

Sinai outpatient
centers opens here, 1B



Basketball
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Mock trial honors
Constitution, 3A

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Farmington FOCUS

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2300.

KNOWING who's
who.
There was no
shortage of debate at
the Farmington school board's
study session Jan. 19 when
trustees received public
feedback to a report by a seven-
member citizens panel
reviewing attendance
boundaries/district facilities.
Among the presenters were
deputy superintendent Michael
Flanagan and Larkshire
principal Al Lanigan,
elementary school
subcommittee chairman.
Lanigan made his
presentation first.
When it came his turn,
Flanagan made it clear he was
going to talk about how a new
elementary school on the
district's west side, one of the
options to relieving east-side
overcrowding, would be
financed.

"I'm Flanagan and he's
Lanigan," Flanagan quipped,
jokingly trying to steer tougher
questions about redistricting to
the principal.

SHE'S reapportioned.
For the third consecutive
year, the Oakland County
Board of Commissioners has
appointed Farmington Hills
city clerk JoAnn Reynolds as a
member of the Oakland County
Election Scheduling
Committee. Her third term
expires Dec. 31, 1988.
The committee is charged
with approving requests for
special elections and ensuring
that all election laws and
requirements are followed.

FOOTNOTES: One year
ago this week — Two police
officers and a firefighter are
credited with saving a 22-year-
old man's life after they pulled
him, semiconscious, from a
burning mobile home in
Farmington Hills.

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Reminder
Your Observer
Carrier will be
stopping by this week to
collect for the month. Please
have the money ready and
be sure to get your receipt.
It's worth a \$2.00 discount
on the next classified
advertisement you place in
your hometown newspaper.

Varsity player dies — remembered as witty

Matthew Leiter scored his first
varsity basket in the final minutes of
North Farmington High School's
basketball game against Westland
John Glenn Tuesday.

Shortly after the game's 9 p.m.
finish, the 17-year-old from Farm-
ington junior died shortly after
paramedics took him to Botsford
General Hospital in Farmington
Hills. He was pronounced dead
shortly after 11 p.m., police and
school officials said.

Tom Negoshian, North's varsity
basketball coach and a teacher at
Warner Middle School, first met
Matthew Leiter when he came to
Warner as a student from Southfield.
"He's been a basketball junkie
since he was a little kid," Negoshian
said, adding that Leiter played bas-
ketball in middle school and was a
junior varsity player at North Farm-
ington. This year was his first on the
varsity team.

"He was like a big brother to ev-

erybody," the coach added. "Quiet,
yet smiling and funny. He was the
guy that put his hand on the kids
shoulders and said, 'It'll be all
right.'"

NORTH FARMINGTON junior
Jason Foland has been a close friend
of Leiter since the second grade. "He
was very funny, witty," Foland said.
"He knew just what to say at the
right times. Everyone liked him."

Leiter's uncle, James Wechsler of
West Bloomfield, remembers his
nephew as a "real sweet kid who was
just coming into his own." The youth
was preparing to start a job at a
bank because he wanted to save
money for a car. "He was very much
into basketball — that was the for-
mation of his life," his uncle said. "I
was looking forward to having him
grow up with me. Now he's gone."

Leiter had just returned from a
family birthday party in New York
last weekend. He was learning to
live life to the fullest and was "real-
ly bonding" with family members,
Wechsler said.
North Farmington principal Don
Cowan said Leiter was "very inter-

ested in athletics" and had made
"great strides" in all areas of his life
during the past year. He had been a
North Farmington student for the
past three years.

His love of basketball prompted
the high school junior to attend "high
exposure" camp and other activities
on his own time, his coach said. Dur-
ing the past year, the youth had
blossomed and his confidence level
had increased greatly.

Results of a Wednesday autopsy
indicating the exact cause of death
were not available from the Oakland
County Medical Examiner's office, a
spokesman there said. Preliminary
indications show he had an enlarged
heart and fluid around the heart,
Wechsler said Wednesday.

