



School maintenance

Crews ready buildings for a new year

By Casey Hans
staff writer

PATRICIA FLETCHER estimates her buildings carry more traffic than a local shopping mall.

Fletcher is the supervisor of operations for Farmington Public Schools, which employs 125 in its maintenance department to keep the district's 27 buildings, totaling 1.6 million square feet, in good, clean condition.

The crews spend each summer in a flurry of "spring cleaning," preparing the floors, walls and furniture for the heavy traffic that began

moving through the buildings with the opening of school last week.

"Even the malls don't have the traffic we do," she said, stressing the importance of routine maintenance at least three times each day to keep the sand from the "little feet" from ruining the heavy-duty polymer floor finish.

Newly purchased high-speed buffing machines will help keep the finish good and black marks — which students love to create — off the floors, she added.

THE HEAVY summer work was completed in time for the thousands of shoes that pass over the hallowed halls daily from September through

June, she said.

"We completely clean each building from top to bottom," she said, including walls, floors, desks and anything used in the building during the school year.

Major projects, such as revamping of wooden gym floors, are usually done in the spring.

Some things, such as locker rooms and restrooms, must be thoroughly cleaned throughout the year. But with the major summer effort, much of the other building parts are simply maintained.

Projects that cannot be done during the school year, such as asphalt painting and building painting, are also handled in the summer, Fletcher said. Other work, including heating and ventilating system checks, lighting ballast cleanings and carpet cleaning, is also scheduled.

THE MAINTENANCE crews are scheduled based on work orders sent by building principals and projects that maintenance employees think should be done, Fletcher said.

Crews will also work on some of the district's major improvements a list recently approved by the Farmington Board of Education. The remainder of these projects will be bid out to outside contractors.

Summer cleaning is a "heavier type of cleaning," Fletcher said, "but it all levels out" during the year.

Doing heavier cleaning during the summer months, when buildings are not in use, is important because "during the course of the school year, you have to be emergency-oriented," Fletcher said.

"Although we've been talking about being active instead of reactive, it will never be better than 50/50. It's the nature of the business."

SPECIFIC PROJECTS completed during the past summer included renovation of special education quiet rooms and kitchen facilities and classrooms in various buildings.

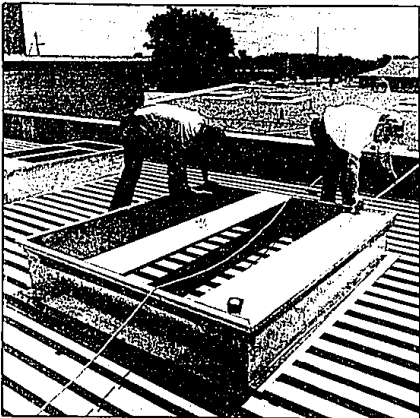
"We work to make the space more applicable to its uses," Fletcher said. Grading and grounds work were completed at Harrison High School. Ball fields districtwide received extensive work, she said.

Also during the past summer, maintenance crews oversaw the media center addition to Eagle Elementary at 14 Mile and Middlebelt roads and the work being done at the playground facility at Cloverdale Center.

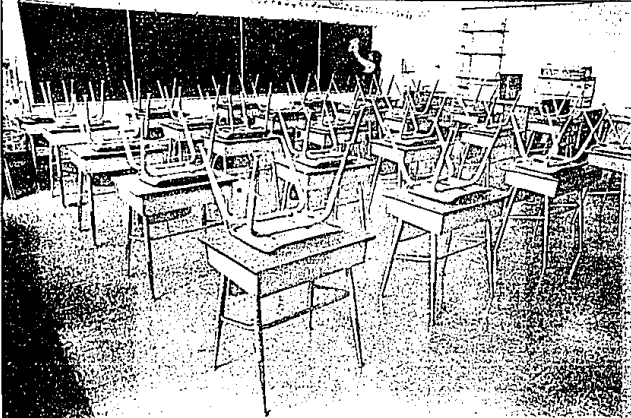
At the district's transportation facility, bus lot asphalt and an addition to the building were completed during the summer.



Pat Fletcher (left) discusses maintenance schedules with Shirley McIntosh, head custodian at Fairview Center.



Contractors Nick Koppinger (left) and Jack Webb prepare air conditioning for the new media center at Eagle Elementary.



photos by JANDY GORST/staff photographer

Cheryl Klotz, an Eagle Elementary custodian, puts the finishing touches on a classroom.



inkwell

Inkwell provides news and information about Farmington-area primary and secondary schools. The column appears monthly as part of the Observer's "School Page." Send news items to: The School Page, Farmington Observer, 33203 Grand River, Farmington 48024. Include a telephone number where a contact person can be reached during the day.

● SUMMER INSTITUTE

Three Farmington-area high school students were nominated by their high schools and selected by the Michigan State Board of Education to participate in the 1986 Summer Institute for the Arts and Sciences at Olivet College.

They were part of a group of 100 selected.

Theo Chalognis and Lara Sipola of Farmington Hills and Gianna Mason of Farmington took part in the two-week residential program held at Olivet College, Olivet.

Highlights of the institute included trips to the Tibbets Theatre in Coldwater, the True Grit Theatre in Homer and the Gerald R. Ford Museum in Grand Rapids.

