

Announcements due next week on selections for magnet school

Applicants from three crowded elementary schools will automatically have a place in Farmington's new magnet program this fall, while other applicants will go through a lottery process.

Parents will be notified the first week in May, whether their child has been chosen.

Close to 400 applications were received this month for the Common Campus School, to open at Highmeadow this fall for 300 students. One hundred of these applications were from parents of gifted students from the district.

Applicants from Flanders, Lakeshire and Longacre will automatically be accepted, according to assistant superintendent Mary Lou Ankele, because they filled the slots allocated, and no more.

But excess applications were received from the crowded Wood Creek Elementary, which will have to be part of a lottery process to fill the school. Applications were received from all areas of the district representing all 11 elementary schools.

"It's not easy, it's complicated," said Ankele of the lottery process. "We certainly want it to be above board and fair. We're moving as quickly as we can."

NO LOTTERY date has been set, but Ankele said she would probably invite a school board member to help with the process. The lottery will be conducted by grade, school and sex.

The Common Campus School concept was designed following community uproar over proposed boundary changes, which could have affected some 900 students. The school will offer core classes in the morning and enrichment programs in the afternoon. Gifted students will also have an integrated program during the regular school day.

There is a good mix of students in grades one to five, although more first and second graders are expected based on the applications. Ankele said there were fewer applications for fourth and fifth graders.

The district began reviewing applications last week for a principal for the Common Campus School, Ankele added.

police/fire calls

Listed below are some of the Farmington-area police incidents, fire calls and court cases reported during the past week:

THEFTS REPORTED

A generator valued at \$350 was reported stolen from a garage on Stocker between Oct. 1 and April 19.

A 1986 Oldsmobile Delta 88 valued at \$9,995 was reported stolen from Bob Saks Oldsmobile, 35300 Grand River, between March 29 and April 13.

A CD radio valued at \$200 was reported stolen from a car parked at Polo Club Apartments April 13-18.

A snowblower, a chainsaw and a golf bag valued at \$2,550 were reported stolen from a carport shed on Holly Hill April 15-17.

A fire extinguisher valued at \$150 was reported stolen from an outside wall at the Red Roof Inn, 24300 Sinclair Court, April 17.

A VCR valued at \$250 was reported stolen from a house on Haggerty near Nine Mile April 19.

A grinder valued at \$150 was reported stolen from a metal shop at North Farmington High School, 32900 13 Mile, April 19-20.

A VCR, an entertainment center and jewelry valued at more than

\$5,000 was reported stolen from a house on Lincolnview April 20.

Receipts and other items valued at \$1,000 were reported stolen from Pennzoil 10-Minute Oil, 31620 Northwestern Highway, April 2-20.

A 1987 Honda Accord valued at \$10,000 was reported stolen from Honda Acura, 34500 Grand River, April 21.

CAR RECOVERED

A 1977 Dodge van, reported stolen from Detroit, April 14, was recovered at Blakeney's Ranch House, 28333 Grand River, April 21. It is valued at \$300, according to a Farm-

ington Hills police report.

DAMAGE REPORTED

Damage was estimated at \$50 when the basement window of a house on Loomis was broken April 16-17.

Damage was estimated at \$150 when three windows were broken at Beechview Elementary School, 26550 Westmeath, April 17.

Damage was estimated at \$250 during an attempted break-in on Running Stream at Hunters Ridge Apartments April 21.

Damage was estimated at \$100 during an attempted break-in at a house on Springbrook April 21.

Novi couple charged in auto thefts

A special unit formed to investigate auto thefts in Southwest Oakland County obtained a 28-count warrant against a Novi couple who were charged this week, according to information from officers involved.

The charges followed a five-month investigation by members of the Southwest Auto Theft Unit, made up of five officers from Farmington, Farmington Hills, Novi, Southfield and the Oakland County Sheriff's De-

partment. The team is based in Novi. Charles Raymond Caldwell, 49, and Victoria Leah Valko, 32, both of Novi, were charged with obtaining salvage vehicles with titles, rebuilding them with stolen body parts, and re-selling them.

