



RANDY DORST/Staff photographer

### A stark reminder

Farmington Hills Mercy High School's 385-member SADD Chapter — Students Against Driving Drunk — placed this car in the school parking lot Dec. 16-17 to remind the community of the consequences of drinking and driving. The car, graced with a sign carrying the group's message and an empty

beer bottle, was on the grounds in observance of Drunk Driving Awareness Week. More than 300,000 people are involved in drunk driving accidents yearly; more than half involve teen-agers. SADD's motto is: Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk.

## Building needs reviewed

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the elementary schools to continue, an early childhood study committee was re-formed.

All district buildings, specifically specialized centers such as Ten Mile Community School, Alameda and Fairview early childhood centers, Farmington Training Center and Shiawassee Center, which houses an alternative education program for residents of Boys Republic, are being visited by committee members and reviewed as part of the process, Nutter said.

"There is no building that is sacred," Ankele added, saying the district will review its resources as a whole.

District representatives recently approached administrators of Boys Republic in Farmington Hills about the possibility of moving the Shiawassee alternative program back to the facility on Nine Mile, according to Phyllis Griffin, assistant director for the facility. This would free the former elementary school for a third early education center — one of the many options being considered by the committees.

ANKELE SAID moving the program back to Boys Republic, where it began, is "not a popular option" with the school administration or

staff.

And the board of directors for Boys Republic voted down the proposal Dec. 18, based on a recommendation by Griffin.

"We don't feel it would be feasible," Griffin said. "I am recommending against it. It would be an unworkable situation — they'll just have to accommodate the kids within the district."

The private facility is making other use of the former education buildings, Griffin added.

Ankele said the facility did not have enough room for the alternative program and it will remain housed in the district.

Although many of the district's specialty centers were at one time elementary schools, the Shiawassee Center building with its 17 classrooms is receiving "high consideration" as a potential early childhood

center, according to Nutter, because it would be centrally located between the two current centers.

As an early childhood center, it would be used to educate an estimated 500 students instead of the 60 boys in the alternative program. "There's some responsibility there," he added.

The other change being considered involves moving kindergartens from their present location in Farmington elementary to the early education centers, giving each elementary more room, Nutter said.

Officials stress that nothing is final.

"At this time, we have no plans to move anything," Ankele added. "Until we have hard and fast data, we will make no plans. When you're doing a search, you have to look at all the options."

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