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Book chief vows to keep faith with patrons

By Julie Brown
staff writer

Beverly Papal hopes the recent events at the Farmington Community Library can be put in the past.

"I think it's been a strain on the staff, as well as on the community, and certainly for Mr. (Gordon) Lewis" and the library trustees, she said Friday.

"It will be my objective to maintain the quality of services and the reputation of the library, both within this community and within the profession,"

said Papal, who was appointed acting library director May 2.

Gordon Lewis submitted his resignation Wednesday, following a closed session of the Farmington Community Library Board of Trustees. Lewis had served as library director since 1974.

A national search will most likely be conducted for Lewis' successor, Papal said.

"I would surmise that within the next few months the board would establish a search committee."

"We haven't talked about it yet," li-

brary trustee Jonathan Grant said Friday. "We haven't discussed replacing Gordon yet."

When Papal came to the library in 1973, the professional staff was a young one.

"He inherited a staff whose tenure could be counted in months," she said of Lewis. "There were very few programs for the public."

"Not only did he have a young staff, but he had an extremely small collection of materials to develop. He has made his imprint on virtually every department in this library."

LEWIS WAS suspended without pay at the conclusion of a May 2 meeting with library trustees. At that meeting, trustees released a report on an audit done by the Plante and Moran accounting firm. That report indicated possible personal uses of public money.

Thursday, an announcement of Lewis' resignation was posted for library staff. It reads:

"Gordon Lewis voluntarily resigned his position at the library effective May 15.

"Mr. Lewis' vision of library services has brought the Farmington Community Library to where it is today — a position of leadership both within the metropolitan area and throughout the state. His concept of library services was comprehensive for all ages from preschoolers to senior citizens; embracing the traditional library role as well as information services using the new technologies."

"His strengths in developing leadership of the staff have produced five award-winning librarians in the past 10

years through his emphasis on professional growth and creativity."

"The residents of Farmington and Farmington Hills have access to an excellent library system because of the contributions of G. Gordon Lewis."

The Library Board is establishing a personnel committee, Papal said.

"The objective is to review hirings and promotions, and possibly to conduct termination interviews." Library trustees Jonathan Grant and Charlotte

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Allies keep gifted pact in force

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Clareneville and Farmington school districts will continue their cooperative gifted program effort.

The state plans to continue funding grants for the development of gifted education programs, according to Mike Dombrowski, director of special services in the Clareneville district.

"We were going to continue regardless of the grant," Dombrowski added.

With the help of a state grant totaling approximately \$22,000, the two districts for the past year have been working together in developing and offering teachers training programs, in-service workshops and guest speakers — all having to do with gifted education.

The frosting on the yearlong effort is a course dealing with gifted education which started this month at Dunckel Middle School for general education teachers.

Taught by Beverly Park of Wayne State University, the course is designed to instruct teachers how to recognize which students in their classes are gifted and what type of curriculum to offer

these children within the general education classroom, Dombrowski said.

THE MONEY from the grant has been used to pay the professionals who have been contracted to run the workshops and seminars, as well as buy textbooks and other materials.

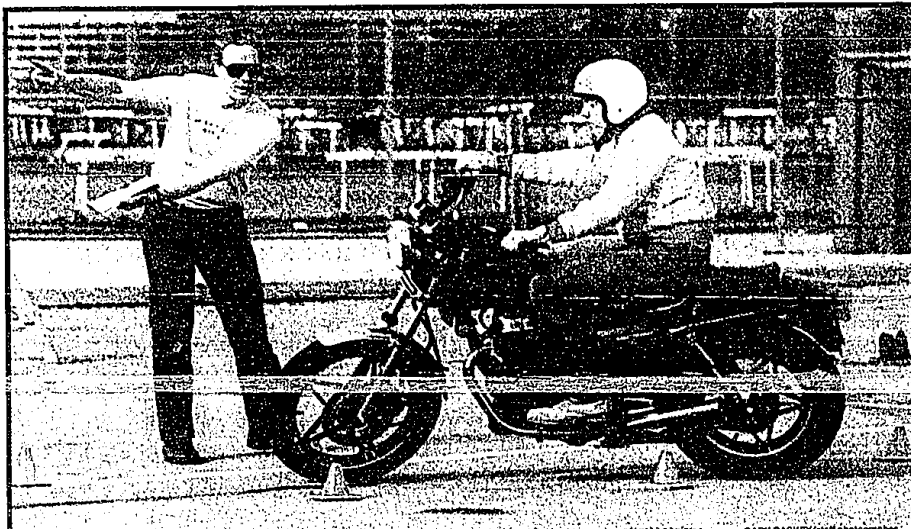
The two adjoining school districts last September formed a consortium in response to the state's increased funding "for districts trying to develop programs for gifted education," said Graham Lewis, Farmington's assistant superintendent for special education and services.

