



# Schools get facelifts

## Repairs, renovations to cost \$4.5 million

By Noreen Fleck  
staff writer

**F**ARMINGTON PUBLIC Schools is spending \$4.5 million this summer on building renovations and cleanup, but classrooms and hallways will shine for students before the first school bells ring.

"The good news is, with the exception of the Farmington High media center, everything is on target," acting superintendent Michael Flanagan said.

Projects for the 10,700-student district include roof repairs, asbestos removal, expansions, renovations and annual maintenance. "This is

more work than we've done in 20 years," Flanagan said. "I see this as the last year or two before financial reform," Flanagan said. "We have been trying to take care of roofs and things now, so that when funding equity comes in, we don't have a roof competing with textbooks. This way, we can do both."

Flanagan, overseeing an \$55-million operating budget for the 1989-90 school year, foresees statewide school finance reform, a program to equalize funding for all Michigan schools.

Out-of-formula school districts like Farmington, which get most of

their money from local taxes, will be the most by any reform measure. Flanagan views finance reform as inevitable but said it will likely be phased in if done through the Legislature.

FARMINGTON HIGH, 36 years old, is undergoing a series of building improvements with \$3.3 million allotted for renovations. Money to pay for this work comes from the sale of district property to Farmington Hills-based Little Caesar Enterprises in 1985.

About \$2.7 million of the \$3.3 million is earmarked to modernize the media center. The new 12,000-square-foot center, doubling the size of the existing center, will be the district's telecommunications hub, eventually linking the district electronically with the community.

Other FHS improvements include revising the lobby area, repaving the pavement of the front parking area, removing the smokestack chimney and installing a satellite-receiving dish on the school roof.

"Education needs an overhaul with the environment as well as technology," said Tina Jensen, Farmington High parent.

"I am really pleased with the improvements the Farmington school system has been making this summer."

"We need to add things like outside landscaping to create a better environment for the kids," she added.

Along with renovations and installations, schools are undergoing their annual "scrub down" before students return.

Cleanup operations include removing glue, gum and tape from desks and floors. Windows and walls were given a bath and floors were stripped, waxed and buffed.

"We just keep smiling," said Joan Bowen, Forest Elementary School secretary, referring to the amount of work that needs to be complete before school starts.

At Forest, \$24,230 is budgeted to expand the main office area and present "a better flowing office for the principal and students," Bowen said.

"The new carpeting in the lobby area will bring warmth into the school," she said.

Asbestos ceiling tiles were removed and replaced with new tiles at North Farmington High, Beechview Elementary, East Middle School and Forest Elementary at a cost of \$250,000.

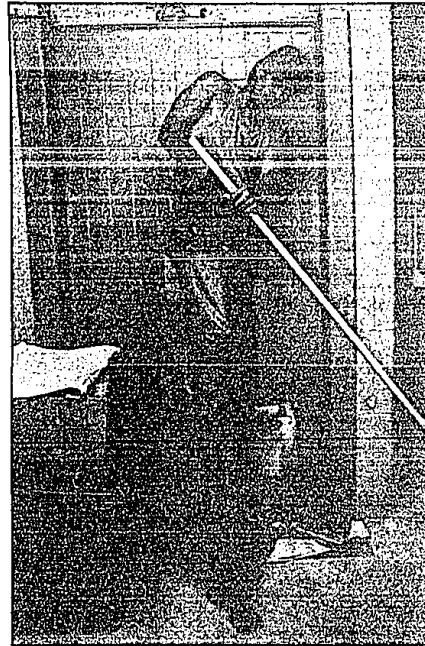
NORTH FARMINGTON received a new \$85,000 roof over the pool area after the 28-year-old roof collapsed near the end of the school year, said Don Cowan, principal.

"We have been greatly under-served since the building was built," Cowan said. "Revamping the guidance center will give more space and make it more confidential and available for university officials and students meetings."

Warner Middle School underwent a \$540,000 roof replacement.

And both the Community Education Center on Shilawassee and Farmington High await new windows, which should be delivered by mid-August at a cost of \$345,000.

A new districtwide phone system was installed July 31. It connects 40

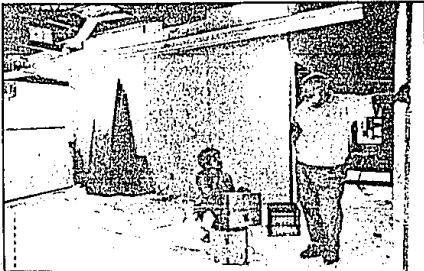


RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Eric Schofield of Northwest Acoustical in Southfield installs molding that will support a new suspended ceiling at Beechview Elementary. He uses stilts to keep him at the proper working level.

offices and schools. Improvements other than the Farmington High work will be paid from the district's general fund. Meanwhile, the new \$7.3 million

westside elementary school, on 11 Mile, east of Halstead, is on target to open in fall 1990. A bond issue approved by voters in January will pay for it.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

North Farmington High's new assistant principal, Jack Lawing, and head custodian, Judy Johnson, check renovation work taking place in the guidance center. This area will have new offices; a conference room will be added.

