

# Business challenged

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Citing a survey of community and business concerns, he said despite sewers, infrastructure and other problems, education is at the top of the list. "You know what the number one problem is? Education," Costick said. "It's critical."

Flanagan did not give high marks to current "adopt-a-school" programs and other projects in which businesses give money to school districts.

He suggested, instead, mentorship programs or programs such as retailers awarding high academic achievers with product discounts. He also asked business people to continue participating in the cooperative

**'The rest of the world is exploding with democracy and freedom. We have to be sure we're not sitting back taking ours for granted.'**

— Michael Flanagan  
school chief

education program sponsored by Farmington and many other districts.

IT WILL take a community effort

to help children along, and bring them into adulthood with a productive work ethic, Flanagan said.

"In education, we're going to start talking about outcomes," he said. "It's not what we put in, it's how the students come out."

"We affect eternity — we really do. But right now, our ambition is to affect the next 10 years. I promise, I'll do my best to make sure we do that in Farmington."

While encouraging community participation in education, Flanagan offered to come to local business and civic groups to speak on school issues. He said several business people had already approached him after the session.



Michael Flanagan

# Hills tougher on drug abusers

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

"Do drugs. Do time." Farmington Hills police are following that notion with a five-month-old program that turns the spotlight on drug users.

It has resulted in the arrests of 69 people.

In the past, when police found someone with drugs, a ticket was issued and the drugs were confiscated.

"Now all people are arrested even with a small, minute amount. They are taken to the station, fingerprinted, photographed and their car is seized," said Farmington Hills police Chief William Dwyer.

Forfeiture proceedings, allowed under state and federal law, are initiated when people are arrested for possessing any type of illegal drug, other than marijuana.

IF CONVICTED, users serve their sentences in Oakland County Jail or are forced to attend a rehabilitation program. The users pay for the program Dwyer said.

"It's time we looked at people who are actually using drugs and hold them accountable for their use. This city is very active, very concerned about the narcotics problem," said Dwyer.

The city's version of the Phoenix, Ariz., program began in October 1989 with the assignment of detec-

tive Patrick Monti, formerly a member of the Oakland County Narcotics Enforcement Team, to the program.

In addition to 69 arrests, police have impounded 25 vehicles and began 14 forfeiture proceedings. More than \$10,000, five vehicles, two cellular phones, seven beeper pages and seven watches are subject to forfeiture.

The following drugs and paraphernalia have been seized:

- One rock of crack cocaine; three paper fold cocaine.
- Forty-two Baggies of marijuana; 98 roaches (left-over pieces of marijuana cigarettes); 28 marijuana plants, 1 film container of marijuana.
- Four bottles of methadone.
- One-half ounce of heroin.

## Tip Hotline

Farmington Hills' Drug Tip Hotline is 473-9699. It's answered 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The hotline provides a secure method of reporting information concerning criminal activity.

The information may concern possible drug houses, chop shops or individuals who may be responsible for crimes already committed or about to be committed.

Still call 9-1-1 when reporting crimes or emergencies in progress, police Chief William Dwyer advises.

# Hillside School behind schedule

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"BASED ON his (the consultant's) top-level, realistic assessment of where we are, he feels only a portion of the building would be available for student occupancy," said trustee James Abernethy, who heads the board's Building and Site Commit-

tee. "I believe the vast majority of the classroom spaces will be ready."

But Abernethy said he could not be sure whether any of the school could be occupied, or exactly how students would be handled because of the change. School administrators are expected to work out a contingency plan for students and present it to the board.

Several weeks ago, superintendent Michael Flanagan had said a contingency plan would involve keeping the new Hillside Elementary pupils together at a different school sites, or in portable classrooms, until they could be moved into the new building.

ALTHOUGH THE bricks and mortar-type work will be completed on as originally scheduled, things such as carpeting, doors, painting, ceilings, a kitchen area and gymnasium floor will still need to be done after school opens, according to the new schedule, dated March 14.

The areas that will need work are the building's west end, which in-

cludes the gymnasium, cafeteria and music rooms, and in portions of the center of the building, which include the media center and some classrooms for grades three through five.

The building's east end for grades kindergarten through two will be completed, though the district would have to obtain temporary occupancy permits before using that section.

"There is no certainty the fire marshal will approve a partial occupancy," said Abernethy. "But I'm willing to go on the record and say it has been done. It's a very real possibility."

BOTH THE early childhood wing on the east and the gymnasium/cafeteria wing on the west are stand-alone structures that could be blocked off for either occupancy or construction, Abernethy added.

Project manager McCarthy said the occupancy issue is currently under review, but no final decision has been made. McCarthy represents the joint venture of McCarthy and Smith of Redford and E & V, Inc. of Hol-

land, which is coordinating the project.

A senior vice president from E & V made the report to the school board last week after walking the site and revising the completion schedule.

TRUSTEE SUSAN Rennels said although she didn't like the situation, she was not surprised by it.

"Given the weather and how new construction usually goes, and the fact that we are being careful to see that the quality of the work is right, I'm not surprised," she said. "I'm disappointed, but not surprised."

Abernethy also said the change in schedule did not surprise him, but he is hoping construction managers will come back to the board by the end of March with an alternative timetable that includes overtime work.

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## Former governor to be profiled

"Politics of the Progressive Era" is the title of a sketch of the life of Farmington's only governor, Fred M. Warner.

The sketch will be presented before the Detroit Association of Phi Beta Kappa 4 p.m. Sunday, April 1, in the Farmington Historical Mu-

seum — the Governor's Mansion, 33805 Grand River.

Presenter Joan Fox is the biographer of Gov. Warner and a longtime member of Phi Beta Kappa. Farmington Hills' mayor, she's also a long-time local historian.

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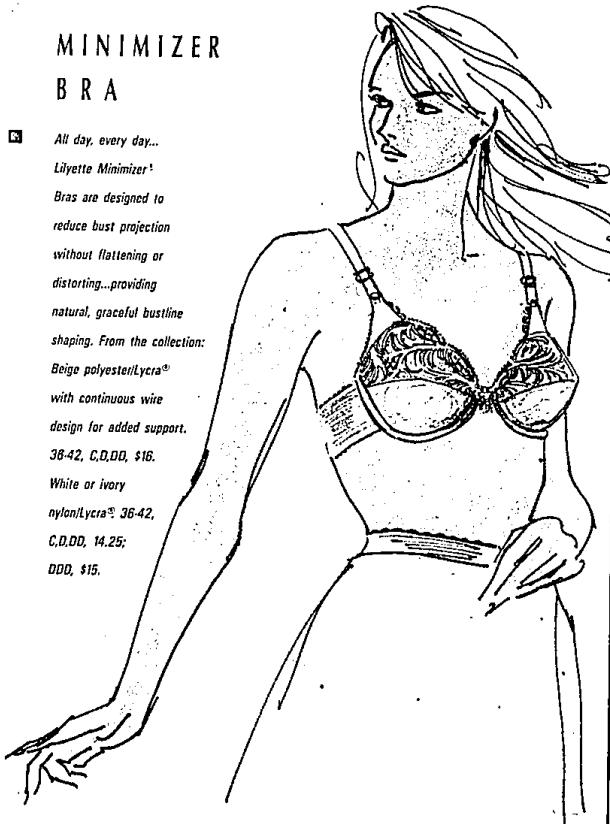
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