

# Big tax bills go to corridor of industries

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to construct the multi-tenant office buildings.

Offices along Northwestern and 12 Mile range from 20,000 to more than 100,000 square feet, according to area developers and office specialists.

COMPANIES SUCH as Jervis Webb, Manufacturers Hanover Corp. and Alexander Hamilton Insurance Co. — some of the first commercial pioneers along 12 Mile — are included in a list of the city's 15 largest taxpayers.

With an assessment of about \$1.9 million, Texas Instruments on 12 Mile would pay about \$96,000 in taxes, based on the 51 mills levied in Farmington Hills (includes school, city and county millages).

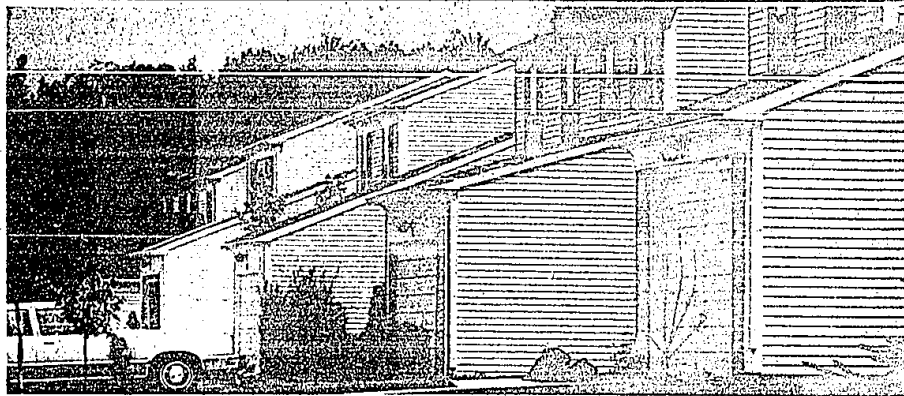
Based on assessments provided by the city assessor's office, other businesses such as Alexander Hamilton pay about \$161,000; Manufacturers

Hanover, \$149,000; and Jervis Webb, \$210,000.

MEANWHILE, THE offices along Northwestern, which are smaller than those on 12 Mile, pay less in taxes. The owners of the Fynchek building, which is assessed at \$520,000, according to the assessor's office, pays about \$26,500.

The Wood Creek office center also on Northwestern, pays about \$81,000 in taxes, based on an assessment of \$1.1 million. Topping the list as one of the largest tax payers on Northwestern is the Benzo-Bectak building at Middlebelt, assessed at about \$1.9 million with a tax bill of approximately \$95,000.

While these developments add to the city's tax base, they also cost the city in services. These include police and fire, as well as street maintenance and widening because of increased traffic.



Rows of homes line the north side of 12 Mile — a contrast to the south side which is quickly becoming Farmington Hills' economic mecca.

BUT CITY officials are unsure to what extent commercial development actually costs the city in dollars.

"I don't think we have sat down and figured out how much it costs the city. We haven't done an analysis," said Charles Hoeh, finance director. Trying to tabulate statistics on how much office developments cost the

city for services would be "impossible," according to Costick.

"For example, we don't go out and buy fire equipment just to serve office developments," he said.

Offices, churches and schools benefit from the fire department's aerial ladder so it's difficult to separate

commercial development's share of the expense.

"EVERYTHING IS not black and white," Costick said.

The same holds true for wear and tear on the city's roads, as well as improvements such as widening. It's difficult to determine whether

all the traffic is simply from the growing office developments, or from more people living in the city, said Costick.

Northwestern, for example, is used as a route to West Bloomfield.

"As far as water and sewer, commercial development pays its fair share," Costick said.

# New discipline policy gets mixed reaction

By Patricia N. Bowling  
Novi-Walled Lake News

Principals described it as a "hit." Some teachers described it as lacking "concrete organization." Parents seemed to have little opinion, and students said it was "absolute hell."

