

# 3 retirees named to Teacher Hall of Fame



Three retired Farmington teachers were inducted into the FEA Teacher Hall of Fame this month at a special reception. Pictured are: Katherine Van Hoy (left) and Marian McCracken; Guité accepting the award on behalf of teacher Donald Guité, who died in 1994 and was named to the Hall of Fame posthumously; and FEA president Jim Miner.

The Farmington Education Association is setting the pace for Michigan teachers by continuing its Teacher Hall of Fame, honoring retired educators from the Farmington district.

This year, three were inducted into the hall of fame during a May 2 reception. More than 200 people attended the reception, including friends, family and co-workers of the inductees. This is the second year teachers have been honored by the FEA in this manner.

Special education educator Donald Guité, retired elementary teacher Marian McCracken and retired classroom teacher and reading specialist Kay Van Hoy were all inducted this year, with Guité receiving honors posthumously. The three were nominated by teachers currently working in the Farmington district, and were chosen because of their exceptional professionalism and dedication.

Gov. James Blanchard gave each inductee a certificate of recognition, presented by advisor Connie Shorter. Phyllis Mitchell, retired from the Michigan Education Association, also presented the three with certificates.

Speaking at the reception were MEA president Larry Chuvpich,

Stuart Newman of state Sen. Jack Faxon's office and FEA president Jim Miner who gave each recipient an individual plaque.

A large plaque containing the names of all past and present Hall of Fame recipients is on display in the Schulman Administrative Center — the school district's central offices.

Short biographical sketches of each inductee follow:

## • DONALD GUITÉ

Donald Guité worked in the Farmington district from 1959 to 1984, after beginning his career in schools in Dearborn Heights and South Redford schools.

He began in Farmington at Farmington Junior High as a special education teacher. He also worked as a special education consultant and summer school coordinator for the district.

He died in November 1984.

He was active in a number of state and regional organizations, including the Council of Exceptional Children, Michigan Parents of the Hearing Impaired and the Michigan Association of Children With Learning Disabilities.

In the community, he was active in the Elks, Optimists and other groups.

In a tribute, parent Rosemary

Knighon wrote: "He was that dedicated teacher whose time went beyond the classroom and whose energy was boundless. He was there to encourage our child to teach him and give him back his self-respect."

## • MARIAN MCCracken

An active teacher in the Farmington Public Schools, Marian McCracken retired in 1982 after teachers at Bond and Eagle elementary schools.

She was active in the Parent/Teacher Association and many committees dealing with curriculum and textbooks. She was also involved with the Title IX Committee and was appointed by the board to the Family Life Committee in the late 1980s to deal with racism in the district.

McCracken has also been active in the community, including the American Association of University Women, the Coalition for Peaceful Integration and the Youth for Understanding International student exchange program. She is past state president of the National Organization for Women, and sits on the national board for NOW.

During her tenure as a teacher, she was an FEA building representative, FEA secretary, active with the FEA and MEA political action committees, delegate to MEA and NEA and on the NEA Resolutions Committee.

"I hope that as a result of my influence as a teacher in the classroom, the students I taught developed into adults who truly believe in

"liberty and justice for all" in our diverse American society," McCracken said.

During retirement, she has traveled and remained active in politics and important causes. She sits on the executive committee of the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame.

## • KAY VAN HOY

Retiring last year after 36 years with the Farmington Public Schools, Kay Van Hoy has served as classroom teacher, reading specialist and learning center teacher.

She has worked at Ten Mile School, Wood Creek, Kenbrook, Gill, William Grace, Highmeadow, Middlebelt and Beechview elementary schools and at Cloverdale Center, and Alameda.

Her educational involvement at other levels includes activity in the Michigan Reading Association and the International Reading Association. She has also served on a number of committees locally.

In the community, she has served on a Hunger Committee and Church and Society committee through her church, and has been involved in the Oakland County Earth Science Club and the Oakland County Literacy Project.

"I hope it can be said that I put the students and their welfare first," she said.

In retirement, Van Hoy is tutoring in the Oakland County Literacy Project and volunteering at Cranbrook Institute of Science. She's also redecorating her house and "catching up on reading."

# C'ville OKs new positions, classes

By Kevin Brown  
staff writer

Two and a half weeks after Clarenceville voters approved a 3.5-mill tax increase, the Board of Education voted May 11 to implement changes to boost instruction.

The board approved adding 3.4 teaching positions to reduce elementary class sizes, full-time librarians in each school building, plus some added classes.

"We made some promises to the community about the millage increase," said Superintendent Michael Shibler. "We intend to keep all our promises plus more."

The district covers parts of Livonia, Redford Township and Farmington Hills.

WHAT'S MORE include art and reading classes for seventh and eighth graders, "which the students are not getting this year," Shibler said.

Of the added reading classes, Shibler said, "For some reason, formal teaching of reading stops after the kids leave elementary school." He said the classes will focus on reading skills, including comprehension. "I think we will find that in the 9th and 12th grades the students who will need remedial reading will decline."

Shibler said middle school art classes have not been offered in his five years as superintendent. He added that another high school co-op class will also be added, along with computer math II, speech, two semesters of newspaper I and II, and sociology.

These classes can now be offered in rooms where enrollment is lower than 15 students, previously considered a cut-off number for the schools to be able to schedule a class.

One advantage to having full-time librarians at each building, he said, is it allows more time for teaching

students about library resources.

ELEMENTARY CLASS sizes will be reduced to 25-30-1 for kindergarten, 25-30-1 for grades one through three, and 25-30-1 for grades four and five.

Educators say lower class ratios encourage more personalized teaching. Students are "going to have a greater chance of success," Shibler said.

Added staff positions and class ratios are based on enrollment projections for fall. Should elementary enrollment rise higher than expected, he said the district could add more staff.

# High school likely to get brick archway

By Casey Hans  
staff writer

The 36-year-old Farmington High School will likely have a brick archway entrance after all.

The archway was originally planned but put on hold several weeks ago when trustees discovered the total renovation and media center project would be nearly \$800,000 more than budgeted by architects Greiner Inc.

The archway represents a total cost of \$53,000, which will likely come from the district's Capital Fund. The plan will use the original dedication stone.

Farmington school trustees have yet to vote on the measure, but during a discussion May 16, most seemed to approve the concept. A vote on spending the additional money will be taken May 31.

"We're trying to get away from the 'cookie cutter' type of front en-

trance we have," said board president Jack Cotton. "That entrance needs help."

The archway was chosen over several other less expensive options proposed by architects. Greiner representative Judy Miller said the project could be completed by fall.

IF APPROVED, the expenditure would take the Capital Fund under its \$1 million balance, deputy superintendent Michael Flanagan told the

board.

Originally started as an \$1 million upgrade to the Farmington High media center, the project was expanded last October to include renovations to the building exterior. A total of \$2.7 million was approved for both projects, which include:

- media center improvements to double the size of the current center, and allow Farmington High to be the focus of high-tech changes in the district. A total \$300,000 for furniture for the center is also included;

- facade renovations including: window treatments, improvements to the entrance, sidewalks and parking lot, landscaping and removal of the school's large smokestack, which is cracked.

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