# Story by Flanders student is published in magazine

Inge-Lise Daessler, a student in Robert McLean's fourth grade class at Flanders Elementary School in Farmington, had this short story published in the August issue of Children's Album, a California-based magazine of children's crafts and creative writings. "Each year, we receive thousands of submissions but publish only a select few," said Kathy Madsen, editor of EGW Publishing in Concord, Calif.

IT WAS a cool morning and I was walking through the woods. There was a gentle breeze blowing my hair back and the air was cool and fresh. I was enjoying the sound of a swallow when there in front of me was a

little mouse wearing a dress. She ran and hid behind a toadstool.

Realizing I wouldn't hurt her, she crept out and sat on top of the toadstool and told me her name was Rita. We met there every day and became good friends. One day she showed me her little village in some old tree stumps by a river. The beds were made of moss and there was a playground made of sticks going around the stumps.

One day Rita didn't come to our toadstool meeting place. I ran to the village looking for her and found her caught in a branch in the river. I ran to help but a little boy mouse was already rescuing her.

Both of them were very tired so I gave them a lift back to the stump.

On the way, the little boy mouse told me his name was Ricky and he was going to marry Rita in a few days.

The next day, I heard on the news that there was a fire burning the woods. I ran as fast as I could to the stump. In a basket, I carried all the village mice to safety at my house. We had Ricky and Rita's wedding at my house and I gave them a feast they will never forget.

It was decided by the village mice that it was too dangerous to have a hunt being around their village. I watched as they all set off for a safe part of the forest and they promised they would come back and visit me some day. I was very sad, but I'll always remember Rita and Ricky and their friends.

# inkwell

Inkwell provides news about Farmington-area primary and secondary students and education issues. The column appears monthly as part of the Observer's "School Page." Send news items to: The School Page, Farmington Observer, 33203 Grand River, Farmington 48024. Include a telephone number where a contact person can be reached during the day. Items will not be taken over the phone.

**MATH STANDOUT**  
Jeffrey Gell of Farmington Hills placed in the top 25 in his grade level in the state mathematics finals at Central Michigan University.  
He is an eighth grade student at Detroit Country Day School, Beverly Hills.

**SCHOOL ACCREDITED**  
The North Central Association accredited Farmington High through the 1988-89 school year, said Gerald Potter, principal.  
"Once in every seven-year cycle, each NCA school must undergo a comprehensive self-study followed by an NCA team visit," Potter said.  
"This school was last evaluated in 1986. In the interim years, a school is accredited on the basis of its report on conditions in the school and on such supplementary information as the North Central Association requests. This continued accreditation means that the conditions for effective education exist in the school."  
The association works with

schools to strengthen education through evaluation and accreditation.

**EARN SCHOLARSHIPS**  
Eastern Michigan University's Office of Financial Aid has selected 275 high school students to receive 1989 Recognition of Excellence Awards.

Among those earning a scholarship were Soya Sullivan of Farmington and Kenneth Morris, Anthony Peruchette and Danny Schester of Farmington Hills.  
Winners of the \$1,000 scholarships must earn a 3.5 grade point average in high school or at a community college and must demonstrate outstanding leadership ability.

**SCIENCE INSTITUTE**  
Reiko Kubota, Brigitte Dery, Kari Kubota, Jennifer Andes and Vipul Panchal, all of Farmington Hills, were among 34 outstanding high school seniors chosen to participate in Lawrence Technological University's 21st annual four-week Summer Science Institute in Southfield.  
They were selected on the basis of academic achievement and interest in the sciences. Participants receive instruction from Lawrence Tech's science laboratories and computer facilities.

**U-M AWARDS**  
The University of Michigan has selected six top high school seniors

from the Farmington area to receive Regents-Alumni Scholar Merit Awards for "outstanding academic achievement, scholarly promise and potential contribution to the University community."

Local winners were Jennifer Monroe, Roberto Devoto, Elizabeth Greenberg, Oren Traub, Yolanda Wu and Adam Welner.

They were nominated for the merit award based on grades, class ranking and test scores. Nominees were interviewed by U-M alumni representatives in their hometown area; final decisions were made by the University Regents-Alumni Award Committee.

Students selected as Regents-Alumni Scholars will receive a \$1,000 scholarship when they enroll in the U-M at Ann Arbor in the fall.

**JOURNALISM STUDY**  
Reaching for excellence at the Ball State University Journalism Workshops, Farmington Hills Mercy High students Julie Jensen, Jennifer Cook, Shelly Soenen, Ellen Peck, Andrea Meck and Susan Broughton participated in a week of study in journalism and photography.  
More than 300 students spent the week in Muncie, Ind., attending classes, lectures and lab sessions. Students obtained skills that assist in producing better publications when they return to their schools in the fall.

M R. J

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