These recent remarks, evaluating Walled Lake school district's new alternative suspension program, received a positive response from the school board. Although administrators have recommended the program be continued, the board has not yet taken action to fund it for a second year.

The program was budgeted last year at \$18,250, which included a teacher's salary, an aide and classroom materials.

The alternative suspension program initiated in March was designed to keep suspended students in the school setting during suspension periods up to 10 days. Of 350 suspensions since March, 101 students were placed in the alternative suspension program, according to Sami Alam, director of planning and evaluation.

AT A SCHOOL board meeting last month, Alam recommended the program be continued next year. If it is continued, Alam said it should be made mandatory with no limit to the number of times a student could be assigned to the program.

The program is mandatory and requires permission from the student's parents. Students in the program are assigned to a supervising teacher in a single classroom for the entire day. All activities, including lunch, take place in that one classroom.

The program was housed at Walled Lake Central High School because of its central location and accessibility to all four secondary schools. Transportation to and from the school was the responsibility of the suspended student and his or her parent or guardian.

According to some principals, the program was a "hit," particularly with working parents. When asked what they liked most about the program, one principal responded it was "much better than a day off to watch TV."

The principals said they thought the program was a deterrent to other stu-

dents and had the effect of discouraging repeated suspensions. They requested the program be mandatory, but noted the lack of specific work assignments from students' regular teachers posed difficulties.

"THE PAPERWORK (and record keeping is very time consuming," said one administrator.

Both the principals and the supervising teacher, Debbie Wasmuth, said the lack of transportation was a major weakness in the program. The absence of district-provided transportation created an attendance problem, Wasmuth noted. She recommended a shuttle bus to pick up and drop off students at their homes, and suggested a part-time counselor be assigned to assist with the program.

The teachers who expressed displeasure with the system noted several reasons. "The program is poorly planned, poorly run and poorly attended," said one. Another commented that the money used to fund the program could be better used for books, furniture, reduction of class size and restoration of department chairpersons.

Teachers said they liked the fact suspension is no longer considered a "vacation" by students participating in this alternative program. They also appreciated the fact students could keep up with their classroom assignments while suspended.

From the program's inception, some teachers objected to the way it was designed and implemented without formal input from the Walled Lake Education Association, the teachers' union. This was noted when teachers were

asked what they liked least about the program.

One teacher suggested time should be invested in students other than those who have been suspended. "Is it worth paying a teacher and aide to baby sit from one to six kids a day? The program seems shallow, ineffective, merely public relations," another teacher responded.

# Clarenceville chief tests out the waters

By Diane Gale  
Staff writer

Clarenceville school administrators are asking residents in the school community to grade the district by completing a 42-question survey.

Michael Shiber, newly appointed Clarenceville Public Schools superintendent, developed the questionnaire to determine how the district is viewed and what changes should be made.

"The results will be used to establish long-range and short-range goals," Shiber said. "I'm looking forward to getting the results, and I'll use those answers to make recommendations to the board of education."

More than 5,000 district employees, residents and business people were

mailed the survey last Friday. The Clarenceville district includes parts of Livonia, Farmington Hills and Redford Township.

The evaluation involves every aspect of the district's operation including curriculum, transportation and maintenance.

It asks questions like: How would you rate the district by giving it a letter grade?

Shiber is also seeking opinions on whether the district should begin requiring high school students to pass reading, math and writing exams before receiving their diplomas.

Another question seeks views on whether the district should develop a method for students to prove they have learned basic skills before allowing them to graduate from the elementary

and junior high levels.

The community is asked to comment on instruction methods and if the district's funds are spent appropriately.

"It's pretty comprehensive because it covers most of the areas," Shiber said. "The purpose of the questionnaire is to see how the parents want us to go in the future."

A self-addressed, stamped envelope was inserted along with the questionnaire to encourage responses.

"We would appreciate people to fill out the survey because we really want to know how they feel," Shiber said. "All they have to do is fill it out and drop it in the mailbox." "The results of the survey will be available to the public once the district receives the returned questionnaires," Shiber said.

