

Business talk

Bowman addresses chamber

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THE PROPERTY tax reform approach being considered in the state legislature is one the current administration does not support, Bowman said.

Legislators are considering raising sales tax and lowering property taxes.

Whatever is done "has to be revenue neutral," Bowman added.

School parents merging forces

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"We don't think this is beneficial for the children at all," she said. "They're (the district) skirting the issue of overcrowding."

Other concerns of Beechview parents included busing and the lack of a forum for the parents affected by such an idea.

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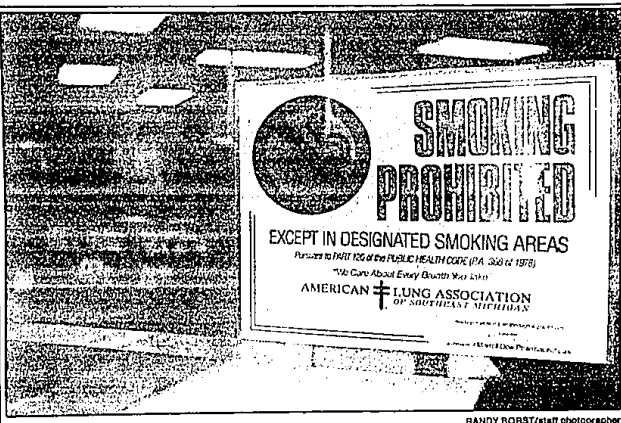
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RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Out with smoke

No-smoking signs are everywhere now since the state's Clean Indoor Air Act went into effect Jan. 1. And at Farmington and Farmington Hills city halls, everyone seems to be obeying the law and the signs, officials say. Each of the cities designated smoking areas within the city halls and other municipal buildings. Though smokers' work habits

might have changed with the dawn of the new law, city managers say it doesn't appear to have greatly affected anyone's work day. In fact, many employees have used the law as yet another means of kicking the habit. The sign above is in the front lobby of the Farmington Hills City Hall.

Quality sought for district

Continued from Page 1

ONE OF the department's goals is to properly orient teachers — new and current — and to keep the list of substitutes a quality one.

"Every substitute teacher in our district is going to be a master teacher... they're not going to baby-sit," he said. "We want students to have a rewarding experience."

Substitutes appear to be a key element in teaching at the Farmington Public Schools. In September, substitutes were used 498 times either because of teacher in-service sessions or absences. "We are now in a position we can fill all substitute needs," he added.

Reviewing the active substitute list was one of Freedman's first priorities in organizing the personnel area. Although 73 new names were added to the active list, 40 were

dropped based on reviews and screenings by building administrators and Freedman.

FREEDMAN IS encouraging those applicants seeking full-time positions with the district to work as a substitute, although other candidates will not be eliminated.

"A sub always has the advantage," he said. "The principal has a known quantity."

Participation at the building level is being encouraged in all personnel functions, according to Freedman.

After being notified of a vacancy, he submits several applications to the building principal who does interviews and makes a recommendation. Freedman makes a final recommendation for board consideration.

Although the district "hasn't had to go out and search" for teachers

because of the large numbers still interested in a position with Farmington, several subject areas remain short of applicants.

Science, math and especially foreign language are all areas that need filling at the middle and high school levels, he said.

Freedman also wants personnel files to be centralized in his department — they are currently spread out throughout various departments.

As he tackles the priority job of putting applications in order, Freedman has other plans for the personnel department.

Using computers for personnel file storage, standardizing substitute teacher follow-up procedures districtwide and putting necessary information on video instead of having employees and prospective employees read it, are all ideas Freedman will pursue, he said.

WHERE GOV. James Blanchard's administration will not step aside in helping its residents become a productive asset to the state, Bowman said.

Only 30 percent of high school graduates go on to college or trade school, which, he said, lessens the state's competitiveness.

"You're carrying the load," he told the business group. "It's in your interest to have those people contributing."

The Michigan Baccalaureate Education System Trust — known as the BEST program — is the state's guaranteed prepaid tuition program and the Blanchard administration's answer to some of the education problems.

"If kids know college is going to be paid for, they'll do better," Bowman said. "They won't drop out."

BOWMAN SAID state government goals include a "can do attitude."

"We need to find programs of this type — that are innovative and don't use taxpayers' money."

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Where and When to Bid: Bids to be submitted no later than Monday, February 9, 1987, 10:00 a.m. in person or by mail. City Clerk's Office, 31555 W. Eleven Mile Road, Farmington Hills, Michigan 48018. Bid to be placed in envelope and marked: "Bid to Purchase City Vehicle."

Terms and Conditions: Sold "as is, where is and all sales are final. Payment must be made in full subsequent to notification of award within 48 hours at City Treasurer's Office. No warranties or guarantees. City reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.

For information: Contact James P. Vaughan, Purchasing Agent, 473-9557.

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JOAN R. REYNOLDS, City Clerk