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Teachers hit by exhaustion in classroom

By MARY GNIEWEK

The effects of declining student enrollment in Farmington have gone beyond the question of what to do with an empty school building.

The question now is what to do about the instructor suffering from "teacher burnout."

Teachers may very well be the latest victim of declining enrollment. Reassignments to different schools and grade levels, a tight job market, an aging teaching staff, and threatened job security add up to a syndrome called "teacher burnout."

Teacher workshops dealing with how to cope with stress have become more common. Administrators are developing in-service programs to help teachers cope.

One teacher described it as feeling trapped.

"There aren't as many opportunities," he said. "You get the feeling of being stuck."

An admitted victim of teacher burnout, he describes what he feels on the job.

"After 15 years, a rut develops. It's reflected in people less willing to become involved in student activities. Teacher attendance is way off at club and athletic activities.

"As time goes on, I don't want additional contact with kids. I don't want to seek them out. I put in my time. It gets to be exhausting. As we get older, we become less tolerant."

"I'M SURE the feeling is common in other jobs, but it is critical in education because we are dealing with human beings as our raw material.

"The end product people expect is a well-rounded education."

The teacher, who wished to remain anonymous, said a balance between experienced and new teachers might help combat teacher burnout.

"New teachers are idealistic and enthusiastic. They still have a balance between realism and idealism.

"I think once we begin recruiting new people, everyone will have a more positive approach."

The average age of a teacher in Farmington is between 41 and 42. The state average is 39.

"I don't think there is any correlation between age and effectiveness of teachers," said Lewis Schulman, superintendent.

"The quality of our teaching staff hasn't diminished. But we are keenly aware of the upset caused by declining enrollment."

"As you cut enrollment, the opportu-

"As time goes on, I don't want additional contact with kids. I don't want to seek them out. I put in my time. It gets to be exhausting. As we get older, we become less tolerant."

nity for a rich, varied program becomes strained."

The district received approximately \$30,000 this year from the state legislature for teacher in-service programs.

"Because of declining enrollment, there are more teachers in areas of non-expertise," explained Tom Chryzanowski, president of the Farmington Education Association, the union which represents the district's 710 teachers.

"TEACHERS MAY have to go back to school or lose positions. Qualifications have to be maintained to keep our accreditation."

An admitted victim of teacher burnout as a real problem, but is also sensitive to the issue of teacher age.

"I resent the implication that an older teacher is worse," he said.

Seventy-five percent of Farmington's teaching staff is at full level of experience, on the union scale. The other 25 percent are mostly special education teachers, Chryzanowski said.

In the past three years, the teaching staff has shrunk from 825 full-time positions to 700. Only three positions are left to be filled by people hired since 1970 in the elementary schools.

Five schools have been closed in the district since 1972, another is slated to close in June, 1980.

There are 35 fewer teachers this year than last. Those laid-off last spring had eight years seniority.

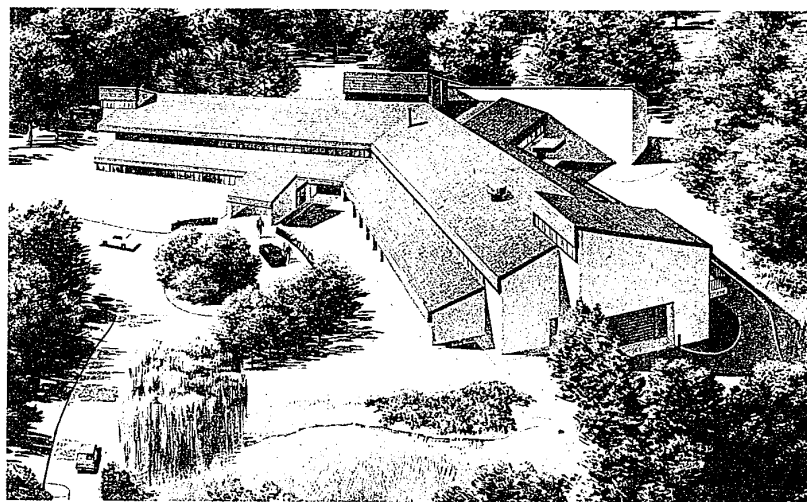
The pattern is not expected to change in the near future. One top administrator predicts there will be a half to a third the number of students in the district's three high schools just five years from now.

"The primary stress factor is job security," Chryzanowski said. "There's no job continuity."

"Some may go from teaching first grade one year to middle school the next. Also, there has been more mainstreaming. A teacher may have five special education children in the classroom."

"There's no time to set up a special program, but you have to meet the needs of all the students."