# INSIDE ANGLES

Know someone doing something notable? Let us know. Write: Inside Angles, Farmington Observer, 23352 Farmington Road, Farmington 48024.

**PATRICK J. MACDONALD**, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Macdonald of Farmington, has earned a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering. He has been sponsored in the GMI program by GM World Truck & Bus Group in Pontiac.

**D/LT. JOHN M. O'BRIEN**, of Farmington Hills, has retired from the Michigan State Police following nearly 27 years of service. During his career he received a departmental award for bravery in his attempt to rescue two children from a car which had plunged into a river and many commendations for his outstanding police work.

**RENEE BIBEAU** and Cathy Papp were awarded a certificate of participation for their successful completion of a women in science program sponsored by the College of Mount St. Joseph department of Biology, Cincinnati, Ohio. Renee and Cathy will be seniors at Mercy High School this fall.

**DIANE M. ZEKIND**, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Zekind of Farmington Hills, graduated magna cum laude from General Motors in Flint with a bachelors degree in industrial engineering.

**MARGARET McKEOUGH NEMES** and Keith Tom of Farmington have received doctor of osteopathy degrees from Michigan State University. Dr. Nemes, daughter of Paul J. and Kay A. McKeough, attended St. Agatha High School, Bedford Township. She took her premedical training at Wayne State University, where she majored in chemistry. Dr. Tom, son of Dr. Walter and Susan Tom, received his B.S. in zoology from the University of Michigan in 1979. He graduated from Southfield High School in 1979. Both physicians will begin a one-year rotating internship at Boxford General Hospital.

**AIRMAN FIRST CLASS David J. Deere**, son of Dottie Boore of Farmington Hills and a 1982 North Farmington High School graduate, received the Air Force Achievement Medal for his outstanding achievements as a photo processing specialist during Team Spirit '84.

**ELIZABETH BERGER** and Nancy Conway of the Farmington area were among the winners who attended the annual session of the American Association of University Women at Western Michigan University.

**KEVIN STEIN** of Farmington Hills was featured recently in a recital presented as part of the University of Michigan all-state program at Interlochen. Kevin, an eighth grade student at Warner Junior High School and a private viola student of Meyer Shapiro, Oak Park, played the Concerto in G Major by George Tsomian with first accompanist, Scott Vand Ornum. Kevin is attending as a member of the Intermediate orchestra.

**DONN WOLF**, of Farmington Hills, was the guest of the White House and Citizens for America recently where he met with President Reagan and cabinet members to discuss the President's legislative efforts regarding municipalities and economic policies. Wolf is 18th Congressional District co-chairman of Citizens for America, a new national civic league founded by the President last year to support conservative policies and legislation. He has been on the Farmington Hills City Council since 1980, having served as the city's mayor in 1981.

**EVERYONE IN THE** Farmington Garden Club was happy when their hand-made quilt was won by long-time member Audrey Buelteman. The drawing took place at the annual picnic.

**MICHAEL TALCOTT**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Talcott of Farmington Hills and a 1981 graduate of North Farmington High School, has been accepted to the college of veterinary medicine at Michigan State University. He was selected while in his junior year to the class of 100 students. The selected process is based on MCAT scores and extracurricular activities. He was on the MSU cheerleading squad.

**STAFF SGT. AND MRS. STEVEN SCHLEMBACH** announce the arrival of their first child, Brandi Nicole, at Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma. Sgt. Schlembach has been awarded the Air Medal and is with the 4958 Squadron. He is a 1976 graduate of Farmington High School and plans on making the Air Force his career. He has previously represented the Air Force in our Farmington Memorial Parade and in Ohio parades also. The grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Fred Schlembach of Farmington Hills and Mr. and Mrs. Larry Hill of Midland City, Oklahoma.

**BRUCE T. CHAN**, the Farmington Hills resident, was awarded the 1984 National Student Achievement Award (NSAA) by the University of Michigan's National Student Achievement Award Program. The award is given to the top student in each grade, the NSAA is an 11-month program.

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