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School borders could change

By Casey Hens
staff writer

Excessive growth in the western part of the Farmington school district has prompted committee action — and reaction from area elementary parents — for possible elementary school boundary changes.

A gymnasium filled with concerned parents greeted the Farmington school board at Flanders Elementary, where trustees met with the district's Bound-

ary Study Committee last Tuesday. The elementary boundary change plan was presented, but not officially recommended, to the trustees. Committee member and assistant superintendent for instruction, Lawrence Freedman, explained the group's findings during a study session that preceded the school board's regular meeting.

Possible boundary changes were suggested, including moving an estimated 75 students from a square mile area

bounded by Nine and Ten Mile and Haggerty and Halstead roads, from Longacre Elementary to Flanders.

Parents from the Farmington Square subdivision, located in that square mile area, told school board members they did not want their children transferred from Longacre, away from principal Millie Bennett, who is also a member of the boundary committee.

CONCERNS RAISED by the parents included the location of Flanders (it is farther away than Longacre) and the

feelings of their children due to the possible boundary change.

"We all bought (houses) because of Mrs. Bennett and her reputation," one parent said. The parents attended the meeting "because of their kids — not their houses," another added.

Other possible changes include moving an estimated 28 students from Wood Creek Elementary to Forest Elementary, in an area bounded by 13 and 12 Mile and Haggerty and Halstead roads.

Also suggested is the moving of one special education class from Kenbrook to an undetermined location, and another from Flanders to William Grace Elementary, according to a committee report.

During the 1987-88 school year, an estimated 73 students from part of an area bounded by 13 Mile and 14 Mile, and Orchard Lake and Farmington roads would move from Wood Creek to

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Farmington FOCUS

If you have a news item or an idea for a feature story or an action picture with a Farmington area connection, send a note to our downtown office at 33203 Grand River, Farmington 48024.

HELP save a life — give blood. American Red Cross will host a bloodmobile from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday at Oakland Community College, 57055 Orchard Lake, Farmington. For an appointment, call Sylvia Berggruen, 987-5757. Blood generally can be donated by anyone between 17 and 70 who weighs at least 110 pounds. The entire process — including a miniphysical, the blood donation and refreshments — takes less than an hour and can save up to four lives. There is no risk to the donor of contracting infectious disease. A new sterile needle is used for each donor and then that needle is discarded, Red Cross officials say.

SIGNUP for kindergarten for 1986-87 will be held at all Farmington Public Schools elementary the week of March 3. Parents need to complete registration forms and present the child's birth certificate at their local elementary school office. Parents will receive information regarding preschool testing and the kindergarten orientation program. The child must be 5 years old on or before Dec. 1 to be eligible for kindergarten attendance.

ON the dean's list. Todd Brown of Farmington was named to the dean's list at the University of Toledo. On the dean's list at Lawrence Institute of Technology, Southfield, are the following students from Farmington Hills: Roger Cochran, Michelle Guerin and Edward Schiaff.

Making the dean's list at Grand Valley State College, Allendale, is Meredith Frederick of Farmington.

On the dean's list at Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant, are the following Farmington-area students: Daniel Polissano, Jennifer Reynolds, Craig Kieley, David Balz, Robert Bolak, Robert Kaminski, Christopher Hau, Lisa Rosen and Bonnie Wright. Laura Fox of Farmington Hills was named to the dean's list at Grove City College, Grove City, Pa. Surendar Purohit of Farmington Hills was named to the dean's list at Kalamazoo College.

THEY'RE degree winners. Steven Kuzmanovich of Farmington was awarded a bachelor of science degree in fire sciences from Madonna College, Livonia.

The following Farmington-area students have earned degrees from Madonna College, Livonia: Claudia Clarice, Dorothy Donovan, Dale Kimball, Dianne Klots, Frank Lanhoff, Donna Renne, Nancy Bartlett, Margaret Bezorko, Renee McDonald, Anne Olds and Nancy Roberts.

Steven Dale of Farmington graduated from Purdue University, West Lafayette, Ind., with a bachelor of science degree.

SORORITY pledge. Alesia Springer of Farmington has pledged Alpha Gamma Delta, a social sorority at Purdue University, East Lafayette, Ind.

FOOTNOTES: Did you know Stone School, which once was on Middlebelt Road, was torn down in the mid-1960s during development of the I-496 Freeway?

