

Program to spotlight creativity

By Casey Hans
staff writer

An array of creative projects will be highlighted next month when an expanded Creativity Springs Alive program is held at Farmington High.

In its fifth year, it is the only districtwide event that involves students from all grade levels.

"We're always pleased with the quality of the work," said Paul Barber, district music coordinator and chairman of the committee that organizes the event. "We're proud of that. We'd like to have more people see it."

The annual program will be held over two days, Friday and Saturday, March 4-5, to allow more people to visit, including 2,000 students and 200 teachers who will be bused to the exhibits Friday. An evening reception with local and state politicians and other community leaders will launch the program to the public Friday, Barber said.

Public hours for Creativity Springs Alive will be 7-9 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. Admission is free.

Fine art, industrial art and marketing displays will combine with music, drama and forensic performances to make up this year's Creativity program. Portable stages will also be in the exhibit hall this year to better mix the performances with exhibits, Barber added.

THOSE INVOLVED with cultural activities will also be in attendance,

in costume, to lend a festive air to the function.

Other school employees are doing their share to help the creative effort, Barber said. Debra Larson, food service supervisor, will decorate March lunch menus with a creativity theme. She'll designate a special "Creativity Lunch Day" with placecards to inspire youngsters to attend.

In years past, bus drivers have volunteered their time to bring area seniors to the Saturday event. Barber said he hopes this trend continues.

With the expanded program and more participation by school administrators, Barber hopes the program will "make an inroad" this year. He also wants "constructive ideas" from the school staff students, and others who attend.

ALTHOUGH TERMED "successful" in years past based on the creativity of student work and the efforts made, attendance has not been what organizers hoped.

"People worked so hard and so few people attended," Barber said of last year's event.

The more people that attend, the more that will say, "Hey, this is really nice. My kids could have something in here," Barber said.

Although he hopes for high attendance, Barber said he wants the event to be enjoyable. "I don't want to hard them through; I want them to enjoy it," he added.



File photo

Ceramics instructor Daryl Case gave Dunckel Middle School student Chuck Firment a few pottery pointers during last year's Creativity Springs Alive.

Storm piles up plowing overtime

By Tim Richard
staff writer

For drivers the Feb. 11-14 snowstorm was bad enough. For the Oakland County Road Commission, "it was the worst possible time," said Jim Dunleavy.

"That Friday and the next Monday were double-time holidays," said Dunleavy, who as director of highway maintenance totes up the labor bills for snowplows and salt trucks.

"The snow came at the worst times -- during rush hours. An all-day snow meant snow was still accumulating through the rush hour. Our vehicles were in those traffic jams, too," he said.

RAIN ON Sunday the 14th froze on top of the snow. "It was just like grease," he said.

But it could have been worse. "My major concern was wind drifting and blowing. But that didn't happen because the rain put a crust on the snow."

There is no "best time" for the 10-12 inches of snow that hit Oakland

County those four days, but the least inconvenient time would be 9 a.m. to noon. That would give Dunleavy's crews time to make a few two-hour round trips before evening rush-hour traffic.

"WE ANTICIPATED the storm," he told the Road Commission last week. "We had our mechanics working to keep up the fleet."

"But in any storm you start losing equipment," he said. At full force, the fleet includes 115 trucks and 26 graders.

"We had a grader severely damaged when it hit a manhole cover," he said. That grader was out of commission for days.

"You blow a hose. That means it's down for a couple of hours. Tires go. At any given point, trucks are being repaired."

"Our guys were very, very tired after it was all over."

UNTIL THAT storm, maintenance costs were running below budget. "After that weekend, costs are about even with budget," he said.

Fire station to be improved

An old fire engine bay will be converted to restrooms and lockers at Fire Station 3 on Wheeler, north of Grand River.

Facilities for handicapped people will be included as will a small office, said station 3 district chief Robert Rebooy.


The old engine bay is no longer large enough to accommodate the newer, larger fire engines, Rebooy said.

The scheduled improvements will cost \$39,000. Originally, \$45,000 was budgeted, but the bid came in lower than that.

Other recent improvements to the fire station included two new engine bays and a new roof. Plans also are in the works to expand the parking lot.

Two full-time and 21 part-time firefighters work from station 3.

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