

Students recommend 'academic letters'

By Casey Hans
Staff writer

A student group in Farmington has recommended the school district award annual "academic letters" to senior high students with a 3.3 or better grade point average.

Letters honoring academic achievement were a "major point of discussion this year," according to Student Round Table president Drew McDougall, a senior at Farmington High School.

The Student Round Table represents all three public high schools, where students discuss issues relevant to the high school community throughout each school year.

McDougall said his group voted on the measure recently, recommending it on a 7-2 vote. He made his plea to the Farmington school board during a study session Tuesday.

"We feel more recognition should be awarded to these students," he said. "The more students that have

recognition, the more school spirit there is, and the better school it will become."

LETTERS ARE now given for a variety of school activities, including athletics, band, choir, forensics and computer club. McDougall was backed in his proposal by North Farmington senior and Student Round Table vice president Cindy Cramer, who also attended the meeting. Both are honors students and

athletes at their respective schools.

The school administration was directed to review the student proposal and make a recommendation at a future board meeting.

The Clarencville school district has an academic letter system: 93 students received letters during the district's first ceremony in January 1987. In the Livonia-based district, letters were given in two 1987 ceremonies for students earning a 3.0 grade point or higher in mathemat-

ics, science, social studies and English.

The Farmington students propose a higher grade point and that the district consider an overall average.

"The beauty . . . is not only the letter, but the recognition . . . for what we're all about — academic excellence," said assistant superintendent Lynn Nutter, who attends many Round Table meetings.

Trustee Janice Rolnick said she discussed the academic letter possi-

bility with several high school students. The students said they wanted letters to be similar to others, not for example, a different color. "They really don't want it to stand out," she said.

If the 3.3 grade point is used in the final recommendation, approximately 50 students would receive letters, the students said. This 3.3 grade point is also used to determine membership in the National Honor Society.

Program head is named

Nancy Torkeo was named the new ElderMed program coordinator at Huttsford General Hospital, Farmington Hills.

The Farmington resident will head ElderMed, a free membership program designed to meet the health care and lifestyle needs of people ages 50 and older. Members have access to a variety of free or discounted hospital programs and services.

"It's important for seniors to understand their changing health care needs," she said. "I'm developing programs and activities to teach members how to help themselves."

Discounted prescriptions, various hospital services and information programs on topics relevant to seniors are examples of what ElderMed offers.

Torkeo's expertise is in coordinat-



Nancy Torkeo moving up

ing health education programs, health screenings and wellness events for older adults. Before this appointment, she was Huttsford's health development network community health projects coordinator.

Homeowners are offered tips to control basement flooding

If there is enough water in your basement to take a swim, and you don't have an indoor pool, you have a flooding problem.

Detroit Edison offers safety tips to help protect your family, your home and your electrical appliances before, during and after flooding.

Before flood conditions threaten your area:

- Have your electrical outlets in the basement or other areas rewired so that all outlets are placed above what you think the highest water level might be. Make sure your wiring complies with the National Electric Code.
- Disconnect electric power to all basement outlets, appliances, extension cords and equipment including furnaces. It also might be advisable to shut off the natural gas at your meter.
- If possible, raise all appliances above the anticipated water level.
- During the time your basement is flooded:
- Never step into a flooded basement or other areas if water is in contact with power outlets or any electrically energized appliance,

such as a washer, dryer, freezer, furnace blower motor, dehumidifier or lamp. You could receive a severe and possibly life-threatening shock. Not even rubber boots can guarantee your protection in this situation.

- Do not attempt to remove a fuse or turn off a circuit breaker while standing in water or on a damp floor. This should have been done before the basement was flooded. If you must have the electricity to your basement disconnected, call an electrician or Detroit Edison.
- After the flood:
- When the water in your base-

ment has receded, don't try to operate or determine the condition of appliances or other equipment that have been submerged. You could be in danger of electrical shock.

- Your best safeguard is to call a qualified electrician to determine the condition of your basement's electrical wiring, an appliance repair agency to service your appliances and a furnace serviceman to check and restart your furnace. These agencies are listed in the yellow pages of your telephone directory.

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