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School salary hikes OK'd

By Jean Adamczak
staff writer

The Farmington School District as well as its support personnel will reap the benefits of a revised agreement between the Farmington Board of Education and the Michigan Educational Support Personnel Association.

Board members ratified the revised agreement by a 5-0 vote at their meeting last week. Board members Emma Makinen and Janice Rolnick were absent.

The agreement is a reopening of the 1983-84 master contract between the Farmington Board of Education and the Michigan Educational Support Personnel Association and will affect custodial, maintenance and cafeteria employees in the school district.

Under the agreement, 220 support personnel will receive a 5 1/4 percent wage increase in 1985-86, says Robert Coleman, district personnel director.

The school district's benefits from the revised agreement include a savings in health care costs due to a change in insurance underwriters, Coleman says.

Based on the current number of support personnel in the district, the 5 1/4 percent increase will cost the school district \$170,000, Coleman says. But because of the \$12,000 savings in health care costs the actual cost to the school district will only be \$158,000, he says.

Under the old contract, employees at the lower end of the wage scale made \$6.87 an hour. With the increase in 1985-86, the same worker will make \$7.72 an hour.



Louise Goodling stands alongside the retention pond which she claims occupies one third of her property on Hathaway Street. The

size of the pond has been the subject of Goodling's 10-year battle with Farmington Hills' city officials.

RANDY DORST/staff photographer

Woman wages battle with city

By Jean Adamczak
staff writer

Louise Goodling has been waging her own war with Farmington Hills officials for 10 years.

Goodling and her husband own Quality Paving Co. on Hathaway Street in Farmington Hills.

A retention pond on their property has been the focus of Goodling's complaints to the city.

The property, at 24546 Hathaway, and the retention pond on it have been

the subject of numerous city council, planning commission and zoning board meetings.

"My husband has kept a lid on all of this, but enough is enough," said Louise Goodling.

Goodling's opposition to the proposed paving of Hathaway Street served as a vehicle for her to go public with her complaints.

ALTHOUGH SHE has a long list of complaints and potential violations occurring on Hathaway, Goodling's

main beef concerns the retention pond on their property.

The Goodlings claim that the retention pond is so large it limits them to using only one-third of their total property. Their property is approximately 47,550 square feet but the retention pond covers 27,550 square feet, according to Goodling.

The first 5,000 square feet of their property is set back from the road as specified by city ordinance, and also cannot be used, she said.

"All I want is to be able to use all of

my property like everyone else (on Hathaway) is," Goodling said.

"All that property is laying back there idle."

In order for the Goodlings to store paving equipment on their property, they first had to pave the property as required by city ordinance. Whenever property in Farmington Hills is developed or changed in any way, a retention system must be provided to retain the increased runoff on site.

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Schools spend to improve

By Jean Adamczak
staff writer

The Farmington School District will spend almost \$1 million in 1985-86 to cover the cost of purchasing equipment, repairs and maintenance for the district.

The expenditures were approved by the Farmington Board of Education in a 5-0 vote last week. Board members Emma Makinen and Janice Rolnick were absent.

"We see this as a positive way to improve the physical needs as well as the instructional needs of the school district," said Donald Howell, director, community services and federal projects.

The money for the purchases and repairs comes from the general fund of the district's \$49.7 million budget, said Howell.

Funds are administered throughout

'We see this as a positive way to improve the physical needs as well as the instructional needs of the school district.'

— Donald Howell
school official

the school district according to the recommendations of the capital needs committee.

DURING THE school year, building administrators and teaching staffs identify their top three priorities for improvement. The capital needs com-

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Shiawassee Park improvement plans revised

By Julie Brown
staff writer

Farmington City Council members approved several revisions of the Shiawassee Park project at Monday's meeting.

The revisions followed field studies

of the site, said Farmington City Manager Robert Deadman.

"The revisions were made for the purpose of better layout, better utilization. We determined some things had to be moved around to work better."

The Shiawassee Park project has

been awarded a state grant of \$52,500 and the city council has approved an equal amount of money. The grant does not include the lighting of a softball field, and the council has budgeted an additional \$35,000 for that purpose.

The terms of the state grant require that final plans be submitted to the

state's Department of Natural Resources for approval before the work begins.

The revisions approved Monday should not significantly affect the project's cost, Deadman said.

"The project is still within the budget approved by council."

