

Project cuts protested

Mothers of youngsters in the Walled Lake School District's Head Start program packed the board's special meeting last week to protest the elimination of the service.

Ally Director of Elementary Education, Hugh Davies explained the program's uncertain financial status; the board decided at its Feb. 27 meeting to end the federally funded program for low-income families in June, at no cost to the district's general fund, if possible.

Head Start is a 2 1/2-hour program four days a week for prekindergarten children. Program eligibility is determined on the basis of family income. Classes are held at Decker and Dublin elementary schools. Although there was room for only 45 preschoolers in the 1984 program, Davies said 120 youngsters are eligible.

"The board of education is not disinterested in serving low-income children," Trustee Patricia Jackman told parents last week. She added the board should investigate other preschool program alternatives which might serve more district children.

"We need to look at a program that

would serve all the children," Jackman suggested.

The board is interested in a program that functions smoothly, with some continuity. We can't do that with Head Start because the funding is so uncertain."

TRUSTEE MERLIN Reeds told the mothers the board has not ruled out the possibility of continuing Head Start next fall. He noted the difference between the district's fiscal year (from July to June) and the federal government's fiscal year (from January to December) has created problems when planning financing for the Head Start program.

Director of Planning and Evaluation Sami Alam explained that the board adopts a budget for Head Start in June, but the district's allocation of federal dollars for the program does not come until months after the program begins.

"We start on faith every year," he explained. The budget is submitted to the Oakland-Livingston Human Service Agency (OLHSA), which administers the federal dollars for Head Start. The district's allocation for the 1984 program was about \$3,000 less than needed, Alam explained.

"We've had no cost-of-living increase in our allocation for three years," Alam added. "The only increases (in the district's allocation) have been realized through begging."

TRUSTEE ROBERT Cooper said, "One thing the board is always con-

cerned about is getting tied into a program and then having the feds extract the dollars (supporting it).

"If we are to become the primary supporter of (Head Start), then the board has the responsibility of looking at the program. The board has had no input into Head Start. We see nothing wrong with it. But we don't know that much about it," he told the parents.

The mothers described the Head Start program as an "excellent opportunity for children and parents." Before cutbacks last January, the program included a five-day week, with the fifth day providing time for family contacts.

"Head Start provides kids with a boost into school," said Debbie Daughtery.

Parent Kathleen Amrick noted that low-income children are especially in need of a support program. Another mother asked if there was anything the parents could do to keep Head Start operating in the district.

"The parents here have done something already," Reeds said. "Your concern is not going to fall on deaf ears."

Reeds said Davies is in the process of negotiating with OLHSA to get the needed dollars to see the program through June. Board members said they may reconsider continuing Head Start next fall, but before making that decision, Jackman has requested a review of all federal programs and their potential impact on the district's general fund.

carrier of the month

Farmington



Scott Fairchild

Our most recent carrier of the month for the Farmington Observer is Scott Fairchild, 12, a student at Power Middle School. He is a carrier in the Farmington Meadows Subdivision. Scott is the son of Travis and Ginny Fairchild. His favorite subjects are math, science, computers and cooking. Outstanding achievements are the medal and certificate he won in the Olympics of the Mind and awards for participation in Jump Rope for Heart. Debbie Fairchild, 17, is his sister. Scott hopes to be a computer technician.

If you want to be a Farmington Observer carrier, please call 591-0500

Classical tunes played by Oakway

Oakway Symphony Orchestra's annual Cabaret Concert on March 24 will feature popular classical radio personality Carl Grapentine as master of ceremonies of a fun-filled evening of popular, operatic, and orchestral treats.

The concert will be at Madonna College, Jeffries freeway, I-96 and Levan. The performance begins at 8 p.m. Refreshments will be available throughout the evening starting at 7 p.m. Admission is \$7.

Jan Rae, leading Soprano in the metro Detroit area, will sing selections from Blue Danube and Romany Life, as well as duets with Grapentine.

Madonna College President Slier

Mary Francellene Van de Vyver is featured as guest conductor. She is an accomplished maestro who holds bachelor's and master's degrees in music. Van de Vyver also holds a Ph.D. in higher education administration.

Conductor Francesco Di Biasi will lead the orchestra in selections from "My Fair Lady," "Swan Lake," and "Bugler's Holiday." The audience will have the opportunity to sing-along with the orchestra to songs from "Hello Dolly." The evening's activities will be completed with dancing to "The Full Cycle."

For ticket information call 355-9280 or 476-6544.

Astronaut will speak

Jim Irwin, a member of the Apollo 15 moon landing, will speak at 7:30 p.m. March 14 at Nardin Park Methodist Church, 12 Mile west of Middlebelt in Farmington Hills.

He will also speak at 8:45 a.m. March 15 at Harrison High School and at 10:15 a.m. at North Farmington High School. Irwin will show a film, "Highlights of Apollo 15 Moon Landing."

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Hours will be 9:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. both days.

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