The charges were based on cases of 25 different vehicles over a five-year period, according to information from the unit.

The couple was arraigned April 18 before District Judge Brian McKen-

zie in 52nd District Court in Walled Lake on charges involving felony conspiracy, concealing or misrepresenting the identification of a motor vehicle, false statement on application of title, false pretenses and receiving and concealing stolen property. The felony charges could bring the defendants up to 39 years in prison upon conviction.

Not guilty pleas were entered on their behalf. Valko is free on personal bond. Caldwell's bond was set at \$28,900, which he posted. Prelimi-

nary examination for both has been scheduled for May 2.

The entire auto theft team participated in the investigation, which began last November, according to a spokesman for the unit.

It is the second major case in which warrants have been obtained. Last month, a Wixom man was charged with a chop shop operation and several counts of receiving and concealing stolen property. He faces up to 39 years in prison if convicted.

Restrain pets, protect letter carriers

With the arrival of warmer weather, Farmington postmaster Kenneth Harris has asked dog owners to help protect letter carriers, utility workers and other citizens from the dangers of dog bites.

The postmaster said that, nationally, 4,000 letter carriers were bitten by dogs last year.

"In recent years, the public has responded to our plea to keep their pets restrained, and we have seen a decline in bites nationally," Harris

said. "Nevertheless, much is still to be done to eliminate the hazard to our employees and other citizens who might be bitten."

Harris said that all dogs are territorial by nature, and even the most gentle pet will bite if it feels its domain is threatened by the presence of a carrier or other person.

"With a little care, a pet owner can not only protect our carriers, but his or her pet and pocketbook, too," he said.

Harris stressed that the Postal Service practices its carrying from dog bite hazards. Among remedies in situations when a pet owner fails to restrain a dog is interruption of home delivery to the residence or, in some cases, to entire neighborhoods.

THE POSTAL Service will also seek to recover worker's compensation damages and provides counseling to carriers who have been bitten and who wish to seek legal action against the dog owners.

Harris said these policies underscore the Postal Service's commitment to protect its employees, and added that pet owners can easily

meet their responsibilities to control their pets.

"We suggest that pets be kept away from the mailbox and areas the letter carrier uses for access to the property," he said. "If the pet cannot be kept behind a secure fence, the owner should restrain it with a secure leash or tether or at least keep the pet inside the house during the usual hours carriers are making their rounds."

Harris added, "We try to do our part by stressing awareness of dog bite dangers to our carriers, but we rely heavily on the support and cooperation of the community to help us end these painful and costly injuries."

clarification

An April 14 Observer article about a pay equity study should have identified the Educational Support Personnel bargaining unit in Farmington schools as a member of the Michigan Education Association, not the Farmington Education Association.

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WHY IS MY ARTHRITIS BETTER WHEN I HAVE A COLD?

If you have arthritis, you may note that when you have a cold, your joints feel better. The reasons have nothing to do with a connection between viruses and arthritis but are related to basic principals of joint therapy.

First, a cold forces you to cancel appointments, and rest instead. Any condition that "slows you up," means less strain on joints. In addition, you are likely to be down during the day, a fine way to achieve bone and joint rest. At night you limit the evening activities, go to bed early, and bundle up to keep warm. Both the rest and heat are excellent for joints.

Second, a cold brings a change in attitude. You stop blaming yourself for jobs not finished and family and friends tend to expect less from you. The effect is less tension on your psyche, muscles, and joints.

Everyone has suffered a cold, and knows the fatigue this illness carries in its wake. Unfortunately only people who have arthritis or a similar persistent condition, can appreciate the continuing strain that comes with a chronic medical problem.

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*Enjoy Swim Club Memberships from May 31 through September 5.



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