

Flanagan gains a promotion

Continued from Page 1

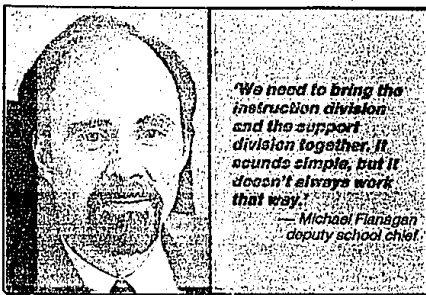
Flanagan started his career with Farmington in 1973, serving as administrative assistant in the business department. In 1977, he accepted the position of assistant superintendent for finance in the Huron Valley school district, and returned to Farmington in February of 1985 as assistant superintendent for finance and services.

IN HIS 15 months as assistant superintendent, Flanagan has revised and streamlined the budget process, proposed a major building renovation project for the district and worked with local and state governments to clarify issues relevant to the district.

He looks forward to a cohesiveness in the district.

"We need to bring the instruction division and the support division together," he said, in order to provide a good education. "It sounds simple, but it doesn't always work that way."

"I have a personal interest in integrating technology into both sides



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— Michael Flanagan
deputy school chief

of the district," he added. "The fact is, we're behind. There are technological advances we haven't really fully utilized."

He sees today's technology as a tool in the near future for Farmington's teachers, involving interactive video and electronic aids as the

blackboard of the future. "I believe that's going to be the key," he said. "If we don't start providing a network now, there will be no way to use it."

Flanagan proposes a committee of building administrators, computer personnel, teachers and others to start formulating this future net-

work.

HE SEES his new position as a way to "take away the road blocks" for district employees. "I now have more of a responsibility to help them get their jobs done." He shares the team management approach proposed by superintendent Lewis.

"We shouldn't be a bureaucracy," he added. "The bottom line is what we can do for education."

Flanagan is on the board of directors for the Michigan School Investment Association and for the Michigan School Business Professionals. He chaired a state committee charged with developing standards for the state legislature to certify school administrators. The legislation is currently pending.

"We can't ask teachers to be certified without having required it of ourselves," he said.

A University of Notre Dame graduate with a degree in finance and economics, Flanagan also holds a master's degree in educational leadership from Eastern Michigan University.

The Milford resident is married and has three children.

Vehicle selected

Approval to buy a four-door Pontiac 6000 sedan was given Monday, June 2, by the Farmington City Council for the office of the city manager. The council vote was unanimous.

The city will pay \$9,049.78 for the car from Quality Pontiac of Pontiac, the low bidder. The city will buy the car through the Oakland County Department of Purchasing. The city authorized the

purchase under the current contract, because the county expects a price increase from General Motors during the next round of bidding, according to a city report.

Homeowners join forces

Continued from Page 1

most associations are singularly consumed with maintaining the integrity of their neighborhood — ensuring hedges and lawns are trimmed, open spaces are maintained and architectural style followed.

"The reason most neighborhood associations form is to protect the neighborhood," said Warren, co-author of "A Neighborhood Organizer's Handbook."

"Some of these groups, though, may not want to link up with other organizations or city hall."

Yet, there are certain issues — drainage, paving, rezoning, development — that can draw out even the quietest of associations, particularly if they affect the neighborhood.

As Farmington Hills finds itself in the midst of booming growth, neighborhood associations find themselves busier than ever, with

concerns and problems accompanying the growth. Development of neighborhood open spaces; increased traffic and noise; paving and beautification can be found on the agendas of most active associations.

WHETHER FORMED by deed restriction or common cause, most associations have come to serve a myriad of purposes. Some function best when threatened by crisis, others when serving the day-to-day business of neighborhood maintenance.

Still others are coming out of the neighborhood on a regular basis to oppose or support city-wide issues.

Whatever function is best served by each association, there's little doubt that the grass-roots organizations serve as a podium for individual homeowners and taxpayers to discuss, gather strength, and present an organized front.

Parade winners are chosen

Tina Ringrose of Livonia, a school bus driver for the Farmington Public Schools, finished third in a regional School Bus Race.

Ringrose advances to the state competition June 18 in Eaton Rapids where she will compete with 35 of Michigan's best bus drivers for the state title.

AAA Michigan and the Michigan

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