



## Damage incidents drop, but costs are climbing

By Casey Hane  
staff writer

**A**LTHOUGH THEFTS and vandalism in Farmington schools are "significantly" down, associated costs have increased nearly 26 percent.

A school report shows only 99 such incidents occurred at school-owned buildings in 1987-88, down from 143 the previous year.

"This is a significant decrease in occurrences," business support services supervisor Betsi Duschinski said in her report.

But costs jumped from \$17,000 to \$21,500 in one year. The increase was attributed to fire losses of \$4,100 at Farmington High School and \$1,300 at Harrison High. Both were set by vandals.

Of the \$21,500 in losses, \$14,800 was not covered by insurance.

The vandalism/theft report is submitted to the school board annually, per board policy, and covers the district's completed fiscal year from July 1 through June 30.

**IT GIVES** a dollar comparison of vandalism throughout the district:

- 1987-88 — \$21,499,
- 1986-87 — \$17,093,
- 1985-86 — \$91,535, (includes \$70,000 in fire damage to Beechview Elementary.)
- 1984-85 — \$26,141,
- 1983-84 — \$66,659,
- 1982-83 — \$24,704,
- 1981-82 — \$24,149.

The vandalism caused additional work for school maintenance crews. Of the 99 incidents, maintenance crews were involved in repair work for 84. Nearly 53 percent of these involved glass replacement.

More than half the losses from

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thefts and vandalism, about \$14,800, occurred at the district's three high schools. Farmington High had 14 incidents causing a \$6,179 loss; Harrison had 17 incidents causing a \$5,370 loss; and North Farmington had 11 incidents causing a \$3,238 loss.

**THERE WAS** \$3,583 in losses at the four middle schools, with most occurring at O.E. Dunkel which had \$2,333 in damage or loss.

Elementary school buildings had \$1,456 in damage, and \$1,664 was listed for specialty education centers and other buildings. Of this, a \$1,138 loss was reported at Fairview Early Childhood Center.

No incidents of theft or vandalism were reported at Eagle, Flanders and Longacre elementary schools, or at the district's transportation building, central office or maintenance facility.

Information for the report was taken from property damage reports, maintenance work orders and insurance claim reports. The report did not address losses from property damage accidents.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

A fire last January in the ceiling of Farmington High School's locker room was one of the incidents that inflated the dollar amount of damage in the district. Here, Farmington reserve public safety officer Rick Cray examines a duct after the fire. The fire caused \$4,108 in damage.

## Boys Republic repairs OK'd

Repairs were approved last week for educational buildings at Boys Republic, a private facility for teenage wards of the state in Farmington Hills.

The estimated \$185,000 in repairs will be handled through Farmington Public Schools, and reimbursed by the state of Michigan as part of the district's special education program. The district is required, by law, to educate the boys who reside at the

facility on Nine Mile.

The improvements are expected to be partially completed when school begins at the end of August; the rest will be completed in 10-12 weeks, school officials said.

"Things are moving quickly and efficiently, because of the spirit of cooperation . . . between the school system and the Boys Republic administration," said assistant superintendent Mary Lou Ankele.



## inkwell

**Inkwell** provides news and information about Farmington-area primary and secondary students. The column appears monthly throughout the year as part of the Observer's "School Page." Send news items to: The School Page, Farmington Observer, 3203 Grand River, Farmington 48024. Include a telephone number where a contact person can be reached during the day.

### ● FALL PLANS

Farmington Public Schools officials have announced plans for the start of the 1988-89 school year. All students will begin classes the afternoon of Tuesday, Aug. 30, and full days on Aug. 31, Sept. 1 and Sept. 2.

Senior high school students can begin picking up their schedules this week between 9-11:30 a.m. and 1-3 p.m. weekdays.

Schedules will be mailed Monday, Aug. 15 to middle school students. Elementary school students and their parents will receive room assignments before the start of school.

Classes in Clarencerville, which takes in part of southeast Farmington Hills, start with a half day Aug. 30 and a full day Aug. 31. Walled Lake Consolidated Schools classes, which affect students in northwest Farmington Hills, won't be back in session until Sept. 6, a full day. All students have Labor Day off.

### ● TUITION UPPED

Tuition students in Farmington schools will pay more this year, according to a measure approved by the school board Aug. 2.

