

## Temple administrator remembered fondly

By Bob Sklar  
staff writer

Longtime Temple Israel administrator Frank L. Simons, who Rabbi M. Robert Syme characterized as "one of God's gentlemen," died Wednesday at Sinai Hospital of Detroit of respiratory arrest.

The Farmington Hills resident was 59.

"Frank probably was one of the most gentle souls you would ever meet," said Syme, shocked and deeply touched by Simons' death. "Gentle, sweet, loving, lovable — everybody used the same adjectives to describe him. The important thing to remember is that he never sought honors, honors sought him."

Simons served as administrator of Temple Israel for 27 years. He moved into the position from the vice presidency of the Young Married Group. The 2,000-family congregation moved to West Bloomfield from Detroit's Palmer Park area in 1980.

Syme, a spiritual leader at Temple Israel for 34 years, said Simons was "a very unusual man."

"He was an administrator who never treated the temple as a business but rather as a religious institution. That's why people could come to him and know they would be treated with fairness and, above all, compassion."

IF PEOPLE couldn't afford to pay the temple's full dues, "it was all right with Frank," Syme said. "He never permitted them to lose their dignity. That was the uniqueness of Frank Simons."

"I was his rabbi, but he often was my rabbi," Syme added. "I could go to him for advice."

Before joining the temple staff, Simons worked as a city editor at the Detroit Jewish News for 10 years. He previously worked as a copy boy at The Detroit News.

"He had a talent and a sensitivity, a real feeling for words and phrases," Syme said.

Through the years, Simons



FRANK L. SIMONS  
Temple Israel administrator

served in many temple capacities, including the ritual committee, the religious school board and the board of trustees.

He was a past president of the National Association of Temple Administrators, the Congregational Executive Directors of Metropolitan Detroit and the Brotherhood of Temple Israel.

SIMONS EARNED a bachelor of arts degree from Wayne State University in 1959. He and his wife, Lucy, were married at Temple Israel in 1951.

In addition to his wife, survivors include a son, Eric, two daughters, Cantor Alane Katzew and Yonina Barnea; three grandchildren and a brother, Robert.

Services were held Friday at Temple Israel. Burial was in Beth El Memorial Park, Livonia.

The family asks that memorial contributions be made to Temple Israel, 5725 Walnut Lake, West Bloomfield 48053.

## Spruce-up is going smoothly

By Casey Hans  
staff writer

The rejuvenation of downtown Farmington has been one of the "smoothest" renovation projects he has seen, the city planner said last week.

"We have not had a smoother running job on any other project," said Christopher Waczyn. "We seem to be running on schedule, which is also unusual."

"I don't see any major problems."

Work on the project began several weeks ago and is expected to be completed by July 1, with the exception of tree plantings, which will be done this fall.

"They (the contractors) talk to each other, they talk to me, they talk to the businesses," said Downtown Development Authority executive director Wendy Strip Sittsamer. "We're trying to keep people a few days ahead of what's going on across their front door."

Three contractors are working on the project. Concord Cement of Farmington Hills, general contractor for the project, is handling all the concrete work. Corby Engineering Services is installing all lightpost bases, and Boco, a city contractor, is doing all the asphalt work, Strip Sittsamer said. The DDA will repay the city for some of Boco's work.

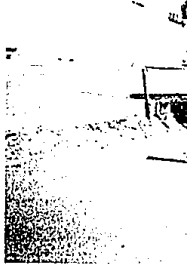
THE DDA board is in the process of fine-tuning the project. Members are walking downtown work sites, checking on curbing and sidewalk detail and making sure everything is done right.

Today, contractors will begin pouring curbing and installing sidewalk at the Farmington Road and Grand River intersection, nearly completing work on the north side of Grand River.

"They're continuing to make progress, continuing to move quickly," said Strip Sittsamer.

The work is the first phase of a

## FARMINGTON BAKERY



Roger Pepper (left) and Senio Corilli of Concord Cement put the finishing touches on new sidewalks in downtown Farmington.

\$1.4 million project, coordinated through the DDA. It is being financed through tax increment financing — capturing tax dollars from property with increased values during the DDA project period.

A DDA subcommittee is meeting to revamp the project phases, in light of larger-than-expected property value increases, and because of private development within the DDA district, prompted by the city project.

A SIDE issue involving parking on the north side of Grand River was addressed again by DDA members last week.

Discussion centered around an entryway to the north side parking lot between Grace Insurance and the Farmington Bakery.

City manager and DDA member Robert Deadman said he wanted to leave the future option open to making the route accessible to two-way traffic.

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## FARMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON INCREASING PROPERTY TAXES

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on Tuesday, May 17, 1988 at 6:45 P.M. at the Schulman Administrative Center, 32500 Shiawassee, the Board of Education of Farmington Public Schools will hold a public hearing on the levying in 1988 of an additional proposed millage rate of 1.32 mills (over the base tax rate) for operating purposes pursuant to Act 5, Public Acts of Michigan, 1982.

The maximum additional proposed millage rate would increase revenues for operating purposes from ad valorem property tax levies in 1988 otherwise permitted by Act 5, Public Acts of Michigan, 1982, by approximately 4.50%.

Presently, the Farmington Board of Education is authorized to levy 33.28 mills for operating purposes. The recommendation for the 1988-89 levy is 30.65 mills, 2.63 mills less than the authorized millage. The amounts actually levied during the past several years are listed:

Operation Millage	Debt Millage	Total Millage Levied
1985-86 ...	32.50	1.50 34.00
1986-87 ...	32.50	1.30 33.80
1987-88 ...	31.75	1.20 32.95
1988-89 (proposed)	30.65	1.20 31.85

The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony and discuss the levy of an additional millage rate. Not less than seven (7) days following the public hearing, the Board of Education may approve all or any portion of the proposed additional millage rate. The Board of Education has proposed this millage in recognition of the responsibility to maintain and sustain an effective educational program for the community.

JANICE ROLNICK,  
Secretary Board of Education

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