

Farmington Observer & Eccentric

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Boundaries reshaped; Forest pupils face transfer

By YVONNE DEVLIN
To alleviate crowded conditions at Forest Elementary School, the Farmington Board of Education has voted to change boundaries and transfer 29 students to other elementary schools in the area.

THOSE CHILDREN BEING transferred

Sixty-two children at Forest would be transferred to Fairview Elementary School and 16 would be transferred to Wooddale Elementary School.

from Forest to Fairview will be based more than two miles. Forest is located south of 14 Mile, between Drake and Farmington Roads. Fairview is located east of Middlebelt, south of 14 Mile. Those being transferred to Wooddale will

not be based since it is located south of 13 Mile, less than a mile away.

There will be no schools that are too small to accommodate students and more space will be available in other schools," said Lawrence Freedman, assistant superintendent of elementary education.

He also said that any boundary changes will be affected by an increase in the present pupil-teacher ratio of 26:1 to 28:1, due to the lack of funds because of the recent millage deficit.

Trustee Ernest Mathison voiced concern over some of the schools having split classes. Split classes are two grades in the same classroom.

Trustee William Grivas said that he would not like to see these students disrupted for another year because they get established in their schools. He voted against the transfer.

Freedman agreed that smaller buildings like Fairview, Alameda, located south of 11 Mile off Powers, and Flanders located north of 4 Mile 1 will probably be affected by some shifting.

"THE ANTICIPATED GROWTH in this area is very large," he said.

The original capacity for Forest was 280 and Trustee Merrylyn Ross said that the building has been overcrowded for the past five years.

According to Freedman, next year's enrollment figures at Fairview without boundary changes, for grades K-6, will be 140. With the proposed change the figure is considerably reduced to 68. Neither of the figures include kindergarten classes since registration has not been finalized.

Freedman also said that at Wooddale, "the situation isn't overcrowded and that the school should be able to accommodate the extra youngsters."



Meeting of minds

Ida Grey takes on the role of foster grandparent in a recently conceived program now under way between students in Cloverdale School and residents in Oak Hill Nursing Home. New staffer Loraine McClish and photographer Harry Mauthe team up to tell this story. The young and old need one another. In the June 24 issue of the Farmington Observer & Eccentric.

Student protection bill launched in state house

By YVONNE DEVLIN

Students could get the same protection now accorded to school district employees if a bill, now being drafted, is approved by the state legislature.

The bill, which will be introduced soon by State Representative Wilbur Brotherton (R-Farmington) whose district includes Southfield, includes students in the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Act (MOSHIA) which presently protects only school employees from faulty equipment malfunctions.

The anticipated bill is a direct result of the election of 13-year-old East Junior High School student, Robert Kortjian. He died when attempting to unplug an ungrounded metal buffer in a shop class last January.

"CERTAIN SAFETY PRECAUTIONS that are just part of common sense aren't written into law. The pending bill will permit the labor department to send in inspectors to develop training programs and set certain standards," said Brotherton.

The bill that was introduced by State Rep. David Bonior last May is not considered an adequate bill by Brotherton.

"The Bonior bill was hastily drafted and failed to cover some technical things," he said.

Brotherton has worked with the labor department in drafting up this new bill. If enacted, the bill would authorize inspectors and training personnel from the Michigan Department of Labor to inspect schools and train vocational instructors in safety procedures, says Brotherton.

"This bill will actually serve two functions," says Brotherton. "An inspection function which covers things like safety glasses, oil on the shop floor and a training function which will train employees in proper safety techniques."

The bill only covers those students who are in vocational training. Brotherton defined vocational education as occupational training such as arts and crafts, home economics, general industrial trade, construction trades, and physical or chemical lab training or research.

"If a student is working on a machine there is certain safety equipment that is needed, there is nothing spelled out in the present law that requires this safety equipment," Brotherton said.

PRESENTLY THE LAW SAYS that safety inspection only can be for employees. Inspectors only can inspect machines that inspectors of faculty use. They are unauthorized to inspect equipment that students use, according to Brotherton.