NOTHING DURING North Farm-
ington's 85-42 loss to John Glen sig-
naled that Leiter was experiencing
health problems. The team had a
brief post-game meeting immedi-
ately after the Tuesday night contest. It
was then fellow players noticed
Leiter had collapsed and alerted
Negoshian and assistant coach



photo courtesy Focal Point Studio of Photography, Farmington
"He was like a big brother to everybody," said North Farmington
varsity basketball coach Tom Negoshian about Matthew
Leiter, who collapsed and died following a home game Tues-
day night.

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New elementary school, old boundaries: Lewis

By Casey Hans
staff writer

Farmington superintendent Graham Lewis is ex-
pected to recommend Tuesday that no school bound-
aries be changed — at any grade level — and that the
district build a new elementary school.

He also is expected to ask trustees to review alterna-
tive programs for Farmington students.

According to information from Lewis' office, details
of his proposal will be sent to board members today or
Friday; the plan was not made available for publica-
tion. By midweek, his plan had not been finalized.

The board probably will not act on Lewis' proposal
Tuesday, said spokeswoman Pam O'Malley. In all, they
will be considering Lewis' plan, options recommended
by a citizens panel and residents' comments from a
Jan. 19 study session.

The board will most likely make a decision at the
first school board meeting in March, O'Malley added.

The board must make a decision by late March to
comply with contractual obligations with school uni-
ons.

TUESDAY'S SCHOOL board meeting is at 7:30 p.m.
in the East Middle School cafeteria, on Middlebelt,
north of 10 Mile. East was selected to accommodate
more people; a larger than normal crowd is expected.

The superintendent's recommendation is very differ-
ent from those proposed by the seven-member citizens

Boys Republic options weighed, 2A

Highmeadow neighbors tell concerns, 2A

Opinion on redistricting, 15A

panel appointed by the school board and its subcom-
mittees. The panel recommended extensive boundary
changes at the elementary level, and some changes
that would affect North Farmington High School and
Harrison High School boundaries. No changes were
recommended for the middle schools.

Residents outraged at the proposed redistricting
spoke against the proposals at a Jan. 19 town meeting.

Lewis' proposal will call for keeping current elemen-
tary and high school boundaries in place, except where
students may be reassigned to attend the proposed ele-
mentary school.

Next week's meeting comes one week before the dis-
trict's Feb. 9 millage renewal election. Although school
officials do not publicly relate the two, several parents
who are upset over the proposed redistricting have in-
dicated that a millage defeat might be appropriate retaliation.

Because February's second board meeting falls dur-
ing winter break, it was canceled. Administrators said
they did not want to wait until March to make a prop-
osal, giving the school board only a few weeks to dis-
gest the material and make a decision.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Superintendent Graham Lewis plans to unveil his bound-
ary/facility report to the public at a school board meeting
Tuesday night.

New school costs studied

Annual cost
might reach
\$500,000



Michael Flanagan
deputy superintendent

By Casey Hans
staff writer
Costs for building and operating
a new elementary school on the
Farmington school district's west
side could be hefty, the district's
chief financial administrator said
last week.

The "subtle, hidden costs" of op-
erating such a building would run
more than \$500,000 per year, in ad-
dition to the \$4 million cost of
building it, according to Michael
Flanagan, deputy superintendent.

These operating costs would also
apply to any current buildings the
district might upgrade and use for
elementary.

"A new school has costs that, in
the long run, far exceed construc-

tional and custodial costs. They do not
include costs for a classroom
teaching staff, he added.

FLANAGAN went into some of
the costs during a Jan. 19 study
session in which boundaries and fa-
cility use were discussed with sev-
eral hundred parents at Farmington
High School.

Boundaries and facilities will
again be on the agenda Tuesday, at
the regular school board meeting,
scheduled for East Middle School
at 7:30 p.m.

Superintendent Graham Lewis is
expected to suggest the new-school
option as part of a long-term solu-
tion to elementary crowding; it was
also an option offered to the board
last week by an elementary study
committee.

If the Farmington school board
decides on a new school, it will cost
the district's taxpayers about \$4
million, Flanagan said. Funding would
be done through a bond issue,
which would require approval of
voters.

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Farmington School District Buildings



DAVID FRANK/graphics coordinator