Chalognis attends Farmington Harrison High School. Sipola and Mason are students at Farmington High School.

● 13 APPOINTED

The Farmington Board of Education approved four employee hirings Aug. 5.

Appointed were:

- Dina Ascenzo, a personnel technician hired July 23.
- Cheryl Floyd, a central office clerk hired Aug. 4.
- Joyce Kelly, a personnel secretary hired July 23.
- Patricia Swanderski, a computer operator/data processor hired July 21.

The school board approved nine new appointments to the district staff Aug. 19.

They are:

- Susan Anker, special education social worker.
- Douglas Brzak, teacher for the severely emotionally impaired at Farmington Training Center.
- Catherine Forster, special education speech pathologist.
- Helen Hill, secretary to the assistant superintendent for special services.
- Ruth McCoy, teacher for the

severely emotionally impaired at Farmington Training Center.

● Dennis McElhone, industrial arts teacher for the emotionally impaired at Harrison High School.

● Barbara Simerka, English/French teacher at East Middle School.

● Maureen Sundick, special education art therapist.

● Suzanne Unger, special education psychologist.

Retiring from Farmington Public Schools is Dorothy Jean Lutzen, special services secretary.

● STUDENTS LAUDED

Farmington High School students who earned a perfect 4.0 grade point average during both semesters of the 1985-86 school year were announced by Principal Gerald Potter.

They are:

● 9th grade: Sylvia Ackroyd, Maureen O'Dell, Amy Rickenback and Jennifer Stumpo.

● 10th grade: Craig Abernethy, Allison Frontier, Katherine Kretler, Linda Monge and Christine Taube.

● 11th grade: Jennifer Fleck, Nicole Jolley, William Koning, Gianna Mason, Trudy Papler, LeeAnne Richardson, Amy Smith, Steven Thompson, Brian Tobin, Susan Wagner and Dan Woytowich.

● 12th grade: Laurie Dingle and Amy Grant.

● SMILE AWARD

Julie Wilson, a fifth grader at Farmington Public Schools' Wood Creek Elementary, was awarded third prize in the "Kids Have the Neatest Smile" contest.

The contest, sponsored by the Fred Sanders Co., was held Sept. 6.

● REGIONAL WIN

A local student was awarded top regional honors for her artwork in the 59th annual National High School Art Exhibition at the Philadelphia College of the Arts.

WSU seeks 'lost' alumni for a 'first-ever' reunion

A "first-ever" reunion of radio, TV, film and theater alumni of Wayne State University has been scheduled for Saturday-Sunday, Sept. 20-21.

A WSU staff committee has been working since the first of the year to plan the event and to identify as

many people as possible who have studied and/or participated in these areas.

"Lost" alumni and anyone knowing the addresses of any graduates or former students in these fields are being asked to call Mona Torp at Alumni Relations, 577-2183.

● 2 PARTICIPATE

Two local students participated in a math program for talented and gifted high school juniors and seniors held recently at Northern Michigan University in Marquette.

Julia Ulfreich of Farmington Hills and Allison Frontier of Farmington participated in the two-week program, Summer Institute for the Arts and Sciences, sponsored by the Michigan State Board of Education.

This year's institute focused on the visual arts and mathematics.

● ENGINEERING HONORS

Four Farmington-area high school students achieved high scores on the National Engineering Aptitude Search Test taken by 287 students last April.

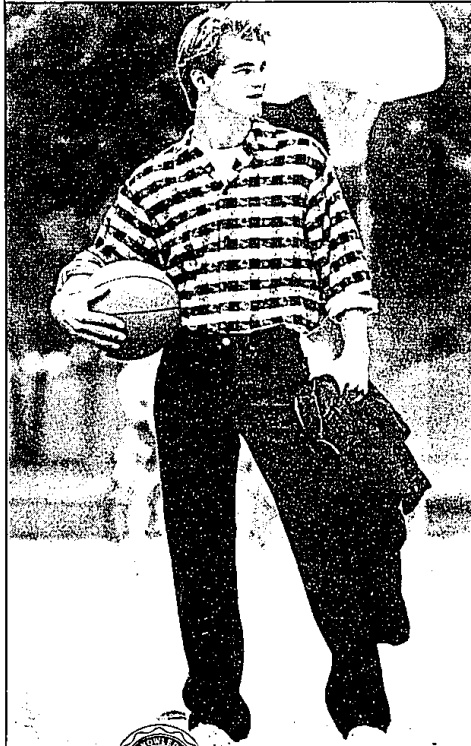
Scoring first was Michael Smedberg of Farmington Hills, a freshman at Bloomfield Hills Roper City and Country School when tested. In second place was David Harlow, then a junior at North Farmington High School. Both won programmable calculators for their honors.

Honorable mention certificates were received by Kenneth Lipka and Todd Roshak, both juniors at North Farmington High School at the time of testing.

Congratulations were sent to the four from Robert Ellis, dean of the School of Engineering at Lawrence Institute of Technology in Southfield, which hosted the test. The test is an indicator of both interest and academic ability in the field of engineering.

The students will be honored at a ceremony at each school sometime in October.

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