

# Lottery slated to choose magnet students

Continued from Page 1

Others were pleased all students would be given an opportunity to attend and said a school exclusively for gifted students would be "elitist," especially in a public school system.

"That's a disappointment, personally, for me," Rolnick said. "I would like to see it for gifted students only." But she still supported the concept of giving students and parents a choice.

"We are trying to create a situation, and maybe it came about because of overcrowding," she said, "but this is something people

on this board have wanted for a long time. We want choices."

Ankele assured parents all elementary schools would still have gifted coordinators and the current gifted program would address their children's needs. The new school would have programs for gifted and advanced students built into the curriculum, as well as regular core classes and enrichment offerings.

Several trustees gave unconditional support to the Common Campus Tuesday.

"What we have accomplished in this district... boggles the mind," said Susan Rennels. "I have every confidence that we can do it. This school presents us with an

opportunity to try a lot of things. "It could forever change all of the elementary schools."

School officials said if the pilot program works, some of the concepts may be used in other elementary schools.

Trustee James Abernethy called the report, which was compiled in little over a month, a "fabulous job in a very short time."

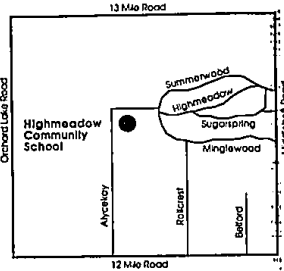
It will cost the district \$109,000 to pave the parking lot, replace playground equipment and make other changes so Highmeadow can be used as an elementary school. Deputy superintendent Michael Flanagan said early this year it would cost nearly half

a million dollars per year to staff such a school.

The Highmeadow building will have a principal; secretary; 12 teachers; support service personnel in science, music, art and physical education; and a custodial staff.

Placement of teachers in the new program will be voluntary, from within the district, officials said.

A meeting is slated for 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 30, at O. E. Dunkel Middle School, 32800 W. 12 Mile, for those interested in hearing more about the Common Campus school. Applications for the school will be taken at Highmeadow April 11-15.



# Magnet school will offer enrichment to 300

By Casey Hans staff writer

Three-hundred elementary students will take part in a two-year Farmington Public Schools pilot program of enrichment courses and advanced studies this fall.

The Common Campus school, the district's answer to innovative programming and elementary overcrowding, is scheduled to open this fall at Highmeadow.

"The difference is going to be in the organization of the schedule of the building," said assistant superintendent Mary Lou Ankele. "The enrichment component... will be more extensive."

Literary studies of authors like J.R. Tolkien, history courses about

ancient civilizations, studies of the stock market and computer programming, and science courses about astronomy, oceans and chemistry are all possible enrichment classes that will be offered to students in grades one to five.

According to school officials, students will have up to 16 enrichment courses from which to select.

THE SCHOOL will have the same core curriculum and special services as other Farmington elementarys,

including a latchkey program. Special courses will also be offered for more advanced and gifted students attending the school.

"We've got to be different to create a draw," said assistant superintendent Judith White, who will coordinate curriculum offerings. "We've delineated districts, done a lot of brainstorming."

HIGHLIGHTS OF the new program include:

- Morning core curriculum

courses will make up 70 percent of the day, with afternoons open for enrichment or advanced classes.

• Bus transportation will be provided by the district. Students will be bused first to their home schools, then to the Common Campus in the morning. They will be taken directly home in the afternoon.

• Parents are being asked to commit their child to at least one full year in the program.

• If there are more applicants than spaces, selection will be made

by a lottery system. Two-thirds of the spaces are being allocated to Loggare, Wood Creek, Larkspur and Flanders because of overcrowding.

• School officials recommend students with remedial or special education needs remain in their home school setting. Parents of gifted students will be encouraged to apply to the Common Campus because of the integrated advanced studies courses.

• The district will try to accommodate sibling situations, but there

"are no guarantees."

• Future provisions call for possible foreign language offerings, and summer and after school enrichment. These will not begin this fall.

A meeting offering more details to parents is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 30, at O. E. Dunkel Middle School, 12 Mile between Orchard Lake and Farmington roads. Applications for the new school will be taken April 11-15 at Highmeadow.

**Farmington Observer**  
(USPS 187-840)

Published every Monday and Thursday by Observer & Eclectic Newspapers, 1225 Bowers, Birmingham, MI 48012. Second-class postage paid at Birmingham, MI 48012. Address all mail (subscription, change of address, Form 3569) to P.O. Box 2428, Livonia, MI 48151. Telephone 591-0550.

**SUBSCRIPTION RATES**  
(in Oakland County)

One year	\$24.20
(Elsewhere in Michigan)	
Newstand	per copy, 25c
One year	\$40.00
(Elsewhere in U.S.A.)	
One year	\$60.00

All advertising published in the Farmington Observer is subject to the conditions stated in the applicable rate card, copies of which are available from the advertising department, Farmington 33203 Grand River, Farmington, MI (313) 477-5450. The Farmington Observer reserves the right not to accept an advertiser's order. Observer & Eclectic ad-takers have no authority to bind this newspaper and only publication of an advertisement shall constitute final acceptance of the advertiser's order.

# Manslaughter conviction brings year in jail

By Bob Sklar staff writer

The Wayne County assistant prosecutor convicted of involuntary manslaughter in the traffic death of a Novi man was sentenced Tuesday to a year in jail, fined \$900 and ordered to do 100 hours of community work.