Now much of the inspecting is done by school personnel who really aren't as capable as someone who was specially trained, he says.

"The inspection of the equipment we aren't too aware of what's going on," Brotherton said.

"Technically we can't go in on a student complaint. Sometimes we do anyway to make sure an employee isn't injured or endangered," said Peter Wadl, a spokesman for the labor department.

Schools command a low priority for inspections because of the few incidents of injuries and accidents. The prime area for inspection are places like boundaries and construction sites, says Wadl.

There are now 33 labor department inspectors to cover the state, according to Wadl.

Routine inspections of schools are so slow and on such a low priority that there isn't any way to measure their frequency, he says.

Full-timers hired

Reinforcements beef up fire team

By RON GARIBINSKI

Farmington Hills is beefing up its fire department again.

After July 1, when the new Hills city budget takes effect, the department will hire five full-time firemen to help plug fire protection holes in the community between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.

These full-time personnel will be in addition to the 10 volunteers now on 24-hour call.

"The department made special provisions for five full-time men in its 1976-77 budget," Fire Chief John Van De Voort says. "We are going to plug the weaknesses during the daylight hours when most of our volunteers are working."

"It's not really that much different from the present situation on June 21. It will, however, at least in this way we can give the full-timers more responsibilities."

"I think it will work out fine because with full-time firemen we can place more

demands upon them to do a good job. We only pay our volunteers \$2.00 per hour and you really can't expect to demand too much from them at this rate."

The Hills City Council recently approved the department's budget, supporting it in its bid to strengthen the fire fighting force.

THE FULL-TIME positions will be filled from within the present organization and 21 volunteers presently are eligible for the new openings.

"There has been a lot of interest by the men to be hired," the fire chief continues. "21 men available for the positions, we're pretty set at this time and should have the men soon."

Starting pay for the full-time firefighters will be \$12,000 per year.

Two of the firemen will run Station 3 in the northwest section of the city on Thirteen Mile and two others will be located at Station 4 at Grand River and Middlebelt. The fifth full-time firefighter will float

from one station to another depending on the situation.

Earlier this year the city hired Van De Voort as its full-time fire chief. Shortly after that, he arranged to have five city workers on standby call if they ever were needed to help fight major fires during the day.

Both moves improved the Hills Fire Department, officials say.

"Using these city workers is working out fairly well, but only in a limited way," the chief says. "If they were available, they can assist at fire scenes. This beefs up fire protection during the day a little bit, but it also has the potential to cause a problem."

IT IS DIFFICULT for the municipal workers to respond to fires because it upsets the other city department's daily routine. The city workers must stop what they are doing, notify their supervisor that they are on the way to a fire and then spend several hours away from their normal duties.

Van De Voort says the new full-time firefighters will assist in all medical and fire runs during the day. They also will be involved in the fire prevention program, repairing equipment and will train the community in fire protection.

"Hiring the five full-time men isn't really a big step, but at least it's one in the right direction," the fire chief explains.

"The tax structure of the Farmington

Hills community is not really conducive to a full-time department. The cost of maintaining a full-time personnel is very expensive for area home owners.

"We are just going one step at a time, giving the community the opportunity to discuss what it wants with us," he continued. "If the city wants to improve its fire department, we'll provide that improvement for them. All they have to do is let us know."

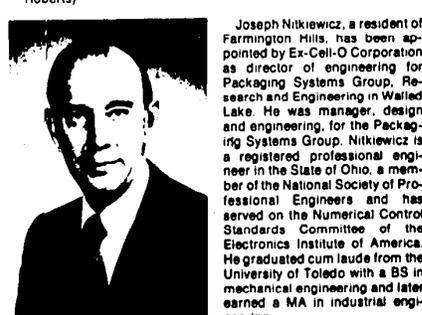
Van De Voort, who has been with the Farmington Hills department since the end of March, says his goal is to improve the Hills Fire department, providing better fire protection for the entire community.



