Cultural diversity draws attention

Believo it or not, 63 languages are spoken in the Farmington area.
That's something residents in Farmington and Farmington Hills should be proud of, Farmington Hills city councilwoman Joan Dudley said.

Recent problems — many blamed on cultural and religious differences — involving teems along Orchard Lake Road have brought the issue of cultural and religious diversity and differences into the public spotlight. A new committee — comprised of educators, police, residents and local government officials — have adopted the task of examining and touting

Walled Lake Schools still playing fiscal catchup

Fiscal conditions for the Walled Lake School District are "good but not strong" — basically the same sit-uation as a year ago, Superintendent Lee Bartman said in his recent state

Lee Bartman said in his recent state of the district report.
The district projects a 3 percent increase in the state equalized value of property (SEV) but Bartman said that would not meet spending increases.
"There were some very lean years for Walled Lake but with the additional operating millage approved by voters in 1983 the district was salte to take care of a lot of overlooked items." Bartman said. "The district was still trying to play entchup."
A standing concern of Bartman's

eatchup."

A standing concern of Bartman's has been the condition of district facilities. A non-voted separate bond lisue to underwrite extensive work such as roof repairs, new bollers and other facility improvements is understand.

"FACILITIES ARE a big concern. I want to re-emphasize that it is impossible to conduct business without a place to do business," Bartman said. "Without this work I couldn't

Farmington

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promise that the buildings would all open every day."

Another priority for the district is to have librarians at the elementary school level. "Our current staff of library aldes has been excellent, but I would hope to have no more than two schools per librarian," he said. "We need a library professional to assist the teachers."

We have a 15.2 million fund equity which is not exorbitant with our 137 million budget," Bartuma said. "That fund equity would run the district for about 14 months."

Many cost increases to the district are beyond its control, according to Bartunan. He cited a millinge roll-back resulting from property reasessment in Commerce Township and the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) which the district is fighting.

IN AN EFFORT to project the

IN AN EFFORT to project the district needs due to growth, particu-larly in the eastern part of the dis-trict Villican-Leman is preparing a actude

"Extensive units of housing are being built off Haggerty Road and in the area of Keith Elementary

A list of Farmington Hills Harrison High School students published in the Feb. 26 Observer should have said they received all A's and B's during the first semester marking period.

All Harrison honor roll students were not on the list. Students receiv-

ington Hills), bearing the brunt of the problem," Dudley said, adding that any solution to communitywide problems needed involvement from the schools, religious organizations and groups designed to help teens.

"IT WAS at first stimulated by the Orchard Lake situation. But as we discussed things, we began to realize we have a long-term situation—not a problem — here," Dudley contin-

ued.
The unnamed committee has met twice and is taking the responsibility of "unturning the diversity here."
Dudley said. Though the community representatives first met to address the teen problem, the cultural goals are "aimed at the whole community," she addee.
"What we are asking is for them (committee members) to come up with ideas to positively bring it (cul-

tural diversity) to the surface." Dudity continued.

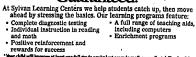
At their meeting last week, committee members discussed ways to break through stereotypes, as well so ways of educating about the many cultures in the Farmington Founders Festival was suggested as a means of publicing cultural diversity, much like Detroit's ethnic festivals. "There is no reason why you can't tie a program concerning different cultures in the community to the (Michigan) sesquicentennial," said Jody Soronen, Farmington/Farmington Billis Chamber of Commerce executive director. Michigan's 1950th anniversary is the 1987 Farmington Founders Festival theme.

INCORPORATING A cultural 8. step the step of the committee's next meeting is scheduled for noon Wednesday, April 1. Schulman Administ. le a program concerning different cultures in the community to the community to the community of the common sequence of the common sequen



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