"Unless there's a turnaround, most teachers will stay where they are, their first job because there's no mobility."



This artist's rendering shows the two-story, 50-bed West Bloomfield Maple Grove alcohol rehabilitation center of the Henry Ford Hospital medical network. (Photograph by Albert Kahn Associates)

Henry Ford Hospital gets nod to build alcohol rehab unit

By MARY LOU CALLAWAY

Henry Ford Hospital's plans for an alcohol rehabilitation center on its Maple Road property in West Bloomfield won approval from the township planning commission last week.

The site plan now goes to the township board which is expected to consider the matter by the end of the year.

If the West Bloomfield Township Board approves the plan, Maple Grove, a two-story, 50-bed facility, will be completed in about a year, according to Alan Case, Ford Hospital institutional services administrator.

The \$3 million, 50,000-square-foot building, just south of the present outpatient facility west of Drake Road, is to be developed entirely by private contributions.

Maple Grove has been approved by the Comprehensive Health Planning Council of Southeastern Michigan.

THE CLOSEST alcohol rehabilitation center in Michigan is in Brighton. But there's no continuing counseling program or outpatient care in Brighton. Maple Grove will have those services, Case said.

"There is a great need in southeastern Michigan in particular (for this type of center). We're

far behind other states. The automobile and other industries strongly support it," he said.

"Ford is heavy on therapy. It will be a voluntary program. We have a different treatment philosophy than Brighton," Case added.

Maple Grove will not treat drug abuse problems.

A chemical dependency, alcoholism affects the lives of more than 10 million Americans of both sexes, all ages and geographical areas, according to Ford officials.

The disease has physical, social and economic ramifications. It is a leading cause of job and school absenteeism, job loss, marital problems, social dysfunction and physical illness.

Industry leaders estimate as much as 8 percent of the work force has alcohol problems.

Estimates are that one out of every 15 persons in the tri-county area has a drinking problem and only 10,000 of the estimated 200,000 who need help are receiving it.

Architect Jay Pettitt of Albert Kahn Associates of Detroit describes the Maple Grove facility with patient housing on the second floor.

On the lower floor will be dining and recreational areas, therapy and staff space, a detoxification unit and examining areas.

Planning Director Frank Reynolds said the

use conforms to the township's zoning requirements.

A wetlands permit was also approved for the part of the parcel which crosses wetlands areas.

Ford officials agreed to install a pedestrian bike path jointly with West Bloomfield Woods Two subdivision.

WEST BLOOMFIELD Planning Commission Chairman Jeffrey Leib asked Richard Krolicki, Ford administrator of physical facilities, about rumors of merging its plans for hospital facilities in western Oakland County with Sinai Hospital of Detroit.

"As you know, the health industry has been under fire. We have looked at sharing (with Sinai) and at building a hospital. There has been discussion but no decision. It will be three to four years before there can be a hospital in this area. A site would have to accommodate 300-400 beds," said Krolicki.

Krolicki said Sinai owns the property on the north side of Maple Road across from the West Bloomfield outpatient center.

But township records show 43.5 acres next to the Jewish Community Center on Maple Road is owned by United Jewish Charities.

The assessed value of that land is \$116,950, making the market price nearly \$225,000, according to the township assessing office.

December gift

Water rates go up 30 percent

By MARY GNIEWEK

Farmington residents can expect average rate increases of 30 percent on their next water and sewer bills.

The proposed rates, which reflect increases from Detroit and Oakland County, would hike the city's minimum water charge by 25 cents and the per-1,000-gallon water charge by eight cents.

The sewerage charge would be increased from 125 percent of water charges to 155 percent.

City Clerk Nedra Viane said the increases will be effective on any billing that is mailed after Dec. 1.

The cost passed onto consumers is less than half of the 75 percent increase the city of Farmington has experienced since July 1978 for use of Detroit's water system.

The latest increase reflects anticipated hikes for sewerage treatment costs that will take effect in December.

The cost estimates were presented to the Farmington City Council last week by Thomas Doeschler, an accountant

with Plante & Moran. That firm was hired by the city to study the financial needs of Farmington's water and sewer department through 1981.

The Plante & Moran study did not take into account that Detroit is considering raising its water rate sometime in 1980, which could result in even greater increases to consumers.

"Detroit is under a federal court mandate to upgrade its sewerage treatment plants," Doeschler said. "We have no control over it at all."

The city's current water and sewer rates were based on a sewerage charge from Detroit and Oakland County of \$2 per 1,000 cubic feet, and \$2.50 per 1,000 cubic feet, respectively.

