

C'ville trustee makes his mark on school board

By Kevin Brown
staff writer

In his fourth meeting as a Clarenceville School District trustee, Dale Weighill had a chance to assert himself.

Weighill, who at 19 is one of the youngest school board members ever in Michigan, cast the lone dissenting vote on an issue involving a student request.

"She wanted to take a senior class," he explained, adding that while the student is a junior, she carries a 4.0 grade point average. "When I was a sophomore I took a junior class," Weighill said.

But the majority of board members turned down the request, saying that the class was full.

Still, Weighill said, "It really felt good to assert myself."

ASKED if he feels any implied pressure to vote the same on issues as fellow trustees, Weighill said, "I think they want to present a unified picture."

"I think it's better when you have a variety of input."

A University of Michigan-Dearborn student majoring in political science, Weighill was elected to the board in June at age 18.

In his campaign, Weighill said that if elected he would go door to door to get input from residents on issues before the board, and would also talk with teachers and students about board-related issues.

Since taking office, Weighill — a student leader at Clarenceville High, from which he graduated in

people

1988 — has met with high school principal David Simowski and with superintendent Jerry Montecillo several times, and plans to meet with others in the school community as classes start up this fall.

Of Montecillo, Weighill said, "He seems to be what the district needs right now, a people person. He has good relations with the board. He wants to be in the buildings all the time, talking with teachers and students."

LONGTIME TRUSTEE Richard Wood said of Weighill, "He's a very smart individual."

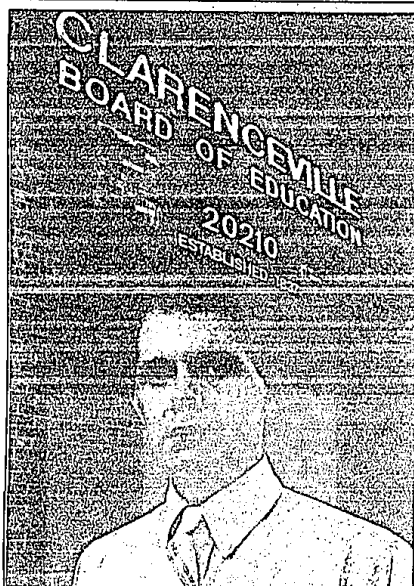
"Dale is a new board member," he said, adding that it could take a year or so for him to feel comfortable on the board.

"I have a good rapport, I'd say, with all the members," Weighill said. "Everybody welcomed me, I think. It's been as good a reception as I could have hoped for."

As to his age, "Nobody's really referring to it anymore, the novelty has worn off . . . My ability is the same as theirs."

While he awaits the start of college classes, Weighill has been working part time at Botsford General Hospital in Farmington Hills in the accounting department.

"People at work always ask me how it's (his board experience)



Dale Weighill has completed his "probation" — 90 days as freshman member of the Clarenceville Board of Education.

going," Weighill said. He has also been working on a Southfield city council campaign this summer.

As a Clarenceville board member, "My goal is to keep gathering as much information and ideas as I can possibly get," Weighill said. "I think it's helpful as a board member."

JIM JAGGELD/staff photographer

Holly woman, 82, dies in car crash

An 82-year-old Holly woman died from injuries sustained in a two-car crash on Grand River, near Orchard Lake Road, Wednesday — the city of Farmington's first traffic death since 1981.

She was a passenger in a car driven by her 83-year-old husband, who was critically hurt in the noon crash. Margit Borghild Nass, 82, died shortly before 1 p.m. Wednesday at Botsford General Hospital, Farmington Hills — less than an hour after the crash. She died of multiple injuries, the Oakland County Medical Examiner said.

Her husband, Eliert, 83, remained in critical condition in the intensive care unit Friday, hospital officials said.

The other driver, Marilyn Ann

Mattson, 53, West Bloomfield, was treated at Botsford, then released.

According to a witness, Nass was eastbound on Grand River, near Sherwood, just west of the Uptown Farmington Plaza, when he braked on rain-slicked pavement and apparently lost control of his car. The car crossed the center left-turn lane and was struck in the passenger door by Mattson's westbound car. Mattson had no time to react.

The collision continues to be investigated. "All the evidence indicates Mr. Nass' car went left of center and was out of control at the time of the accident," said Gary Goss, Farmington Department of Public Safety, deputy director.

Everyone involved was wearing a seatbelt, Goss said.

Injuries are fatal to Hills woman

An 85-year-old Farmington Hills woman was killed in a two-car crash at 12 Mile and Kendallwood Drive at 3 p.m. Thursday. She became the city's third traffic death of the year.

Florence Iva Patterson was a front-seat passenger in a car driven by Jeanette Gehring, 74, both Kendallwood residents.

Patterson was pronounced dead at Botsford General Hospital, Farmington Hills. An autopsy was scheduled for Friday.

