



THOMAS ARNETT/staff photographer

## Surprise honor

During Memorial Day services at the Veterans Memorial on Grand River in downtown Farmington May 30, Veterans Memorial Day Parade Committee chairman Wally Christensen (right), chaplain at American Legion

Groves-Walker Post 346 in Farmington, presented an appreciation plaque to outgoing state Rep. W.V. "Sandy" Brotherton, R-Farmington, who is not seeking re-election this year after 14 years in office.

## 38 school retirees honored

Thirty-eight retired Farmington school employees with eight to 34 years of service in the district were honored at an Employee Recognition Dinner in Farmington Hills during May.

Those honored for 30 years or more experience included: Heather Remo, Charles Feucht, Eleanor Snyder and Katherine Van Hoy. Those with the district for 20 years or more were: Joseph Black-

man, Marion Bush, Betty Cain, Yvonne Campbell, Doris Gersuch, Jay Frid, Kenneth Haycock, Carol Howell, Evelyn Johnson, Eleanor Keranen, Betty Martin Gilbert Maxwell, Doris Phillips, Barbara Ramsey, John Schmidt, Lorraine Wadell, and Virginia Webber.

Another 13 employees retired with 10 or more years of experience. They included: Janice Biggerstaff,

Betty Brynn, Betty Dahlgren, Jean Denaro, Gerald Heinz, June Kilmer, Barbara Kull, Marie Littler, Dolores Lizotte, Marion Lower, William Remo, Jean Von Soosten and Grace Waak.

Violet Kopacki also retired after eight years with the district.

Other retirees honored included Helen Castille, Dorothy Magee and June King.

# Clarenceville seniors are certified in 3 R's

By Kevin Brown  
staff writer

For the first time, a diploma guarantee signed by Clarenceville Public Schools administrators will be included with graduating seniors' diplomas this month.

Based on competency testing, the document guarantees each student "possesses the necessary basic job-entry skills to read, write and do arithmetic," as stated in a letter explaining the program, mailed to district residents this week.

"If a student is hired right out of high school and the employer decides that he or she doesn't have the necessary skills," said Superintendent Michael Shibler, "all the employer has to do is call me up."

"I will call this student and offer them free of charge adult education classes in the area the employer tells me that they are deficient."

THE IDEA to guarantee diplomas was sparked in 1984, Shibler said.

School officials mailed a survey to district residents, and asked if the schools should require competency testing.

"Ninety percent of the respondents said yes," Shiber said. "Other high schools give competency tests, but don't tie them into requirements for graduation."

The program was also sparked by the federal report, "A Nation At Risk," Shiber said. "They talked about the

weak skills some high school graduates have. We wanted to bring back credibility and confidence in the high school diploma."

The program opened in 1985, as ninth graders were given the first reading, math and writing competency tests. Students must pass each category with a 70 percent score.

Students who don't are given individual instruction in the deficient area, and are tested in successive years until they pass.

WHEN SHIBLER speaks to employers about the program, "They seem to be enthusiastic about it, that we would be standing by our diploma."

"It's basic, minimal skills. All students who are graduating this year are eligible to be graduating," Shiber said.

"I see the primary benefit of the program as catching students weak in some skills. And it's a motivational factor for the student who comes in here and thinks he'll sit through four years of high school."

"The student then finds out, 'I failed these tests and I'm going to have to do something about it,'" Shiber said.

"Maybe the third positive part about it, is it may give our students a competitive edge," he added.

"If we can't say our graduates can read, compute and write, then we're admitting failure," Shiber said.

## New Hills speed limits

Continued from Page 1

Lake, 40 mph from existing 45 mph.

COUNCILWOMAN JEAN Fox recently requested the designation of Halsted, between 12 and 14 Mile, as a natural beauty road. Consequently, a proposed speed change to 40 mph from an existing 35 mph will be delayed pending a public hearing. City ordinance requires natural beauty roads to be posted at lower speeds, Call said.

The Oakland County Road Commission already has approved changing the limit on Haggerty to 45 mph from the existing 50 mph, Call said.

Other requests to Oakland County for speed limit changes are on the following roads:

- Farmington, 12 to 14 Mile, 40 mph from existing 45 mph.
- 12 Mile, Haggerty to Drake, 45 mph from existing 50 mph.
- 12 Mile, Drake to Orchard

THE CITY'S recommendations for speed changes took into account safety standards as well as current speeds driven along the roads, Call said. For example, along 13 Mile, Haggerty to Halsted, currently posted at 35 mph, the average speed was 42.2 mph with 85 percent driving 48 mph, according to survey results. The speed will be increased to 40 mph.

"They also represent limits that are enforceable with anticipated staffing and acceptable tolerance levels," according to the city council report.

The speed changes also follow last year's paving projects on Drake, between 13 and 14 Mile; Halsted, between 12 and 14 Mile; and 13 Mile, between Haggerty and Halsted.

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Twice a week is better

## Broomfield backs option act

U.S. Rep. Bill Broomfield, R-Birmingham, has signed on as a co-sponsor of H.R. 3794, the Worker's Option Act of 1988, a bill that encourages able senior citizens to remain in the workforce as long as they desire.

Every American of retirement age has 50 percent of his or her earnings over \$8,160 per year taxed by federal authorities. This situation

has led to thousands of forced retirements, associated drops in productivity, and feelings of alienation in many older Americans, according to Broomfield. Such a tax has forced senior citizens into premature retirement, and denied the Social Security Administration millions of lost wage revenue, he added.

This bill would gradually eliminate the earnings test for those eligi-

ble to receive full Social Security benefits. Starting with workers 69 years of age, the act would drop down one a scale every year so that in four years, the 50 percent wage tax would be completely erased.

When Social Security was first introduced in 1935, there was one recipient for every 50 workers paying into the system. Today, that ration is one to three.

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Meet the artists and admire their diverse works of art. See watercolor and oil paintings of beautiful flora and fauna as well as masterful sculptures and collages. Artwork will be on display in our Art Gallery during the reception and from June 10 through June 18. R.S.V.P. 591-7696, ext. 263.

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