LAST JULY, Detroit and Oakland County raised their rates to \$2.50 and \$3.25 per 1,000 cubic feet. Effective in December, the two governments will

again raise their sewerage treatment rates to \$3.45 and \$4.20.

The Plante & Moran study based the proposed rates on two different billing systems.

On a quarterly billing system, which the city now uses, the minimum billing for the first 6,000 gallons of water or less will be \$5.60; for each 1,000 gallons over the minimum, 64 cents.

On a bi-monthly billing system, which the Plante & Moran study advocates, the minimum billing for the first 4,000 gallons or less would be \$3.73; for each 1,000 gallons over the minimum, 64 cents.

City Council decided last week to stay on its current quarterly billing system. But it will study the bi-monthly system for future consideration.

Council will vote on the proposed water and sewer rates at its next meeting Dec. 3.

Showdown looms on housing plan

The Farmington Hills City Council, already waffling on its commitment to a proposed family and senior citizen housing development, could decide the fate of the project at Freedom and Drake roads tonight.

At the request of Councilmember Jan Dolan, the council will address the questions of transfer of property ownership from the city to RRCS Inc. project developer Bud Cline, and the question of tax abatement.

Covered by housing law, tax abatement would give the developer the opportunity to build a senior citizen recreation center for community use in lieu of paying taxes on the development.

Six out of seven council members were reached for comment. Only three would reveal how they would vote.

"I'm voting yes on both," said Joanne Smith. "This was part of the agreement when we decided to go with RRCS as builders of the development. We agreed we'd do all the necessary arrangements in good faith."

Mrs. Dolan agreed.

"I'm in favor of both. I always have been."

Mayor Earl Oppertbauer, who two weeks ago led a council drive to send a multiple use zoning ordinance back to the city's planning commission for reconsideration, said he will vote no.

"I think very little could be said to change my mind," he said. "I expect to vote no on both because of the outcome of the advisory vote. We'll have to build senior housing another way."

IF THE PLANNING commission recommends a change in the zoning ordinance and the council complies with it, low and moderate income family housing could not be built on the site.

If family housing is not built, the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHA), the lending institution in the project to be built by Cline, would withdraw its support.

Councilman Joe Alkateeb said he will try to block votes on both proposals before city council tonight.

"We indicated we'd like to see what the planning commission would do. Let's give them a chance," he said.

"Mrs. Dolan and Mrs. Smith are trying to set the stage so Cline can sue the city. If that's the case, they shouldn't be on the city council."

BOTH COUNCILWOMEN denied they were part of any such plan.

This council has to make its own decision, not the planning commission. I don't expect Mr. Cline to sue. I'd be very surprised if he did," said Mrs. Dolan.

Added Mrs. Smith: "I'm not in the stage-setting business. Mr. Alkateeb has a very imaginative mind. But he's totally wrong."

"I'm just following through on the way a good business should be run. I'm not privy to Mr. Cline's thoughts."

Councilman Keith Deacon said he did not know how he will vote on the two proposals.

"I have to do more studying," he said.

Suspects dwindle; reward still offered

Farmington police have exhausted more than 600 tips and cleared 400 suspects in the Jan. 27, 1979 murder of Great Scott supermarket employee Julius Schnoll.

Schnoll was gunned down during a robbery at the store on Ten Mile at Orchard Lake Rd.

One suspect is described as a white male, 18 or 19 years old, 5 feet 7 inches to 5 feet 9 inches tall, weighing 140 pounds.

He has brown eyes, dark, wavy-frizzy shoulder-length hair, a sparse mustache, medium complexion and was soft-spoken.

His accomplice wore a blue ski mask with red trim around the eyes, and spoke with a southern accent. He is also a white male, 18 or 19 years old, 5 feet 5 inches tall, 130 pounds.

Anyone with knowledge about the

suspects is urged to call the Farmington Police Department at 474-4700.

A \$10,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those involved is still being offered.

Musicians jazz up event

The Detroit Council of the Arts will sponsor concerts and workshops presented by artists such as Slide Hampton and Ron Carter from Dec. 6-9 at Orchestra Hall. Tickets are available at the hall. For more information call the Detroit Council of Arts at 224-3482.

inside

NEVER GIVE UP

John Todd found out what it was like to fight overwhelming odds and win after being blinded in Vietnam. To see how he succeeded in his struggle, turn to Page 8A.

Agendas	2A
Community Calendar	6B
Inside Angles	3A
Obituaries	4A
Monday's Commentary	7C
Sports	Section D
Suburban Life	Section B