Changes to park plans include adjustment in the location and orientation of the ball fields, including the deletion of one T-ball field.

T-ball is an elementary form of baseball played by young children, Deadman said.

"It's prior to Little League."

Concern about the outfield being too shallow when adults play on the site led to the adjustments of the ball fields, the city manager said.

"Safety's always a concern."

Other revisions include the addition of handicapped access ramps to the rest rooms and to the picnic shelter and relocation of exercise stations.

Teen summer activity center opens its doors

By Joanne Mataszewski
staff writer

Field trips, movies, arts and crafts, and games and sports are in store for young teens ages 12-16 who participate

in the annual eight-week Summer Activities Center starting Tuesday and running through Aug. 14 at Shiawassee Center.

Sponsored by the Farmington Youth Assistance Program (FYA), the activi-

ties center is free of charge and open to young teens in the Farmington School District. Teens may register for the program the first time they attend.

Activities are provided at the Shiawassee Center, 30415 Shiawassee,

near Tuck Road, 4:30-9:30 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesday, Thursdays and Fridays. Wednesdays (except this week) are devoted to field trips. A \$1 fee will be charged for some of the more costly field trips, said Pat Hixny, FYA child welfare worker.

"It's to provide a place for young teens who might not have anything else to do to come for some structured activity," Hixny said. "Summers can be come boring very quickly. So we would like to help kids not to be so bored and to stay out of trouble."

Although the program is available throughout the week, teens are not required to attend each day, Hixny said.

"It's a drop-in kind of thing," she added.

Besides arts and crafts, movies, and games such as ping pong and pool, the program also offers teens outdoor sports, pizza parties, and dances.

IN PAST years, the weekly field trips have taken participating teens to Bobo Island, the Four Bears Amusement Park and canoeing at Kensington Metro Park, Hixny said.

"This year we're looking to have one new and exciting field trip we haven't had before," she said.

In the past six years, the program has been successful with an average of 50-75 teens attending each day of the week, Hixny said.

"So it is really popular," she said. "I've already seen kids hanging around (Shiawassee School) thinking it's already started this week."

Unlike past years when the program included 17-year-olds, this year the program has been limited to those

young teens who do not yet drive, Hixny said.

"We wanted to attract the kids who don't have mobility," she said, adding those older than 16 generally have a car available to them and can find their own activities.

FYA officials also decided to restrict the program to those who were at least 12 because by that age most are in middle school and have something in common with the older teens, Hixny said.

Parks and recreation departments also provide programs for the younger set under 12 years of age, she added.

THE PROGRAM, now in its seventh year, is organized by FYA volunteers headed by Carol Loesch. The summer center is financially supported with FYA funds, a grant from United Community Services, and donations from the Farmington Lions Club and Farmington School District bus drivers.

Because the activities offered, such as arts and crafts, are handled by volunteers, the FYA is still looking for anyone who would like to help with the summer center.

"We're looking to recruit people who have a talent or skill to share," Hixny said, adding it would require only one evening of their time.

Besides volunteers, the activities center has a five-member staff which actually runs the program, Hixny said.

The staff includes director Daryl Emerson, and assistant directors Lonnie Ford, Shawn Hixny, Becky Ellis, and Patti Samuels.

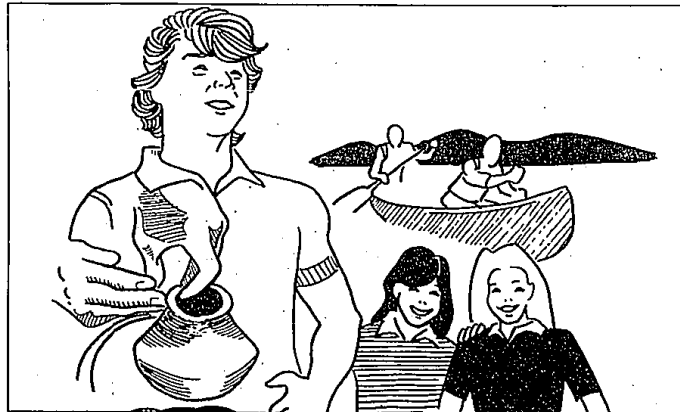
For more information about the summer program or volunteering, call the FYA at 475-3840.

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of today's paper.



Youths ages 12-16 are encouraged to participate in the games, movies, field trips and arts and crafts offered through the annual Summer Activities Center opening this week at Shiawassee Center.