

Alternative schooling aids troubled students

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Huron Valley Schools, it will be fully funded by the state. There will be space for it this year at FTC, because a program for the trainable mentally impaired formerly housed there is being moved to a location in the community.

Six teachers, some with alternative education experience, will work in the alternative program. Coordinating it is Dianne Duthie, who worked with the Marillac Hall program for pregnant teens for the past eight years. She hopes to open a new world for this new group of students.

"Even though they're very bright kids, they have not done as well in a traditional classroom," she said. "There are a lot of things that will open to them, if they can see what's offered."

"I think they've been really needy in school. They've been crying out." Students were referred to the program by counselors, school social workers and principals. Klenzner said they received about 125 referrals — much more than the program could hold. There are already six students on the waiting list for the winter semester, who won't be 18 until this fall, Duthie said, and she is receiving several calls a day from those who want to enroll.

To be accepted into the program, students had to submit applications and go through personal interviews. The student population is about evenly mixed between male and female and represents all three Farmington public high schools.

THE PROGRAM is designed to help students with a variety of special needs, including those with academic and tardiness problems, substance abuse problems, some who are pregnant or are young parents, and others who just cannot cope in a traditional high school environment.

Students who have dropped out of school also are eligible for the program.

Some students accepted into the first year of this program were previously in the district's gifted program, Duthie said. Several others are teen parents from Louise Hall at the St. Vincent and Sara Fisher Center in Farmington Hills.

The new alternative program will not replace the one at Marillac Hall, which also serves pregnant girls younger than 18.

Students in the alternative program will receive a core curriculum including: algebra, geometry, business math, English literature and journalism, art, biology and general science, history and American government and computer keyboarding and programming. Students also hope to publish a student newspaper and yearbook. If they choose, they can attend the Oakland Technical Center for vocational training for part of the day.

Field trips and speakers will also be part of the curriculum and students will be encouraged to get involved in their community by helping with Thanksgiving baskets or sponsoring a needy child or family, Duthie said. Job shadowing and similar efforts will also be encouraged.

Duthie said she hopes the program can help more students in future years.

"I'm hoping to expand it little by little each year," she said. "Even though there's only a three percent dropout rate here — that's still too much."

Klenzner stressed that student input is key. "It's important... they have some ownership to the program," she said. "We don't want to have everything wrapped up in a nice, neat little package with a bow on it."

"They need to get involved in the decision-making."

6 file for 4 Hills council seats

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Candidates have until 4 p.m. Friday, to withdraw their names from the running and avoid having their names placed on the official November ballot.

Bates was elected in 1989 to a two-year term to fill the remaining two years of former councilman Joe Alkateh's four-year term. Alkateh resigned.

"I think I've done a good job. I've been responsible. I've never missed a meeting or a study session," Bates said.

Bates, a legislative aide for Republican state Rep. Jan Dolan of Farmington Hills, said listening is the most important tool of city council work. She says she also spends time studying the issues before the council.

"It (an issue) may be only 5-6 minutes on the agenda, but it can have a lifelong impact on people's lives," Bates said.

SEVER is SEEKING election to a third term on the city council. He has served six years — one two-year term, and the four-year term he is now completing — one as mayor.

"There's a lot of things I initiated and that we've given direction on that I would like to see completed," Sever said. If elected, Sever, said he will try to do a better balancing act with his family, business and politics.

"I am going to run on my record of performance. If it's not good enough, I will show," Sever said.



Terry Seiver



Nancy Bates



Lawrence Lichtman

Sowerby, who has a Birmingham law practice, was appointed to the city council in April 1989 to fill the remaining time of councilman Alkateh's term until the November 1989 election, which he lost to Bates.

"The whole reason I'm running... I really do feel city is lacking in leadership on the city council. And I believe I can fulfill that function," said Sowerby, a former ZBA and parks and recreation member.

Smith, Oliverio and Lichtman were unavailable for comment.

Council members earn an annual \$1,800. The mayor, elected by the council, earns \$2,700.

'In a democracy, it becomes every citizen's duty to share the burdens and successes of self-government. That's why I believe in limitation of terms. These four years have been my contribution. Now it's someone else's turn.'

— Jean Fox
Hills councilwoman

Public can talk to Edison at council's open forum

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Costick said the Sept. 4 meeting will be a good time to see what Edison is doing in Farmington Hills to improve service and what still needs to be done.

Detroit Edison officials said the utility is spending more than \$3.5 million this year to improve service and reliability for customers in Farmington, Farmington Hills, Novi, West Bloomfield and Commerce Township.

The improvements include a \$3 million transmission line to supply power to a new transformer at Detroit Edison's Drexel substation. The substation is at 12 Mile and Drake roads. Its capacity is being expanded

from four to eight circuits. Lines in the area also are being constructed and replaced.

"We are increasing the substation's capacity, which means increased reliability of service to 7,700 customers served by circuits originating at the Drexel substation," said Maurice Vermeulen, manager of Edison's Oakland division.

"By this fall, we will double the number of circuits coming from the substation and reduce the number of customers per circuit. This will enable Detroit Edison to isolate problems faster and when problems do occur, they will affect fewer customers."

Customers are being transferred to three of the four new circuits this month and others will be placed on

the fourth circuit this fall.

Edison also spent more than \$250,000 to upgrade power lines along Haggerty, between 14 and 15

Mile roads. Almost as much is being spent on a new section of line along Drake, between 14 and 15 Mile road. It's to be completed this fall.

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