

C'ville parents urge district consolidation

By Kevin Brown
staff writer

Some Clarencville School District parents told the Board of Education last week they want the district to consolidate with its neighbors.

"The tax money of the Clarencville district would be used more cost-effectively in the neighboring school districts of Livonia and Farmington," Sue Gonzales told the board Thursday.

Gonzales, of Farmington Hills, presented 653 petition signatures. "We've only canvassed 60 percent of

our district," she added. But while Gonzales' comments drew applause from a majority of the more than 100 parents attending the meeting, others applauded comments from parents who said they were against consolidation. "I'm not going to stand and watch a district dissolve that's been a viable district," said Timothy Wiggle of Farmington Hills. "Why did you move in and not know where your kids are going to go to school?"

OUTSIDE THE meeting, at Clarencville Middle School, on Middlebrook south of Eight Mile Road in Livonia, about 50 teachers picket-

ed the board, holding signs reading "Teachers deserve a fair contract now."

Teachers, who have been working under a month-to-month extension of their 1987-88 contract, say they seek pay raises on par with teachers in neighboring districts.

Gonzales told the board the parents group is seeking to have portions of the district south of Eight Mile join the Livonia Public Schools, and the portion north of Eight Mile join the Farmington Public Schools.

Clarencville includes southeast Farmington Hills, northeast Livonia, and northeast Redford. "We sincerely believe you have

done the most with the funds that have been given to you," Gonzales said. "It would lower taxes, help revitalize business areas, and bring new unity to the communities now separated by this district," she said of the consolidation plan.

The school millage rate in Clarencville is 41.4, compared to 33.6 in Livonia and 30.65 in Farmington Hills.

"We are parents and homeowners that simply want what's best for all the homeowners of Clarencville. We ask that each of you follow the wishes of the community."

BUT DIANE Banister of Farmington Hills echoed the sentiments of

other parents who said they wanted the district left intact.

"The man who came down my street getting petitions signed, all he tells me is my taxes are going to be lowered," she said, adding he didn't mention the Michigan property homestead credit by which some homeowners can lower their property tax bills.

Banister and others said their kids get a strong basic education in Clarencville and urged parents to get involved in the schools.

"Why would I want to take in every school problem in Livonia?" asked Sandra Decatur, also against consolidation. "Try going to the

Livonia system and hear your voice heard."

Another parent said she recently moved to Clarencville from the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools where the high school curriculum "reads like a junior college but my daughter had to share books."

WHILE THE board did not vote on the issue, John Shantz, attorney for the district, outlined what must happen for the district to consolidate.

In a letter, board president Richard Wood wrote stated that "based upon our research into this matter from the Michigan General School Laws, boards of education must take the initial steps."

Well-liked postmaster Trombley dies at 87

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Don Dever worked with Trombley from his early days as postmaster, when there were just 5,000-6,000 residents in the city. "I'll swear Henry knew every one of them," he said.

Trombley would come in to supervise at the post office then would visit around town, where he was well-known, Dever said. "He used to come in, then he'd go up and see the boys uptown. He'd get an unofficial account of how the day was going," Dever added.

MOST ALL his co-workers recalled Trombley as a laid-back sort

of guy, both at work and at home. "He liked to go berry-picking," Dever recalled. "He was an old-fashioned farm boy at heart."

He is survived by his wife, Beulah, former municipal court administrator with whom he celebrated 50

years of marriage in 1985; two daughters: Linda Peckham of Farmington and Laura Suberland of Farmington; one son, David Trombley of Farmington; and two grandchildren.

Funeral arrangements were handled through the Thayer-Hook Funeral Home in downtown Farmington.

Police seek red Trans Am

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in Farmington.

After paying for gasoline, the Wayne County man went back to his car, where he found a man sitting on the hood. When told to get off, that man refused. A shoving match followed. The instigator was accompanied by another man.

When the Wayne County man drove off, he was followed by the two men, in a bright-red 1989 Pontiac Firebird Trans Am. Eventually, he lost them. "The next time he saw them was at the firebombing," Murphy said.

After the firebombing, the victim ran inside the factory and called for the police and fire departments to be called. A shop foreman used an extinguisher to put out the fire, which caused about \$3,000 in damage to the Tempo.

The man "was doing business in the area" when he was attacked. But Murphy would not say whether he worked at the factory.

A partially melted plastic jug was found on the rear seat of the Tempo. An intact plastic jug was found on the rear floorboard. Neither jug had a top. The interior of the car reeked of gasoline fumes, police said.

Call tips to the Farmington Hills Police at 473-0654.

Undercover sweep targets liquor sales

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THE ANNOUNCEMENT of the impending crackdown comes after criticism from licensees that the department has been unfair in using underage cadets who try to buy alcohol to monitor adherence to liquor laws.

"The cadets or agents (used in the undercover operation) are not dressed to look any younger or older than they are. They wear attire normally worn by someone that age," Dwyer said.

"The MLCC (Michigan Liquor Control Commission) supports and endorses this type of operation, which are becoming pretty well used throughout the state," Dwyer said.

Licensees will be cited under the state liquor laws as well as local ordinance prohibiting the sale of alcohol to minors.



RANDY BOST/Staff photographer

Mayor Exchange Day

Farmington exchanged with Harper Woods for Mayor Exchange Day on May 24. The exchange was held each May on Government Day during Michigan Week. Above, Downtown Development Authority executive director Wendy Strip Sittler (left) leads a tour of Farmington's central business district for Harper Woods Mayor James Haley, Farmington councilman Ralph Yoder, Jan Haley, Betsy Campbell and Farmington mayor pro tem Arnold Campbell. The group is gathered on the south side of Grand River at

Farmington Road, in front of the Village Mall. Harper Woods officials also visited the city hall, the community center, the public library, the public safety training center and the historical museum. They had lunch at the Batford Inn and dinner at the Huron River Hunting and Fishing Club. Farmington Mayor Richard Tupper, his wife, Donna, councilwoman Shirley Richardson and her husband, John, visited Harper Woods the same day.

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