Ernie's big day



Sesame Street's Ernie took center stage at Seton Nursery School and Day Care Center of Farmington Hills Tuesday morning. All Jim Henson Mup-



pets are given actual birth dates and Jan. 28 is Ernie's big day. About 22 youngsters, ages 4-5, turned out for the fun. Ernie cut his birthday

cake and served up pieces to the party-goers. In photo at left, Bryan Shields, 5, of Farmington Hills, enjoys a piece of cake. In photo at right, Bryan

MacDonald (left), 4, of Berkley, Bryan Shields, 5, of Farmington Hills, and Amber Mandler, 5, of Detroit, flank Ernie. Ernie is in

the area through Feb. 16 as part of Sesame Street Live's "Missing Bird Mystery" at Cobo Arena, Detroit.

photos by RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Blanchard lauds bipartisan cooperation

By Tim Richard
staff writer

Continue. Together. Upeast. Three words sum up Gov. James J. Blanchard's state of the state message, in which he praised by name five suburban area lawmakers for bipartisan cooperation.

"I intend to recognize your contributions to Michigan's comeback, regardless of party," the chief executive said at the end of his 70-minute address.

His kudos went to Sen. Doug Cruce, R-Troy, William Faust, D-Westland, and R. Robert Geake, R-Northville; and Reps. William Keith, D-Garden City, and James Kosteva, D-Canton.

Blanchard used the word "continue"

10 times, along with such phrases as "remain diligent" and "more of the same."

REPUBLICANS QUICKLY noted there were only two new initiatives in the Democratic governor's address, though they generally liked its business-oriented tone. Blanchard proposed:

- A guaranteed college tuition program. Parents would invest a certain sum annually, which the state would invest but not tax. Parents would be guaranteed their children could afford college tuition at public colleges.
- "This will not be a giveaway program or require additional state expenditures," Blanchard said.

• A system of drunk driver check lanes. The governor will implement this by executive order.

"That will not have a lot of support from legislators," said state Rep. Gerald Law, R-Plymouth. In fact, another lawmaker has a bill to prohibit check lanes, Law said.

BUT THE plan was applauded by Lee D. Landes, Livonia's "First Citizen" of 1986 for his work as state coordinator for Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

"Michigan will be joining 35 other states that already use such checklanes as an efficient and effective deterrent to drinking and then driving," Landes said check lanes would be op-

erated "in the wee small hours, primarily on secondary roads where computerized statewide data indicate the highest rates of death and serious injury occur."

Blanchard departed from his 25-page text to make the check lane announcement. He underscored it with a story of how his college roommate at Michigan State was killed by a drunk driver going the wrong way without headlights on an I-96 freeway ramp.

"It was my 29th state of the state address," beamed Sen. Harry DeMaso, R-Battle Creek, "and it was the longest and best."

DeMaso was the only Republican in the Legislature to vote for the 1983 personal income tax increase, which Blanchard insisted restored the state to solvency and saved the schools. And the veteran lawmaker was praised (along with one Democrat) for helping close tax loopholes.

Observer & Eccentric area lawmakers winning the governor's acclaim were:

• Sens. Doug Cruce, R-Troy, and William Faust, D-Westland — for work on "the series of bipartisan workers compensation reforms that are causing substantial savings to be seen. In 1978 workers compensation rates were 33 percent above the national average . . . By 1984 these rates had fallen to 6 percent below the national average."

• Sen. R. Robert Geake, R-Northville, and two outstate Democrats — for work on a wage reporting law, caseworkers to check whether public assistance recipients genuinely qualify for benefits. The potential cost savings are immense."

• Reps. William Keith, D-Garden City, and James Kosteva, D-Canton, along with four others from both par-

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Community booster dies

By Bob Sklar
staff writer

Frank Carl Smith, a retired teacher and an avid civic booster, died Jan. 27 in Bolsoford General Hospital, Farmington Hills, at age 80.

"He was a man of intense curiosity and intense energy," said Dr. William Ritter, pastor at Nardin Park United Methodist Church, Farmington Hills. "He was fascinated by life and all of the things that could be explored within it."

In honor of the U.S. Bicentennial in 1976, Smith hand-carved the sign at Grand River and Eight Hills welcoming motorists to "Beautiful Farmington Hills." And each year, he spruced it up with plantings.

"It was truly a labor of love," said Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce Executive Director JoAnn Soronen.

"Frank (Smith) was the kind of man whose life spilled out in every direction and who touched an awful lot of people."

— Dr. William Ritter
Nardin Park pastor

"FRANK ALWAYS was very interested in improving the beauty of the city," added Kay Blakeney, who served with Smith on the Farmington Hills Beautification Commission. "The community meant a great deal to him."

An architectural consultant, Smith had completed drawings and specifica-



Frank Carl Smith
'Always the teacher'

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