

# Farmington Observer

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## How schools handle kids, curriculum

By MARY GNIEWEK

**Farmington's graduation requirements, under fire by some teachers and parents for being too lax, are being re-examined by administrators.**

A survey of graduation requirements in six neighboring school districts reveals that Farmington Public Schools fall into the middle range in comparison to what other districts demand of high school students.

Southfield, Troy and West Bloomfield public schools either have or have proposed mandatory humanities.

In West Bloomfield, the class of 1983 will be the first mandated to take 1½ years of practical or fine arts. Requirements were modified in Troy last winter so that the class of 1984 must take one semester of fine or practical arts.

According to Ken Bernard, a school board representative, Southfield is considering requiring students to take two years of business or art courses. A vote is expected in the next few weeks.

Birmingham, Plymouth-Canton and Livonia public schools, like Farmington, don't mandate humanities.

Farmington's graduation requirements, under fire by some teachers and parents for being too lax, are being reexamined by administrators.

One proposal calls for hiking the number of credit hours needed for graduation from 14 to 20 when the district adds ninth grade to high schools in September.

A group including Harrison High School teachers and parents hope to convince the board of education to mandate two years of fine arts, which could be satisfied by art, music, drama, forensics, foreign language or English humanities classes.

**BOARD TRUSTEES** Helen Prutow, Janice Rolnick and Jack Inch, who comprise the board's curriculum study committee, all favor increasing the math requirement from one to two years.

Two years of math are required in the Southfield Public Schools. One and a half years are mandated in West

Bloomfield and proposed for Livonia, which is also making the transition to four year high schools in September.

Farmington and Plymouth-Canton are the only districts polled which require students to take two full years of physical education. The others require 1½ years, except Troy which requires just one year.

Also in Troy, students must take two majors and two minors. A major is three credits in one subject area, a minor is two.

"Our experience in the past is that students take a smattering of courses as electives. There's no logic or continuity," said Dr. Carl Paschka, director of secondary education.

"We think this new requirement will be more beneficial."

Farmington administrators are recommending students take 1½ years of math, 1½ years of science, 3 years of English, 2½ years of social studies and 2 of physical education to graduate.

In Livonia, the recommendation is 1½ years of physical education, 1½ years of math, 2 years of social studies, 3½ years of English one year of science and a total of 19 credit hours in four years.

The Southfield proposal would raise requirements from 19 to 21 credit hours, specifically hiking English from 4 to 4½ credits and adding the business or art requirement.

Birmingham requires 18 credit hours, Troy 19, West Bloomfield 21, and Plymouth-Canton 20 credit hours for graduation.

## Talking books aid the blind

Pam Yaney, a senior at Royal Oak Kimball High School who is also legally blind, is shelving "talking books" at the Oakland County Library for the Blind and Handicapped in Farmington Hills where she's both patron and student assistant.

Pam has been using "talking books" since she was 8, and has been a patron of the Oakland library since it opened in 1974.

"Pam is one of over 1,200 patrons which our library is currently serving," said director Barbara Shumer. "The Library of Congress, of which our library is a part, has identified over 35,000 potential patrons in this country."

"Frequently blind and handicapped persons do without reading materials simply because they don't know this service exists."

"For example," she said, "a new patron, now in her 40s, who would have been eligible for the service from childhood, was told by teachers that she would never be able to read books."

"She is excited that the world of talking books has opened up for her at last. Furthermore, the talking book service is so easy to use. Materials travel postage free and selections can be made by mail or phone so readers never have to leave their homes."

**THE OKLAHOMA COUNTY** Library for the Blind and Handicapped provides, free-of-charge, over 14,000 book

titles and 75 magazines for adults and children on discs and cassettes as well as the equipment on which to play them.

In addition, the library provides free large print and braille transcriptions for patrons upon request, for example, personal wills or contracts, as well as a Visualtek electronic reading aid and other magnifiers. Also provided are information referral services and a circulating sculpture collection. The library will also assist in getting books recorded which are not part of the regular collection.

To qualify for the service, persons must be legally blind or have visual impairments which don't allow them to read normal size print. Persons with physical handicaps which may make it difficult for them to hold books and learning disabled children are also eligible.

"Recently we were contacted by a person to undergo back surgery to ask whether he could receive talking books during his hospital confinement," Mrs. Shumer continued.

"Since he would be in traction and unable to hold conventional reading materials, our answer was yes."

The Oakland County Library for the Blind and Handicapped is housed in the Farmington Community Library, 32737 W. 12 Mile Road.

Interested persons may call 553-0900 for more information.

