

'Sleeping Beauty' stirs audience

Show time is 8 p.m. tonight for Farmington Training Center students' production of "Sleeping Beauty" in the school on School Street, north of Grand River in downtown Farmington.

The annual spring event begins at 6 p.m. with an ice cream social, before guests move into the school gym to hear the piano overture played by Amy Somerville.

"If you can hum it, she can play it," said Fran Aaron of the pianist who uses only her left hand to play.

"We have a lot of talent here, and a lot of pride in doing this. That's why I do it year after year," she said.

And because the school's production of the fairy tale is a musical, Aaron can utilize some fine singing voices.

So while many of the players are singing their lines, Aaron acts as the narrator.

One of the stars in the singing category is certainly Todd Clingan, who is reminiscent of Jim Nabors in his role of The King, playing opposite to his Queen, Mary Tomaszewski.

Princess Briar Rose is played by Sheri Bradley and the Bad Witch by

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Proud director Fran Aaron applauds the acting.



Todd Clingan and Mary Tomaszewski play their king and queen roles during the June 7 performance of "Sleeping Beauty."



Sheri Bradley plays the princess role in "Sleeping Beauty."

Incumbent Prutow wants another term

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the last in a series of stories about the candidates who are running for the Farmington Board of Education in the June 11 school election.

By Tom Baer
staff writer

Helen D. Prutow will turn 44 on Monday — election day — and she hopes the voters of the Farmington School District will help her blow out the candles.

Prutow, a Farmington Hills housewife, is a school board incumbent running against four challengers in Monday's election. If she finishes first or second, she'll have her third four-year term.

In a recent interview, Prutow spoke of watching the focus of public education in the district change during her eight years on the board.

"I think we're getting back to good, old-fashioned education," she said, noting a "back-to-basics" trend in area schools. "I think that's good, as long as we don't jump on bandwagons and have the pendulum swing completely the other way."

"There were some mistakes made before when we were into good, old-fashioned education. But when the pendulum swung too far to the left and relevancy in the classroom became the thing, then it went too far. Now, we need to find the middle ground."

Prutow claimed that the current board has "everything in hand," while stressing that "there's always room for improvement."

LISTING HER hopes for future programs, Prutow said, "We're strengthening our science courses, and considering a new elementary math program. And I'd like to strengthen our high-school graduation requirements more than we already have."

"But if we're going to do that, we have to develop a good, comprehensive math program for the less academically able."

Prutow also favored an outdoor-education program for district students on a rural park site, which may be developed by Farmington Hills. However, both the city and school district are strapped for funds for the project.

"Perhaps a private foundation would be a good way to go on this," Prutow said.

Prutow's youngest son will graduate from North Farmington High School this month. An older son graduated from the same school two years ago. Her husband, William, is a Ford Motor Co. executive.

She became involved with Farmington's schools through her participation in the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA). She's served as president of the PTA Council.

Prutow said her campaign consists "mostly of passing out literature and fliers. I do have endorsement cards which various people have sent out for me."

As she has in the last two campaigns, Prutow has received the endorsement of the political action committee of the Farmington Education Association (FEA), the teacher's union.



Helen D. Prutow seeking third term

ASKED HOW THIS campaign stacks up against the others, Prutow said, "I hesitate to say that this one is the hardest. It certainly isn't the easiest. This time there are viable candidates running — and running campaigns."

"In the previous election, the one four years ago, there were two people who filed against (Prutow's husband) Jim McGilroy and myself, but neither ran much of a campaign."

"Eight years ago, when I was elected for the first time, I ran against two incumbents, and I really had a time of it in that election. That year there were some issues, and I guess the main one was that the board members weren't getting along with each other."

Now, however, harmony seems to prevail on the Farmington Board of Education.

"It's very important to us," Prutow said. "Morale has never been higher in the district. Eight years ago, it couldn't have been lower."

Prutow explained why she thought "good morale" on the board of education was important.

"When the members of the top group of an organization are fighting among themselves, it doesn't do much for the rest in the organization. I'm sure the

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