

# Band director will move into elementaries

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directors. "We get together a lot to coordinate schedules and work out budgets."

"Tag Days is probably a good example of that sharing, a cooperation between the parents, teachers and students in all three schools who share in the work and share in the profits."

McQueen initiated Tag Days

"when there was not much in the (school) budget for much," he said. "The tax base was nowhere near (where) it is now. Our kids were wearing uniforms that were 10 years old. We're selling citrus fruit for the holidays now that will bring in a little extra, but Tag Days still give us all the extra that are really the boost from the Boosters."

AT NORTH Farmington, money

collected during Tag Days started the school's scholarship fund for marching musicians, subsidized band camp costs and helped buy uniforms for musicians and refreshments for after-parade get-togethers.

Each of the schools uses its share of Tag Day money as directed by the school's Booster Club members. A bit of nostalgia for the job he is leaving crept into McQueen's voice

when he said, "I get a very warm feeling when I read about one of my students — Kelly Garver (Miss Michigan of 1988), most recently — and see what she is doing with her life. Or any one of dozens students I could name."

"Marching band is what we call co-curricular, not really extra-curricular," he added. "The kids don't get credit, but they do get a special kind of social environment from it,

and learn a lot of leadership skills because we give out a lot of responsibility. Music is the vehicle, the means to that kind of learning. And I see a lot of my kids take that experience and go a long way with it."

The reason McQueen is leaving the job as director of instrumental music at North can best be described as "career burnout."

Marching band directors can ex-

pect to have 7 a.m. meetings, after-school meetings and 7 p.m. meetings. They stay after school for marching band rehearsals and attend Saturday football games. They cut vacations short to attend band camp with their students in mid-August. They do a lot of paper work.

IN ADDITION, McQueen broke a seven-year moratorium in the school district having to do with school trips.

"It was a trial balloon that made it," he said. "I got permission to take our band to an international music festival in Toronto. And we came back with a bronze medal. We broke the ice and paved the way for other bands to compete out of state."

The time demands in terms of work hours "are going to take their toll if I don't ease up," McQueen said. "There is nothing seriously wrong. But there will be if I don't ease up."

McQueen graduated from Ohio State University, where he played trombone, taught brass instruments and learned his trade as a bandman with the OSU Marching Band.

Before coming to Michigan, McQueen said he was "Mr. Music Man" for a small town in Ohio, where he taught music students in grades 4-10 in both the town's public and parochial schools.

"Going back to elementary school is going full circle for me," he said. "The difference is that the emphasis will be on teaching rather than on performing. And it will be a positive change for every one concerned."

McQueen lives in Novi with his wife Judy, a registered nurse who teaches at Oakland Community College and Henry Ford Community College. The couple has three children: teen-agers Carolee and Cathy and son Glenn, 9.

# Schools' help eyed for field upgrading

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weeks, city and school officials will meet to rework a preliminary list of 12 baseball and softball sites, and put dollar amounts to the fix-up effort, according to Farmington Athletic Director Ron Holland, who met with city officials Oct. 3 to begin developing the plan.

Holland toured the fields with Jack Lawing and Dewey Nichols of the school district staff to determine needs before the early October meeting.

Potter will seek quotes from ven-

dors and estimate other labor costs before returning to the school board with a final proposal, Holland added.

The proposed sites are at the three high schools, four middle schools and several elementary schools throughout the Farmington district. The list is not final; additional sites may be added as the list is reviewed, Holland said. The suggestions on the preliminary list came from area youth groups that use the facilities, according to Potter.

Potter estimates total field improvements could cost upwards of

\$100,000.

The \$3 million special park tax approved in June calls for a five-year program of renovating the former Spicer property, now named Heritage Park, and the property on Farmington Road north of 13 Mile, which will be developed for youth sports activities.

The city is "exploring a working farm program at Spicer," Potter told the board, which may involve the school district and its curriculum in the future.

Although most of the money will

be used for these two parks, about \$55,000 is earmarked for school athletic facilities used by the city, Potter said.

AND ALTHOUGH \$3 million seems like a lot, Fitzgerald added, "there's a lot of land (in Heritage Park). It's pretty obvious that at the end of the five years, we'll be going back to the community for additional money for work at Heritage Park."

Trustees and administrators responding to the city's presentation

reacted positively, but cautiously. "One of my big concerns is that we do it (the improvements) equitably among the schools and programs . . . and make sure things don't get overlooked," Trustee Susan Rannels said.

Superintendent Graham Lewis called the proposal a "cooperative effort. I think we should continue to pursue it."

Board President Helen Protow voiced concern with this year's increased enrollment and the possible expenses facing the district because of it.

"Those kinds of things have to be taken into consideration," she said. "No one would dispute many of our facilities are in desperate need."

Trustee Janice Rolnick suggested the city approach the groups using the fields for additional fund-raising efforts.

Potter said "that is being explored with them (the groups). They've shown a willingness to look at participating in some part of the program."

Administrators planned a meeting to discuss the improvements with building principals and supervisors Nov. 6 so that feedback could be included in the final plan, Lewis said.

# Clarenceville talks will resume

Clarenceville school district superintendent Michael Shiber and teacher representatives are scheduled to meet Monday as teacher con-

tract talks continue in the district. Teachers have been working without a contract since school began as scheduled in September.

Meeting with Shiber are Dave Stafford, who is the Michigan Education Association's staff representative for Clarenceville, representa-

tives of the Clarenceville Education Association and Edward Saliz, assistant superintendent of school business affairs.

The Clarenceville School District includes parts of Livonia, Redford and Farmington Hills.

Talks held Tuesday "didn't go anywhere," Stafford said. He declined to elaborate.

Shiber also said that "nothing was accomplished" at last week's session. He, too, declined to elaborate.

# City takes on extra road maintenance

In an effort to improve winter maintenance on Grand River between Gill Road and Halstead, the city of Farmington will handle snow and ice removal this winter.

In the past, the Oakland County Road Commission handled this part of the road. "We think we can improve the quality of the total stretch," Farmington City Manager

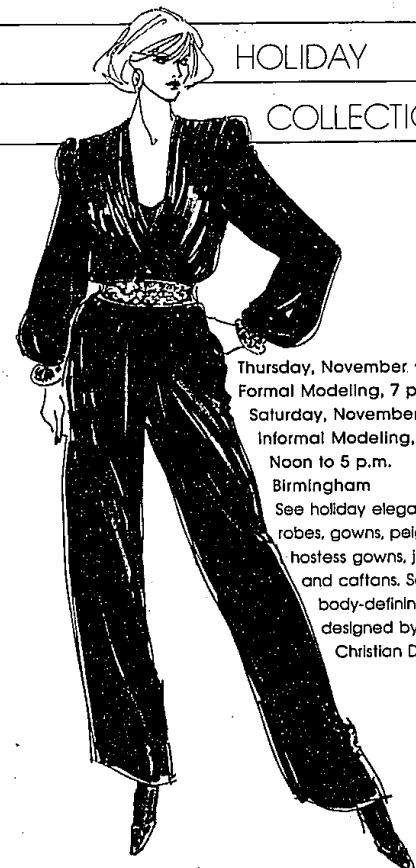
Robert Deadman said. The Michigan Department of Transportation will reimburse the city, as it has the county, for the additional work. Deadman estimated the city's total cost would be about \$11,000.

City council approved the measure unanimously Nov. 3, permitting an amendment to the city's road

maintenance contract with the state. The contract does not include pothole patching or roadside and storm drain maintenance along this part of Grand River.

"If we find for some reason the city is unable to perform these services in the future, the contract may be returned to the OCRC for maintenance," Deadman added.

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