

Chamber teaches business ethic

Farmington area businessmen are invited to adopt a class of elementary school students.

Both Farmington area beautification groups, the Farmington Chamber of Commerce and the schools are cooperating in the project. The plan is designed to promote

closer contact between the businesses and the schools.

"The idea of the project is to promote community pride and understanding," said Carol McQuigian of Ten Mile School. She is helping to coordinate the plan.

Businessmen and students would be equal partners in the pilot project.

"The kinds of things that would be done wouldn't involve a great deal on either side," she said.

On their side of the project, businessmen could contribute low cost or free materials to the school.

OLD TIRES, BEAMS, and large tiles are among the suggested items that could be given to the school.

"The children can crawl through the tires. They can stand them on edge, fill them with concrete, like they've done at Middle Belt School," she said.

Stores could display the children's posters or sponsor poster contests. "It could become an outgrowth of the classroom," she suggested. "Businesses could become a place to display the children's work."

Businessmen could offer their adopted school the use of a vacant parcel of land for outdoor study, suggested Ms. McQuigian.

"Some of our schools don't have places to go for outdoor study," she said. "Children could discuss uses for the land. Should we make a park on it, for instance."

"Children could study land use. And

there are schools which are on barren plots of lands without trees or shrubbery. The students could take field trips onto the donated land, then," she suggested.

ADOPTED CLASSES MIGHT visit a business or invite the businessmen to talk to students.

Films about the business could be shown and careers could be discussed with the businessmen.

In return, the class could plant flowers around the business, aid in clean-up campaigns or simple painting chores.

Business sponsors and students are free to go beyond the list of suggestions presented by Ms. McQuigian.

"We want to encourage originality," she said. Both the school and the businessmen should agree on what they want to do," she explained.

Ms. McQuigian is hoping the project gives the students a better understanding of the problems faced by businessmen.

"If you know a businessman you have a greater regard for his problems," she said.

Ideally, the program will allow each class to have its own business acquaintance. Businessmen interested should call Ed Lane, chamber director.

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Meetings scheduled for two task forces

Two newly-appointed Farmington School District task forces will meet for the first time this week.

The Task Force on School Organization Structure (SOS) will meet at 1:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 21 at the administration building to discuss school restructuring in the years ahead.

Earl Baumunk, Director of Vocational and Career Education, heads the group. How to cope with declining enrollment is the challenge the SOS Task Force faces.

Assessment of student needs; staff strengths and skills; population studies; and a study of existing facilities are on the agenda in the months ahead.

The Task Force on Surplus Facilities, headed by William Prisk, Farmington Public Schools business manager, will meet at 4 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 22 at the administration building. The group's first meeting will include tours of both Fairview and Eagle Elementary Schools. Both

schools are being considered for closing in the 1978-79 school year, per the recommendations of the Task Force on Declining Enrollment.

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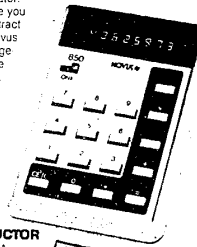
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