Farmington Hills resident Jerome S. O'Connor, 46, also cannot drive or drink for three years, the length of his probation.

"A sentence like this is a reaction to the community and its response to the problem of drunk driving," defense attorney Robert Igrisan of Farmington Hills said. "I don't think it accurately reflects our situation."

Oakland County Circuit Judge

Richard Kuhn ordered O'Connor to enroll in an approved alcohol abuse program and continue to attend Alcoholics Anonymous.

Sheriff's deputies led O'Connor to the Oakland County Jail Tuesday after Kuhn denied Igrisan's motion for appeal bond.

As Kuhn was about to sentence him, O'Connor said he was "very sorry about the accident," his attorney said.

Kuhn said he had received letters from judges, lawyers, neighbors and relatives on behalf of O'Connor and from friends on behalf of the victim, Joseph J. McCarthy. O'Connor faced up to 10-15 years in prison.

O'CONNOR, WHO could lose his license to practice law if the felony

conviction stands, will be eligible for work release after 60 days in jail.

An assistant prosecutor since 1971, O'Connor was suspended from his job in March 1987, the day after the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office learned a warrant for his arrest had been issued.

Parents are being asked to commit their child to at least one full year in the program.

Novi police obtained a search warrant for a blood alcohol test of the driver, identified as O'Connor, after McCarthy was killed. Prosecutors argued throughout the tri-

al that O'Connor was drunk when he struck McCarthy, a charge the defendant denied.

Igrisan argued that "it was a very dark night and visibility was very difficult" when O'Connor struck McCarthy. "No question," Igrisan added, "what happened to Mr. O'Connor could have happened to anybody."

Police who testified said the area was lit with street lights and although it was cloudy, visibility was good the night of the incident.

THE DAY after O'Connor was convicted Feb. 11, Igrisan said: "Both Jerry and I believe he's still innocent."

"This is a very difficult case," Igrisan said Wednesday. "It was borne out by the length of the delib-

erations. I think the sentence was a bit lengthy, considering the facts."

"My statement to the judge at sentencing was that Mr. O'Connor should receive a long term of incarceration," assistant prosecutor Lawrence Kozma said.

Kozma pointed to O'Connor's knowledge of the criminal justice system. He noted O'Connor twice pleaded guilty to reduced charges: of reckless driving and was driving despite a suspended license at the time of the Novi pedestrian's death.

Kuhn sentenced O'Connor to 90 days in jail, to be served concurrently, for driving with a suspended license. O'Connor pleaded guilty to that misdemeanor on the night of McCarthy's death.

## clarification

Farmington school trustee James Abernethy's last name was misspelled in the headline of a March 10 story about his re-election bid this year. The story appeared on Page 2.

**MARKETING YOUR HOME...**

The marketing of thousands of homes each year, since 1948, has given CHAMBERLAIN, REALTORS invaluable experience in how to market homes effectively. This experience has produced our Total Marketing Program. Through this program, we are able to utilize ALL the methods available to expose your property to as many people as possible. This exposure produces the qualified buyers that have made CHAMBERLAIN, REALTORS one of the largest real estate companies in Michigan!

**Chamberlain REALTORS**

**S.A.T.**

Improve scores with our proven 24 hr. course. Build skills and reduce test anxiety.

Individualized help in math, reading, vocabulary and test-taking skills.

**EXTRA HELP AVAILABLE AT NO EXTRA CHARGE.**

Students taking our course report substantial increases. Call today. Limited enrollment. Classes begin March 20th 629-8825

**THE HUNTINGTON LEARNING CENTER**  
1150 Huntington Learning Center, Inc.

**SECURITY SYSTEMS DIVERSIFIED, INC.**  
14640 W. 8 Mile • Oak Park 988-2260

**RENT YOUR ALARM SYSTEM**

<b>RESIDENTIAL</b>	<b>COMMERCIAL</b>
<b>\$20</b> Month	<b>\$25</b> Month

FREE Service  
FREE Replacement of Parts  
FREE 24-Hour Monitoring to Central Station  
Short Term Contracts  
5 Year Price Guarantee

MICH. LIC. #BA0279

**WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE OUR NEWEST ADDITION!**

**First Impressions**  
NURSERY AND DAY SCHOOLS

We have expanded our facilities to 5760 Drake Rd., a hop, skip and jump from our present location which will remain in full use. Our brand new educational and enrichment facility is directly adjacent to our current playground.

**PRE-SCHOOL • KINDERGARTEN • SUPER SUMMER CAMP**

- 2 to 6 years old
- Flexible scheduling: 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Full & Half Day Sessions
- Certified, professional staff
- Individualized Reading & Math Readiness
- Enrichment Programs
  - Creative Movement
  - Computer Skills
  - Jr. Tennis
  - Driff Music
  - Foreign Language
  - Cooking
  - and much, much more!

**OPEN HOUSE SATURDAY, MARCH 19th, 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

**\$700 & \$760**

**Drake Road (1/2 mile north of Maple)**  
**West Bloomfield 661-3630**

**DEDE OGDEN NEEDLEPOINT COLLECTION**

March 21 through March 26  
Needlepoint Shop, Birmingham

See this international designer's complete show line...queeny miniatures with front and back pieces, animals, delicate whimsies...even new fibers. We show the Queen Elizabeth I doll to stitch and join. 14"H. \$256.

**Jacobson's**

Shop until 9 p.m. on Thursday and Friday  
Until 6 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday