is designed to meet the needs of severely mentally impaired persons who range in age from one to 25.

Cloverdale serves children in 10 surrounding districts.

It also provides trainable rooms for district that do not have these facilities.

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On the school's staff are four teachers certified in the area of mental retardation, an occupational therapist, a physical therapist, speech therapist, psychologist, social worker and three program aides as well as a number of teacher aides.

Heading the school's program is Fred Parker.

Graham Lewis, director of special education for Farmington, said that the school serves the young persons seven hours a day.

He explained that the school's goals are somewhat different from those found in most schools.

"PEOPLE TEND to look at individuals in terms of only productive worth. Actually there is no production here in terms of society but that's not the goal."

"Some of the students can gain some independence through the sheltered workshops and perhaps could earn some money for more independence," he said.

"Some of the older students, whom he calls 'clients' may participate in the New Horizons program which is part and parcel of the program here although it is a private corporation," he said.

"The older students have several options open to them. They can remain at the development center, participate in New Horizons or attend the Oakland Training Institute operated by the intermediate school district. At present, the youngest student at the center is 11 months old."

Youngsters up to three are at the center two mornings a week.

Preschoolers, three- and four-year-olds attend the school all day five days a week. In the pre-school room, self-care, toilet training and feeding is stressed.

"At the preschool level, the program must involve the parents," Lewis said. "We instruct the parents in what they can do in the homes and also make home visitations."



Cloverdale Development Center can turn sadness into smiles. (Photographed by Gary Friedman)

## Lions are looking for trouble as they seek to help needy

By SUSAN AVERILL

More and more often these days, hands extended in hope of help and charity are being slapped away with the admonition, "Listen, it's hard enough to make ends meet without giving any of it away."

It's understandable.

Economically speaking, these are times of trials and tribulations. Not many people are willing to go out looking for trouble.

But there is one group which is not only seeking trouble, but downright asking for it.

They're the Westown Lions, and they want to know what they can do to help.

Lions Clubs in general are committed to helping the needy, and are particularly well known for their work with the blind.

"WE STARTED working with them when Helen Keller came to the president of Lions, and asked us to be knights of the blind," said Don Schmalz, Westown Lion and treasurer of the state-level organization.

In this capacity, the Lions are now sponsoring glaucoma clinics, eye banks, eyeglasses collections, and provide nearly \$500,000 of the \$700,000 budget for Rochester's Leader Dog for the Blind school.

However, Westown Lions figure their local focus is somewhat unusual for the typical Lions club.

"We'll help anybody, anywhere, do anything that's necessary," said Lion Ralph A. Kieba, past president and present zone chairman.

The one stipulation is that the per-

son be truly needy, and not able to fund the task for himself.

Anyone needing assistance must go through a local Lion or the Metropolitan Council of Lions Clubs, which will refer the case to the nearest Lions organization.

A club receiving an application for assistance will thoroughly research the circumstances of the case. If approved, it becomes a Lions project.

ONE BLIND man and his nearly-blind wife were visited by a Westown Lion, who had come to bring them groceries.

The wife timidly requested an overcoat for her husband, should the Lions in their travels ever come across an old, discarded one nobody wanted.

His wife didn't know what size he wore, so the Lion asked him to try on the new coat he had just purchased.

"It's perfect, just the right size," said the man.

"Keep it," said the Lion.

"If a family needs help, we'll buy the groceries or pay the bills. In one case, we paid part of the payment on a house one man owned," said Schmalz.

To Michigan's credit, Detroit-area Lions Clubs were the first to suggest the adoption of the white cane law.

This ordinance, accepted by most of the states and several foreign countries, states that upon sighting a person with a white cane standing at a curb, a motorist should proceed with caution.

Should that person step off the curb

into the street, the car must stop in deference to him.

Through leader dogs, Lions Clubs broke the ice in Spain and have become the only service club in the world to be allowed in that country.

NEW CLUBS have been formed in all sections of the globe with Japan leading the pack.

"There is now a leader dog statue in Tokyo, because of their great contribution to that project," Schmalz said.

Each Lions Club is an autonomous, non-profit organization of businessmen and professional people.

Wives are integral to the success of the club, although they cannot belong to it directly.

"The projects involve wives to a very great degree, they're pretty actively involved," said Schmalz. "But if we would allow other women to join it, it might become a problem. The clubs would begin to fall apart. Besides, our wives wouldn't like it."

"We may make it a husband-wife organization if it's forced upon us."

Children may become directly involved with Lion projects through Leo Clubs. Leo's are sponsored by the parent Lions Club, and may be girls or boys from 14 to 21.

The 30-year-old Westown Lions Club boasts 56 members and is one of the largest Lions Clubs in Michigan. Members come from cities as far away as Brighton and Union, N.J.

Other members live in Birmingham, Farmington, Southfield, Farmington Hills, Detroit, Lathrup Village, Bloomfield Hills and Milford.

"PART OF the value of Lions is the social aspect. It's major ingredient is bringing us together to work for a common effort that has nothing to do with our own economic conditions," said Jon Marshall, Farmington resident.

Unfortunately, more people know us for our fund raising work than for the services we do," he said.

Schmalz concurred.

"We raise ballyhoo when we need money for our projects, but we don't raise ballyhoo when we help somebody," he said.

Some of their well-known fund raisers are their wild game dinners, candy-filled Christmas cakes, white cane sales, fruit cake sales, and baseball and Christmas parties.

All money raised through these events goes into project funds. Club management expenses are paid solely through membership dues, which total \$50 yearly.

To become a Lion, one must be invited to three of the Club's luncheons.

"WHEN I first went, I was really impressed," Marshall said. "You'd be surprised how much fun and arguing there is, but when a project comes up, it gets done. We really enjoy ourselves."

Unexpected bonuses often occur for individual Lions.

"Sometimes you can get business, when you're out dealing with these people," said Kieba, who works for an insurance company.

The Westown Lions are looking for new blood to infuse into club membership.

"We're trying to get youth involved," said Marshall. "Only five of us in the organization are in our 30s." He estimated the average member's age as 50.

## Waldron Park discussed

FARMINGTON HILLS—The recently reactivated Parks Commission will hold a meeting Tuesday to discuss the development of Waldron Park.

The park is to be located on a 3.6-acre parcel at the southwest corner of Waldron and Independence.

Plans for development of the site were begun in 1971 when the township received a state grant providing money on a matching funds basis. The state contributed 80 percent of the cost, while the city provided the remaining 20 percent.

The site in Section 36 in the south-

east corner of the city was selected because that area had been deficient in park and playground space, according to George Majors, city manager.

After the land was acquired, landscape architect drew up preliminary plans. A number of structures on the property were removed. Until this summer, the property was unused.

It was periodically the subject of complaints of area residents that youths were causing problems in the park.

The city reacted by posting regulations, restricting cars and setting a curfew.

It also enlisted the aid of the youths in launching a major clean-up campaign in the park.

At Tuesday's meeting, set for 3 p.m. in the city council chambers, the parks commission will be seeking resident input and reaction to the plan as well as possible rules and regulations.

Proposed for the park are tennis courts, a skating area, children's playground and basketball courts.

Majors said that the site would probably serve as a site for summer playground activities.

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