Elementary students will pay \$800 per year and secondary students \$1,320. This was increased from last year's rates of \$750 and \$1,230.

Tuition students are accepted into the district if the student: is the child of a district employee, is the child of anyone moving into the district, is the child of anyone building a house in the district, or has completed his/her junior year in the district, and whose parents or guardian have moved away.

### ● MEDAL AWARDED

Scott Seabolt of Farmington Hills was given the Rensselaer Medal from the New York-based Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

The medal is given to a junior from each of 1,700 high schools for excelling in math and science study. Seabolt attends Farmington High School.

### ● SHE'S OUTSTANDING

Rachel Kohli, a student at North Farmington High School, was among 34 outstanding high school seniors participating in Lawrence Institute of Technology's 20th annual Summer Science Institute in Southfield.

The Farmington Hills resident was selected on the basis of academic achievement and interest in the sciences. Participants received instruction in college-level chemistry, physics, math and computer science. They have access to the institute's laboratories and computer facilities.

The program is funded each year by LIT and grants from local companies and foundations.

### ● SCHOLARSHIP GIVEN

Mark Mayotte of Farmington Hills was one of eight high school graduates named as Indiana Scholars by the University of Detroit.

Mayotte will receive a four-year, full tuition and full

room scholarship for undergraduate study at the university.

To qualify, the students had to graduate in the top 10 percent of their high school class and score in the top 5 percent on the National College Board exams.

### ● ATHLETIC TRAINING

Tracy Michele Gavel was one of three students nationwide accepted into Michigan State University's athletic training program.

The 1988 honors graduate from Farmington High School will major in elementary education as an MSU freshman this fall.

### ● GAINS SCHOLARSHIP

Warren C. Johnson, a resident of Farmington Hills and a graduate of North Farmington High School, was awarded a distinguished minority scholarship to Michigan State University.

Fifteen outstanding high school students received the award, worth \$2,000 per year.

### ● WORKSHOP STUDY

Farmington Hills Mercy High student Josette Schira completed a week of intensive study in yearbook and photojournalism in at journalism workshop at Ball State University in Muncie, Ind.

More than 300 students participated in the program, designed to help them produce quality high school publications.

### ● FAMILIES NEEDED

Because of unsuccessful efforts to find host families in the Oakland County area, representatives of Pacific Intercultural Exchange say several foreign students' trips may be cancelled this year.

The group has worked at finding families for the past four months.

"We have been working to find homes for these students since we received their files at the end of March," said Michigan coordinator Pat Blundy.

"I don't know why the response has been so poor this year. All I know, is that it's going to be an awful disappointment for the kids."

Anyone wishing to serve as a host can call Bundy collect at (616) 527-1579 or (616) 527-0012.

### ● OUTSTANDING TEACHER

David Finney, department chair and social studies teacher at North Farmington High School, was named Michigan's outstanding teacher of American history by the Michigan Daughters of the American Revolution.

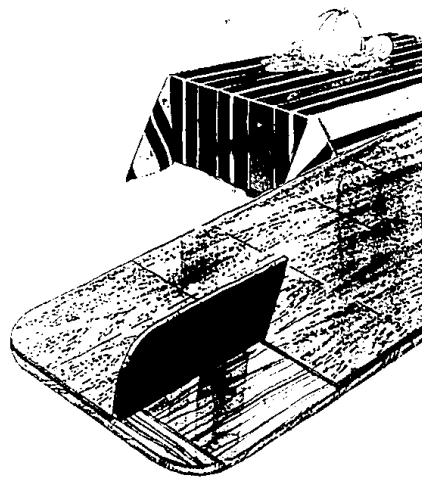
According to the July/August issue of Michigan History Magazine, the Michigan DAR noted Finney's many history-related accomplishments: board of directors for Friends of Historic Fort Wayne, chairman of the Governor's Minuteman Awards, Greater Michigan Foundation chairman of the Military Affairs Subcommittee of the Historical Observance Committee.

He's also active with the Michigan Sesquicentennial Commission.

Finney is now a candidate for the DAR's award for outstanding teacher of American history in the United States.

### ● ON THE ROAD

Farmington Public Schools bus driver Tina Schaefer placed third overall in the Oakland County Road-co contest.



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