Gehring was admitted to Providence Hospital, Southfield, for observation.

The other driver, William H. Smith, 49, of Farmington Hills, was treated at Providence Hospital, then released.

While driving west on 12 Mile, Smith entered the Kendallwood Drive intersection on a green light. Gehring's eastbound car turned to go north on Kendallwood Drive. Smith's car hit Gehring's on the passenger door. It was raining, said Sgt. Ray Cranston of the Farmington Hills Police Department, said.

"Initial investigation indicated Jeanette Gehring attempted a left turn in front of a westbound vehicle. Witnesses indicate the light was green for east-west traffic," Cranston said.

It was not immediately known who was wearing a seat belt. The collision continues to be investigated.

Senior ID photos scheduled

Farmington-area seniors at least age 60 can take advantage of discounts from merchants around the nation through the Oakland Livingstone Human Service Agency senior discount program.

Pictures to be laminated into plastic identification cards will be

taken 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, Oct. 20 at the Farmington Hills Senior Center at Mercy Center, 28800 11 Mile.

Discounts are offered on a variety of items, from dry-cleaning to prescription drugs. Call 478-9147 for more information.

Hillside meeting slated

Farmington-area residents interested in how boundaries will be formed for the new Hillside Elementary School can attend a meeting Thursday to gather information and offer opinions.

The community meeting to discuss possible boundary changes, both for Hillside and how other elementary schools will be affected, is planned 7:30-9 p.m. in the Power Middle School cafeteria, 34740 Rhinwood, Farmington Hills.

This will be the first public meeting of an 18-member parent/school panel appointed this month to review the boundary situation and make recommendations to the school board Dec. 5. Another public meeting will be in November.

On the Elementary Attendance Area Study Committee are representatives from each elementary school in the district, plus three principals and a teacher's representative.

As it gets organized, the panel will be assisted by school/community relations director Pamela O'Malley. Acting as consultants to the committee are resource people from the district, the Oakland Intermediate Schools, Farmington Hills and architects involved in building the new school.

For more information, call the Farmington School/Community Relations Department at 489-3349.

PETITE SHOWING



Meet author/model

Susan Ludwig

September 23

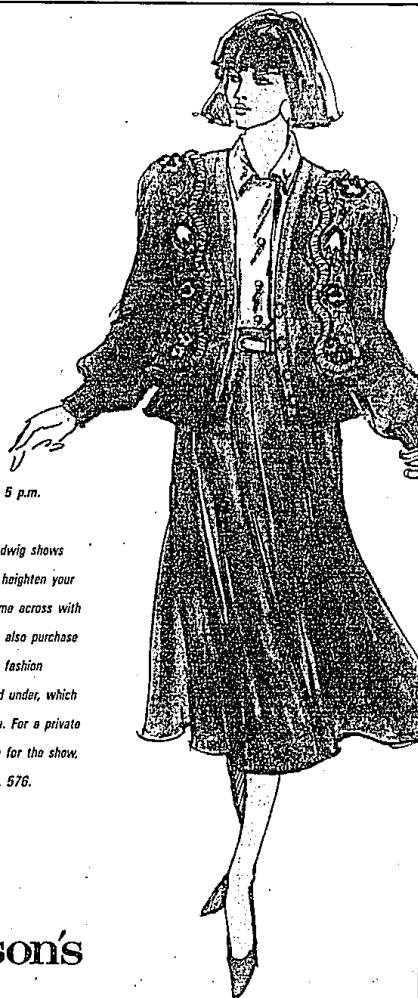
Formal Show, Noon

Autographing, 1-2 p.m.

Consultations, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Petites, Birmingham

Herself a petite, Susan Ludwig shows how fashion can work to heighten your image, enabling you to come across with greater presence. You may also purchase her book "Petite Style," a fashion guide for women 5'4" and under, which she will autograph for you. For a private consultation, or to reserve for the show, please call 644-6900, ext. 576.



ESTATE JEWELRY

Collection Show

September 22

Noon to 8 p.m.

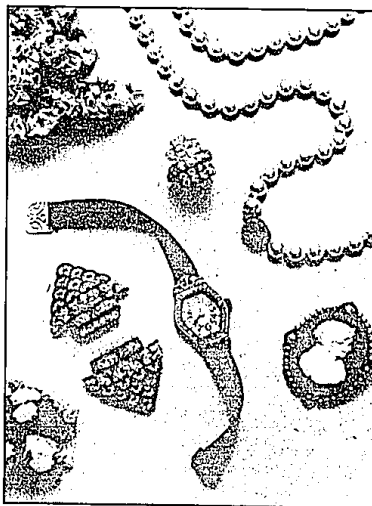
September 23

10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Fine Jewelry Salon

Livonia

Select from a collection of previously owned rings, necklaces, pendants, watches, bracelets, pins, earrings. Each is unique, and enhanced by time.



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