## Foster parents lauded

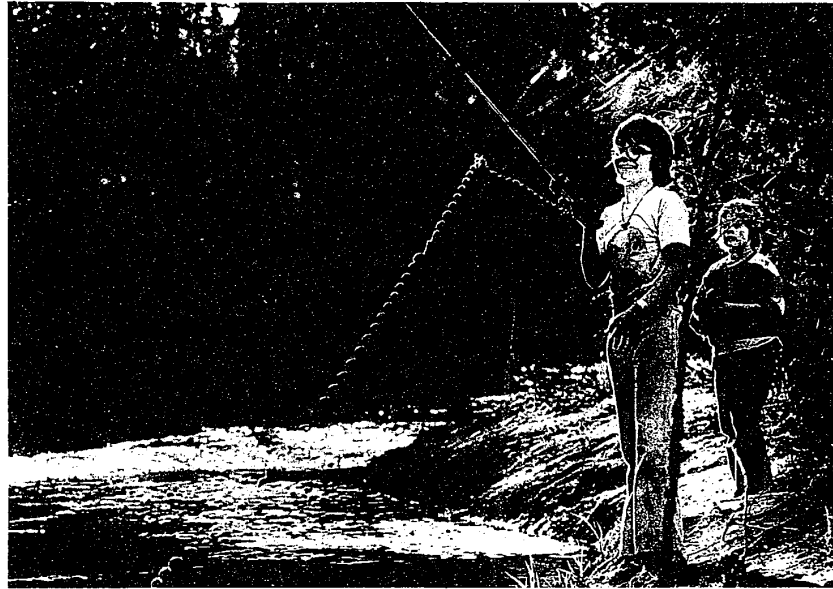
Of the five Foster Parent of the Year awards offered by the Michigan Foster Parent Association, two were claimed this year by foster parents associated with Oakland County Community Mental Health Services.

William and Virginia Tomblin, and Ira and Giselle Wing, all of Farmington, received their awards at the Association's Annual Conference at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Dearborn last month.

Candidates are nominated in five categories and selected by a committee of their peers.

The Tomblins were recognized for exceptional work with emotionally disturbed children. They have been foster parents 11 years and associated with Community Mental Health since 1972. There are currently three foster children in their home, all of whom have been diagnosed with varying degrees of emotional disturbance.

The Wings, foster parents for 37 years, eight with Community Mental Health, were recognized for their outstanding work with the currently retarded children who compose their current foster family.



Testing the fishing hole

It doesn't take long after the warm weather hits that anglers are out dusting off their fishing skills. That was the case for Steve Cox, 11, and friend Steve Myers, 9, who were dropping their line at the stream in City Park. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

## 5 arrested

### Police investigate tire thefts

By MARY GNIEWEK

Five men arrested last year in Farmington Hills on charges of receiving and concealing 392 stolen tires will appear in 47th District Court Tuesday. The stolen tires carry the same dot numbers as 1,800 tires stolen from a

boxcar in a Hamtramck railyard last year.

The tires were recovered in the Farmington Industrial Park the day of the arrest.

Arrested Nov. 10 were Charles T. Acker, of Redford, who was on parole for a homicide conviction; Rodney Alle-

grina, of Ferndale; Lucky Barton, a Uniroyal employee for 15 years from Dearborn; Joseph Giniel of Livonia; and Carmen Williams of Detroit.

The five all pleaded not guilty at their arraignments. The charge carries a five-year prison term or \$2,500 fine.

Barton and Giniel also were charged at that time with possession of a firearm during the commission of a felony, which carries a mandatory two-year prison sentence.

Farmington Hills undercover and Detroit cargo theft unit police made the arrests in the Farmington Industrial Park after an officer set up a prearranged deal to purchase tires.

**ACCORDING TO** Detective Dennis Rochford, Farmington Hills police acted on a call from an informant who charged Acker, an employee of Dynamic Collision at Ten Mile and Orchard Lake roads, with dealing in stolen tires.

Following is the agenda for the Farmington Hills council meeting of April 28. The meeting will be at city hall, 31555 West 11 Mile and will begin at 7:30 p.m.

The items will be:

- Public hearing on the ACE project plan, a project of the Economic Development Corporation of the city of Farmington Hills.

- Consideration of the necessity to use calcium chloride in place of road oil in city's 1980 dust control program.

- Consideration of resolution approving project area and project district area, EDC of the city of Farmington Hills-Arrowsmith Tool and Die.

An investigating undercover officer allegedly was told by Acker that he could buy four new tires for \$50 apiece.

A police surveillance team followed Acker to Budget Brakes on Middlebelt Road in Livonia, which is owned by Giniel. Four tires were loaded into Acker's vehicle.

According to police, the four tires were the same size and imprinted with the same dot numbers as those from the missing Hamtramck shipment.

Police said the undercover officer worked out a deal to purchase as many tires as Acker could sell.

According to the surveillance team, the defendants were observed loading tires from Budget Brakes into a U-Haul trailer. They were taken to the parking lot of Ace Controls in the industrial park where the arrests were made.

The case is before Judge Michael J. Hand.

## Hills posts agenda

- Resolution requesting appointment of two additional directors to the EDC for Arrowsmith Tool and Die.

- Consideration of festival request from Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church, 25225 Middlebelt, from June 13-15.

- Consideration of condemnation proceedings for property needed for public utility easement for the Old Homestead sewer special assessment district.

- Consideration of a resolution permitting Walled Lake Schools to levy taxes during city tax collection.

- Report on status of major road paving projects for 1980.



A pretty clown

Jolie Spaniel, a Mercy High School student, found out what it was like to lead the life of a clown. To read more about the afternoon spent at the Farmington Hills high school, turn to Page 3A. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

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In Shopping Cart this week, Hilary Keating Callaghan tells us to Stuff It!

Fill the void in anything from Green Peppers to Zucchini with tasty fillings.

Don't Miss It!