

# Kids count on cutting school trash flow

**By Darrell Clem**  
staff writer

The problem of trash disposal hit home for Ian Cartwright when he learned that his school throws out a million pieces of paper a year.

"Something has got to be done," the Decker Elementary School sixth-grader said. "We need to have stricter laws."

Classmate Brodie Sullivan agreed.

"People are just ruining their own lives by throwing stuff out in the streets."

Cartwright and Sullivan are among 167 students in the Walled Lake School District who have decid-

ed to do something about the trash in their schools. The district includes northwest Farmington Hills.

The pupils — fifth and sixth graders from the gifted and talented program — plan to develop proposals for reducing trash at each of the district's 11 elementary schools.

THEY RESEARCHED the trash problem, then counted trash items at school to obtain estimates on the amount of paper, pencils, cardboard and other garbage, excluding food, that their schools produce in a year's time.

Recently, they attended a seminar at the Walled Lake Outdoor Education Center to hear several experts

## Walled Lake School District

on recycling, landfills, incineration and hazardous wastes offer advice and explain what area communities are doing to reduce trash flow.

Wixom Mayor Henry Mack warned them that U.S. cities are running out of space for trash and that the United States lags far behind other countries, such as Japan, in addressing the trash problem.

Mack also explained pollution problems along the Rouge River.

"There's a very, very beautiful natural resource that runs through many of our communities," he said, adding that efforts to clean up the Rouge could take 20 years.

"People have pulled cars out of their refrigerators out of there and bedsprings — you name it," Mack said.

He also explained how the city of Wixom has developed a drop-off site for recyclable newspapers, glass and

plastics and noted that some communities have curbside pickup programs.

THE STUDENTS, using information from their research and the seminar, plan to return to their individual schools and develop long-range plans for reducing trash flow, said teacher Sue Melien. Melien, along with cohort Sandy Bell, travels to each elementary school to provide special instruction to gifted and talented students.

Melien said some pupils already are planning projects in which trash from their schools would be taken to recycling centers. Others hope to "turn trash into art and make sculp-

tures for the schools."

The various school groups also intend to develop comparison studies to show how much trash each school produces. In coming months, the students will determine which schools are making greater strides toward reducing the trash flow.

Some have shown an interest in developing brochures outlining trash-reduction tips, while others have indicated that they want to lobby state and local officials for tougher legislation on trash.

Melien said the project eventually is expected to help the school district save some of the money it spends to dispose of trash.

## Postmaster recommends early mailing

It's that time of the year again, and the holidays will soon be here. The Postal Service wants to assure delivery of every package and card by Saturday, Dec. 23.

"We ask your cooperation in mailing early so we can achieve that goal," said Farmington postmaster Kenneth Harris.

Your holidays will be more enjoyable if you:

- Prepare and mail your Christmas cards by Dec. 11. Envelopes must be a minimum of 3 1/4 inches high by 5 inches long. A surcharge is made if they exceed 6 1/4 inches high or 11 1/2 long.
- Write legibly. Include the ZIP Code in the outgoing and return address.
- Include your name and address on a slip on the inside of all parcels, as well as putting it on the outside. You do not need to wrap boxes in paper.
- Close all parcels securely with the following recommended tapes: pressure sensitive, reinforced paper tapes, reinforced pressure sensitive. Please do not use cellophane or masking tape, or tie packages with cord.

Christmas stamps are now on sale at the Farmington and Farmington Hills offices.

Festal products make wonderful gifts. Ask the window clerk about inexpensive stamp collecting kits, Harris said.

## Donations sought for holiday meal delivery

"I'm an older widow. As of now I'm OK, but no one knows what the future will be."

The thought of an elderly person without a Christmas meal makes me sad. I'm in my seventies but feel fortunate for being able to share a Christmas at my daughters. Would like to send more, but I'm on a fixed income. Please use this small check to

feed someone who needs a warm Christmas dinner."

Last Christmas these touching comments were received along with contributions to Holiday Meals-On-Wheels, a program sponsored by the Area Agency on Aging 1-B.

The first program of its kind in Southeastern Michigan, Holiday Meals-On-Wheels serves the most

fragile, isolated elderly people. Recognizing that depression and isolation are major concerns, meals are delivered by volunteers who take time to chat with each senior. Supplementing the government-funded, Monday through Friday meal program, Holiday Meals-On-Wheels is funded through private donations.

According to Sandra Reminga, executive director of AAA 1-B, "The

generosity of the public has been outstanding. Several projects have been undertaken to raise funds for Holiday Meals-On-Wheels. Walk-a-thons and raffish have become annual events for some organizations. Holiday Meals-On-Wheels is the community's gift back to its older citizens."

Contributions should be sent to: Holiday Meals-On-Wheels, Area Agency on Aging 1-B, 29508 Southfield Road, Southfield 48067.

Those wishing to deliver meals should call 569-0333, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The Area Agency on Aging 1-B (AAA 1-B) serves older adults residing in Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair and Washtenaw counties.

## Job Fair draws graduates from all around Michigan

The Michigan Collegiate Job Fair at Oakland Community College/Orechar Ridge Campus in Farmington Hills was a winner for everyone.

Almost 2,000 graduates from 51 four-year colleges and universities throughout the state got together with 130 companies offering entry-level professional positions.

The "super-market" Job Fair, co-sponsored by Eastern Michigan and Wayne State universities, proved to be a resource for students and employers and got rave reviews from both.

Here's what a sampling of participating employers and students had to say.

• Michele Rutan, Lady Footlocker, Sterling Heights: "I love the fair. It's great — a good opportunity to

meet lots of people with potential."

• Sandra Spencer, Amco Department Store, Rocky Hill, Conn.: "Great job — well organized. The fair is very cost effective for both employers and students."

• Don Reese, Ford Motor Co., Dearborn: "It was a very busy day for us — we met with many quality students."

• Nicole Granzo from Wayne State University: "I couldn't believe the positive feedback from many

employers. Best opportunity I've had."

• Kevin Crawley from Central Michigan University: "Very beneficial — you have the opportunity to talk to different employers and get your feet wet."

Representatives from the college and university placement offices hosted the fair's "Help Booth" to lend support to students. The spring Job Fair will be March 30.

Men, if you're about to turn 18, it's time to register with Selective Service at any U.S. Post Office.

It's quick. It's easy. And it's the law.

## campus pipeline

If you have news from a college, university or other campus of higher education — and there's no Farmington-area connection — we'd like to hear from you so we can share your news item with other Farmington Observer readers. Send items to: Campus Pipeline, Farmington Observer, 32023 Grand River, Farmington 48024.

• NEW VP  
Matthew Brauer of Farmington Hills serves as vice president for the Student Government Association at Central Michigan University.

The association links students and the administration. Members are elected by students.

The organization offers experience in group representation, communications, legislative affairs, consumerism and organizational development.

Brauer is a senior majoring in po-

litical science. He is a Redford Township Catholic Central High School graduate.

• AT ALBION  
Michael FitzPatrick of Farmington and James Ehlers of Farmington Hills are enrolled for the fall semester at Albion College.

FitzPatrick is a graduate of Catholic Central High School in Redford Township. Ehlers is a graduate of Farmington High School.

• BOOK AWARDS  
Steven Eskin of Farmington Hills is one of four Grinnell College second-year students to receive a Phi Beta Kappa Book Award from the Beta of Iowa Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa.

Eskin is a North Farmington high graduate. Grinnell College is in Grinnell, Iowa.

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Meet Shelli Smith and others during an admissions open house on Thursday, Nov. 30, 7-9:30 p.m. at the Troy Hilton.

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