

Community Corner

This week's question: If the Farmington and Farmington Hills city councils are cablecast, would you watch the televised meetings and why?

We asked this question at the Kendallwood Shopping Center and the Farmington Crossroads Shopping Center.



"Probably not, except we're getting ready to sell our house and I would be interested in hearing what they have to say on the drainage problem."
— Valeria May
Farmington Hills



"No, I'm not a big news type of a person."
— Martin Cohen
Farmington Hills



"Probably not. I'm not interested. I only watch things that are entertaining."
— Patricia Taylor
Farmington Hills



"I want to say I would because I should. I would be more interested if it (the discussion) is about the area I live in. I would probably watch. It's an option cable can give you."
— Carol Dehna
Farmington Hills



"I certainly would watch occasionally. I'm interested."
— Phil Hickey
Farmington Hills



"I don't know. I haven't found anyone in Farmington Hills worth watching. I don't watch much television. I have other things to do."
— Don Allen
Farmington Hills

Gifted committee slates March report

By Casey Hane
staff writer

A committee has nearly completed a review of gifted education in the Farmington Public Schools. It is expected to bring a final recommendation for program changes to the school board in mid-March.

"I don't think anyone has looked at gifted education in this district, in this way, for a very long time," said assistant superintendent Mary Lou Ankele, who supervises the program in Farmington. "We hope to be able to come back to the board by March 20."

The group offered an interim re-

port Tuesday night and asked board members to share their feelings on the gifted issue. Gifted education was thrust into the spotlight last spring as a major administrative change to the program was on the verge of being implemented.

At that time, board members said they wanted a study before they would approve any changes.

"I would like to see a program that very clearly works," trustee James Abernethy stressed Tuesday. "Not just a paper program. Pick something that really does challenge these kids — not just gives lip service to that."

JANICE ROLNICK, head of the board's curriculum committee and longtime proponent of gifted education reform, said multiple offerings are a key to meeting individual needs.

"As a parent of a gifted child who did not make it in our system, there is no one solution," she said. "I feel you have to offer a lot of different things, because our gifted students have a lot of different needs."

In 1987, the district renamed its gifted department DELTA — an acronym for Differentiated, Enrichment, Leadership, Talent and Ability. Though pull-out programs for gifted students continued, skills com-

monly used in a gifted program were integrated into the general classroom.

Then, a proposal last April to shift gifted education to the supervision of the curriculum area and to eliminate four gifted coordinator positions at the secondary level was halted by the school board, which requested the current study.

THE STUDY committee has been co-chaired by Barbara Rebbeck, a DELTA coordinator and parent Robert Kopicko. The group has met six times since September to discuss the program and research trends in gifted education.

The mid-March proposal is expected to have a single recommendation, but it could have several facets for the board to consider, Ankele said.

Some board members said Tuesday they were concerned that students not be unduly pressured if they are labeled "gifted."

"Whatever program is selected, it should be easier for kids to move out of it if it's not meeting their needs," said trustee Susan Renick. She said a program is also needed for students who suddenly become exceptional in one particular subject.

ROLNICK SAID part of the process will be to "bring an awareness (to Farmington) of what giftedness really is."

Superintendent Michael Flanagan said the gifted study also ties into other major studies being done in the district: one on secondary curriculum, another on building usage, a decision on curriculum for Hillside Elementary slated to open this fall and final recommendations for the program at Highmeadow Common Campus as the two-year pilot program comes to an end in June.

"Those four things are very inter-related," Flanagan added.

police/fire calls

Listed below are some of the Farmington-area police incidents, fire calls and court cases reported during the past week:

• Cars targeted

One car was stolen and four others were damaged at Fairmont Park Apartments, at Nine Mile and Drake, in Farmington Hills Feb. 1-2. A 1989 Pontiac Bonneville valued at \$19,000 was stolen. A glass roof valued at \$800 was stolen from a 1986 Chevrolet Corvette. Car phones were taken from two cars and a radar detector from one car.

Damage was listed at \$300 when a side window was smashed on a 1988 Pontiac Grand Prix.

The incidents took place between 6 p.m. Feb. 1 and noon Feb. 2, according to Farmington Hills police reports.

• Vandals strike

Three cars parked in the teachers lot at Harrison High School, 29955 12 Mile, were vandalized Feb. 3-4. Damage was estimated at \$400 when the windshield and headlights were cracked on a 1977 Buick Century.

Damage was estimated at \$300 when the passenger windows were taken on a 1978 Ford Thunderbird. The radio was taken.

Damage was estimated at \$450 when the windshield, headlights and four windows were damaged on a 1978 Buick Regal. The radio was taken, according to Farmington Hills police reports.

• Cocaine seized

A 29-year-old Brighton man faces a felony charge after a baggie of crack cocaine was found in his possession while a suspicious car was

investigated behind Your Cleaners, 29571 Orchard Lake Road, at 5:20 a.m. Saturday, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

• Assault alleged

A 29-year-old Farmington Hills man faces assault charges in connection with a fight at a house party on Pearl early Sunday.

During the fight, a 30-year-old man was cut on the arm with a piece of broken glass and a 19-year-old man was bitten on the shoulder.

The suspect is charged with felonious assault, a 4-year felony, and assault and battery, a 90-day misdemeanor, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

• Shotgun blasts

Damage was estimated at \$400 when three shotgun blasts struck the north wall and wood fence at Motel

6, 38300 Grand River, Sunday night.

Officers were investigating to determine if a man who left in a huff after being asked to leave his rented room was involved in the incident. The man was asked to leave after sneaking three trays into the room, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

• Powder seized

A 17-year-old Detroit man was arrested for possessing narcotics, paraphernalia and violating the controlled substance act when rolling papers and a white crystal powder were found in a car during a traffic stop in Farmington Hills Monday night, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

• Thefts reported

A gas grill valued at \$250 was reported stolen from the rear deck of a

house on Fernhill, Farmington Hills, Feb. 2-4.

Five doors valued at \$2,000 were reported stolen from a house under construction on Broadview, Farmington Hills, Feb. 3-5.

A color TV and a VCR valued at \$550 were reported stolen from the conference room at Daisy/Danotix, Inc., 32000 Northwestern Highway, Farmington Hills, Feb. 3-5.

A 1985 Chevrolet S-10 pickup valued at \$15,000 was reported stolen from Inverary Condos on 12 Mile, Farmington Hills, Feb. 4-5. It was recovered in Detroit. The wheels, tires and radio were missing and the steering column was punched.

A microwave oven valued at \$570 was reported stolen from a home under construction on Misty Pines at Woodland Pines Condos, Farmington Hills, Feb. 4-5.

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