Patricia Dowbiggin, Harrison High graduating senior, was chosen \$100 scholarship recipient by the Farmington Jaycee Auxiliary. Los Korman, scholarship committee chairman for the auxiliary, made the presentation at the Harrison Swing Out. Patricia plans to study to become an audiovisual technician at Oakland Community College.



MMMM good
Maura Phoney, 3, enjoys the summer in Farmington by digging into a cool ice cream cone. To see more of how Farmington folks enjoy the summer months, turn to page 3A. (Photo by Bruce Roberts)



Joseph Nikiewicz, a resident of Farmington Hills, has been appointed by Ex-Cell-O Corporation as director of engineering for Packaging Systems Group. Research and Engineering in Walled Lake. He was manager, design and engineering, for the Packaging Systems Group. Nikiewicz is a registered professional engineer in the State of Ohio, a member of the National Society of Professional Engineers and has served on the Numerical Control Standards Committee of the Electronics Institute of America. He graduated cum laude from the University of Toledo with a BS in mechanical engineering and later earned a MA in industrial engineering.

Libraries unveil summer fun, games

The Farmington District Libraries will open a series of programs for pre-school and elementary age children starting this month.

All children are welcome to these free programs and no registration is required.

There will be a program at both libraries for pre-schoolers on June 22. It will include a variety of film fun with a popcorn treat—Farmington branch 10:30-11 a.m., Farmington Hills branch 2:30-3 p.m. On June 29, there will be a program for elementary age children. This will be films of Americans, comic cartoons and a feature length film. It will be at the Farmington branch from 2-4 p.m. and the Farmington Hills branch, 10:30-11 a.m.

The summer reading club for children kindergarten through sixth grade will have the theme, "Happy Birthday to U.S." The reading program will be based on our nation's history and the 200th birthday celebration. Children will report orally on books of their choice and will attend various programs throughout the summer. A special party, at which reading certificates will be awarded, will be at the end of the summer.

The library will sponsor two free art programs for residents of the two cities. The programs have a limited enrollment and pre-registration will be handled on a first come, first serve basis. Registrations in person are now being taken.

ARTS AND CRAFTS FOR FIRST and second graders will be Wednesday mornings, 10:30-11:30 a.m. June 23 through July 26, at the Farmington Hills branch. There will be a \$2 materials fee.

ART INSTRUCTION FOR INCOMING

SEVENTHS through ninth graders will be held Wednesdays, 1:30 p.m. at the Farmington branch, June 23 through Aug. 11. Students will be instructed in pencil, watercolor, charcoal, pen and ink in still life, landscapes, portraits and perspective. There will be a \$5 materials fee. For pre-school through sixth grade, the library will give "Flip" parties for groups of 30-40 youngsters.

Flip stands for Farmington library instant party. The library staff will bring a free 65 minute party program to any neighborhood which will guarantee the required number of children. The party program will include stories, films, games, songs and a popcorn social.

Party sponsors are expected to provide the use of front or backyards and garages and drum up support in the neighborhood.

Ms. Herrington gets school art award

Heather Herrington, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd C. Herrington, Jr., 2362 Longwood, Farmington, received an award for participating in the Parent's League of Independent Schools of Michigan's art show in Troy.

Miss Herrington, a student at the Lee-Lucas School, Glen Arbor, received her award from Mrs. Robert Baughman, Jr., of Bloomfield Hills, president of the League. The awards were given out as a tribute to the school's athletic awards.

Students win competitive awards

Two Oakland University students from the Farmington area are among 50 persons receiving appreciations achievement scholarships for 1975-76.

They are Phillip M. Accettura, 2388 Dana Court, Farmington Hills, a senior sociology major and David Skooby, 2208 Ruby Crest, Farmington, a senior engineering major.

The competitive awards are made to OU students of sophomore or higher standing who have achieved outstanding academic records while carrying at least 20 credits at the university.

Ms. Herrington gets inside

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Five years ago, Bob Riley was an unknown automotive engineer. Now his Indy race car designs are becoming precursors in the racing world. Read about his feats in today's sports section on Page 4.