

Leaders honored for helping children

By Casey Hane
staff writer

"I believe the children are our future. Teach them well and let them lead the way. Show them all the beauty they possess inside. Give them a sense of pride to make it easier. Let the children's laughter, remind us how we used to be."

— Whitney Houston
"The Greatest Love of All"

HONORING THOSE who actively care about and help area children was the order of the day Monday for the Farmington Area PTA Council.

principal Nick Abid worked hard to organize a meeting and party to honor Dr. James Rennell — the retired area dentist who handled the district's fluoride program for the past 25 years — the surprise was on Nick. Abid's family, Parent Teacher Association members, teachers, Farmington principals and top district administrators also honored Abid for his 25-year administration of the Student Emergency Fund during the PTA council meeting held at Gill's media center.

Abid started the fund during his term as principal at William Grace Elementary, to help several needy children and their families with food, clothing, shelter, utility bills and necessary items.

The fund was started with staff and PTA donations and "the concept

gradually spread to other schools," according to Lawrence Freedman, assistant superintendent for elementary instruction for Farmington Public Schools.

EVENTUALLY, THE Farmington Area PTA Council — an organization of all the Farmington area elementary PTAs — shared in the responsibility and became a major contributor to the fund, Freedman added. Today, many local groups and private individuals offer help to the community through this fund.

Rennell told the PTA the fluoride program also received a "great deal of effort by Nick Abid. He is an outstanding person — I am privileged to work with him over the years."

Abid said the work was an enjoyment. "I've gained an awful lot more from these programs than you folks could imagine," he told the group of co-workers. "I'm glad, because the kids have benefited."

Abid has remained the district-wide fluoride program's sole administrator since its inception, and many times its sole fund-raiser.

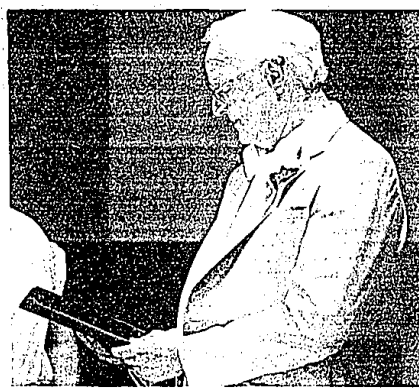
"I wouldn't be surprised if some of that money comes out of his own pocket," Freedman said. "He has devoted years and years to this fund. It's no easy task, and he does it willingly."

The Student Emergency Fund helps students of all grades, and requests are usually made through building principals and supervisors, Freedman added. There is about \$1,000 in the fund, according to newly elected council president Roxanne Fitzpatrick.

Abid has been an elementary principal in Farmington schools for 30 years, serving at three elementary schools.

"He is a warm and caring person as evidenced by his involvement," one Gill PTA member said, commenting on his "open door" policy with staff, parents and students.

Fitzpatrick played Whitney Houston's current hit "The Greatest Love of All," at the end of the meeting to reflect the caring and help the two honorees have given to students during the past 25 years.



Recently retired Farmington dentist Dr. James Rennell (above) was honored by the PTA Council for his 25-year involvement with the Farmington Schools fluoride program.



Gill Elementary principal Nick Abid shares a piece of cake with his 5-year-old granddaughter, Angela Dubuc. Family members attended the celebration in Nick's honor.



Dr. James Rennell (left) and Nick Abid share a moment with 9-year-old Rachell Dubuc, Abid's granddaughter. Abid was honored for his creation and continued involvement with the Student Emergency Fund in Farmington Schools.

photos by RANDY BORST/staff photographer

City administrators receive pay increase

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

• Farmington Hills' \$19.5 million 1986-87 budget — adopted by the city council last week — includes the addition of new positions and salary increases of 4-6 percent for department heads.

• As in the past year, the police department — with \$5.8 million in expenditures — represents the largest portion (29.7 percent) of the city's total budget.

• The department's budget is 7.2 percent bigger than last year's budget — with the majority of the increase due to general labor contract adjustments and the addition of nine positions.

• The new positions in the police department will include six sworn officers and three cadets (from a program to be launched in September).

• Four of the six new officers are tentatively scheduled to be assigned to road patrol, one to the traffic division and one to investigation, according to city manager William Costick.

• THE ADDITION of six new officers will increase the number of sworn officers per 1,000 residents to about 1.2.

• Police cadets will handle walk-in and telephone reports, process prisoners, provide information to residents and perform clerical duties.

• "The department's proposed police cadet program would provide this assistance more cost-effectively than the more traditional method of assigning sworn officers to station duty," Costick said in a public presentation of the budget in late May.