Districts interested in the grant program had the choice of applying as an individual district or joining forces with other districts, Lewis said.

Despite the availability of funding from the state there was a hitch for the Farmington district, which is out-of-formula.

"If the Farmington District collected it (the grant money) 66 percent of it would have to go back to the state," Lewis said, adding that the district receives more in local taxes than the

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GARY CASKEY/staff photographer

Safe cycling

Instructor John McMullin of Troy directs student Chris Trosin, also of Troy, through a left-hand turn into the cones on a rectangular course at Troy Athens High School. The exercise is among the activities beginners go through as part of the Motorcycle Safe-

ty Foundation Rider Course, offered at various metropolitan Detroit sites. The state-approved program is funded by motorcycle license plate fees. For more on motorcycle safety, see Page 3A.

Athletes of the mind win competition

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Imagine taking a piece of classical music — "Buckaroo Holiday" from Aaron Copeland's "Rodeo" to be exact — and using it to show how, with Father Nature looking on, the seasons on earth began.

If it sounds difficult, consider that this fantastical presentation, complete with costumes, scenery and slide presentation must be concluded within 12 minutes, including two minutes for set up. And one more thing, the music has to function as more than just a background serenade.

It's called creative thinking. And it's something a group of Forest Elementary students do well. In fact, well enough to capture first place in the local, regional and state OM (formerly Olympics of the Mind) competition.

Nabbing a first-place trophy at the state OM competition at Michigan State University earlier this month gives the winning Forest Elementary team a shot at the world competition in Maryland in June.

"Obviously we are all very excited and thrilled," said Walt Jablonski, Forest Elementary principal.

THE TEAM MEMBERS are Brad Pugh, Michelle Donlon, Kathy Giannini, Mark Temple, Ben Spector, David Adams and Suzie Sarafa.

Forest's team has made a climb in the OM competition since its first try last year in which the team, came in fifth place.

"This year it was very subjective. They (the kids) had to appeal to the judges' sense of aesthetics," said Bob Pugh, Forest's OM coach.

Contrary to popular belief, the OM competition is open to all students whether in gifted programs or not, said Pat Girbach, OM coordinator for the Farmington School District.



"There's no requirement for being in a gifted program," she said. "Academic talent and creative talent are not synonymous."

OM's purpose in a nutshell is to "foster creative problem solving and teamwork," Girbach said.

Learning how to "brainstorm" with each other for ideas and solutions is another part of OM's purpose, she added.

"If they have the creativity in their minds, then it's a beautiful program for them," Pugh added.

The way the OM competition works is that a team, such as Forest Elementary, chooses one of five problems that require "a long-term solution."

"Music, Maestro, Please" was the Forest team's selection. This problem gave the kids a chance to choose from a list of classical music listed by the OM Association.

"We wound up with this one because it was a challenge," said Pugh, adding

all the work must be done by the team members without adult help.

After deciding which piece they would use in their problem, the next task was to decide what to do with it.

"They couldn't just do anything and have the music play in the background," Pugh said.

"They had to make the costumes, scenery and slides for the background. They learned how to use electronic music and dubbing. They learned how to use the microphones. It was really a project."

Finally, the team of fifth graders and one fourth grader decided to integrate "Buckaroo Holiday" into a fantasy presentation of how the earth's seasons began at the time the world was created.

"They had to work out the choreography, stage positions and the various changes they would have to go through in their performance," Pugh said.

To show, with the help of "Buckaroo Holiday," just how the seasons on earth began, the Forest team created characters representing the four seasons.

The show opens with four "sames," beings that are identical in every way. The catch is that the four sames don't want to be the same.

Father Nature is then asked to do something about it. So he changes the four sames. But after the change the four sames are still the same.

Finally, prompted by the wisest of the sames, all four ask Father Nature to change them once again.

With the change completed, Father Nature has changed the four beings into: Frozen Toe, Sun, Bird and Leaf — the four seasons in order.

BUT CONFLICT arises between the cold Frozen Toe and the hot Sun. To stop the fighting, Bird and Leaf agree to step in and separate Frozen Toe and

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