• A deputy chief's position will be added to the fire department to help address increasing administrative work. The deputy chief will also be a trained fire fighter.

• Other new staff positions included in the new budget are one laborer for the Department of Public Works street maintenance, one grounds and park maintenance laborer in the special services department, one city hall maintenance worker for the new police facility and two engineering aides in the engineering division. Salaries for the engineering aides will be financed through developer fees (for plan reviews and inspections).

GENERAL SALARY increases of about 4 percent, according to existing labor contracts, are also included in the budget. Salaries for the heads, and in some cases assistants, of city departments have increased 4-6 percent.

"The salary increases are nothing outlandish. The city has always been a little behind (in salaries compared to other communities of similar size). This will keep us from falling too far behind," Costick said in May.

The following is a listing of the new 1986-87 salaries compared to the 1985-86 salaries.

- City council: \$13,500 (\$1,800 per council member, \$2,700 for mayor). Salaries did not increase over 1985-86.
- City manager: \$57,000 (\$52,000 in 1985-86).
- Assistant to city manager: \$35,236 (\$32,949).
- Finance director/treasurer: \$49,500 (\$46,100).
- Controller: \$35,400 (\$33,200).
- Assessor: \$43,600 (\$40,265).
- Deputy assessor: \$33,448 (\$32,500).

- City clerk: \$42,400 (\$38,901).
- Deputy clerk: \$27,338 (\$25,514).
- Police chief: \$50,500 (\$46,544).
- Deputy police chief: \$45,276, new position midway through 1986-87.
- Fire chief: \$46,200 (\$43,200).
- Deputy chief: \$30,000, new position.
- Public services director: \$49,500 (\$46,919).
- Assistant to public services director: \$34,322 (\$32,249).
- Community development manager: \$40,200 (\$36,046).
- Zoning officer supervisor: \$32,787 (\$30,558).
- Building maintenance supervisor: \$33,948 (\$31,611).
- City engineer: \$47,500 (\$44,900).
- Chief engineering inspector: \$31,454 (\$29,219).
- Senior engineer: \$36,689 (\$34,278).
- Department of Public Works supervisor: \$40,200 (\$37,402).
- Special services department director: \$46,200 (\$43,200).
- Assistant to special services director: \$31,780 (\$30,558).

Round table report positive

Students accomplished much during the 1985-86 session of the Farmington Student Round Table, according to the president's annual report presented to the school board on June 3.

"I learned that the students' input really has a positive effect and is listened to by the principals, administrators and board members," president Julie LaFleur said in her report.

The group heard speakers from the district discuss the role of the counselor and the gifted program and the secondary level. The discussions helped students to "understand that a counselor tries to help each student get the most out of high school," and that the gifted program "makes sure each student is taking a schedule that is challenging enough."

Round Table representatives used their influence to encourage students to utilize positive terminology around the school, to help formulate

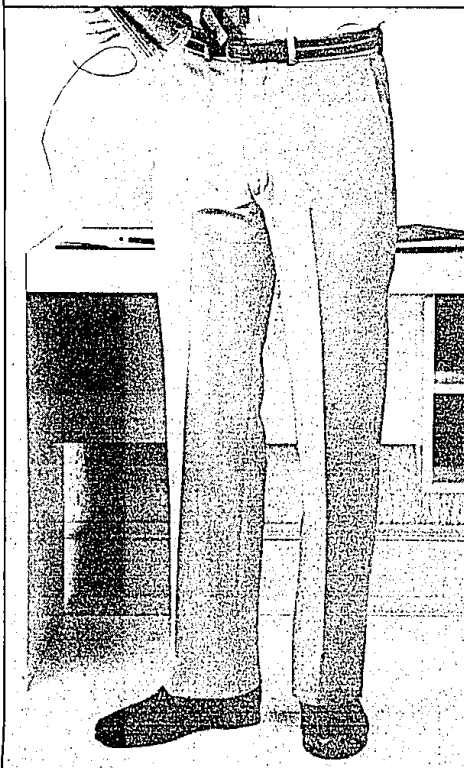
a new student attendance policy, and discussed teacher competency testing.

"I think the most important thing I realize, was that teachers and administrators care about students," LaFleur's report said. "I was glad to know that substance abuse workshops had been started, and that the faculty around the Farmington district have gone to learn more about the growing problem of drugs and alcohol among teens."

The students also proposed the idea of parent/teacher conferences in an arena-site setting, which will be discussed during the upcoming teacher contract negotiations, according to the report.

"The Student Round Table meets once each month to discuss issues relevant to high school students in Farmington. The group's president attends regular school board meetings, where an update report is given."

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