

School vandalism up more than 300 percent

Incidents at school renovation projects during the 1990 school year made up much of the vandalism and theft in the Farmington Public Schools.

Recent reports to the school board show such incidents increased more than 300 percent over the previous year.

A total of \$38,600 in damage was reported with about \$22,700 of that covered by insurance. The balance was paid by the district in deductibles, maintenance and other miscellaneous costs. Eighty-eight incidents at 15 buildings were reported, with 50 of those requiring work by the district's maintenance staff. Much of the damage was to win-

dows and other glass, and the majority was done at Farmington High School, "despite on-site security," according to Betal Rothrock, director of business support services for the district.

Although figures show vandalism and theft increased tremendously during the past year, 10-year averages for similar incidents shows an annual damage rate of about \$34,700 for the district. And the 1989-90 year had the lowest rate in the 10-year period, about \$9,300. The highest year for such incidents was in 1985-86, when \$91,500 in damage was reported.

SOME HIGHLIGHTS of the re-

port included:

- Forest and William Grace elementary schools, Fairview Early Childhood Center and the district's maintenance facility had no damage reported during the year.
- Farmington High School had 12 incidents, followed by Flinders with 11. Other schools had scattered incidents numbering less than 10.

- The largest dollar losses were at Farmington High with \$14,300, Dunckel Middle School with \$5,300, and Kenbrook Elementary with \$4,500. Highmeadow and Longacre elementary schools and Harrison High School all had more than \$2,000 in damage reported.

Plans prepare for sledding hill

Last year's operation of a community sledding hill is expected to continue and involve all three local units of government.

The hill, owned by the Farmington Public School District and located behind the district's central office, will also involve staff from the cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills as a community effort.

An agreement approved by the school board recently requests that:

- Appropriate laws be passed so that Farmington's public safety de-

partment can enforce a 10 p.m. closing time on the hill and issue citations for trespassing.

- The school district will pay for fencing, straw bales, bumpers and materials necessary to maintain the hill. The district will also inspect the hill to assure the materials remain in place.

- The Hills will provide an adult attendant at the hill as deemed appropriate by the city's parks and recreation department. The cost of the attendant will be shared equally by

all three units.

The agreement calls the sledding hill "a valuable public resource which has been used by community residents for many years" and said the units desire to keep the hill operating "so long as it can be accomplished in a reasonably prudent manner."

This is the first formal agreement between the public bodies regarding the hill, after safety and liability concerns last year nearly closed it down. The agreement may be terminated with notice.

Hazardous waste

Special collection day is scheduled

The following information is provided by the Farmington Department of Public Safety, which incorporates both fire and police protection for residents of the city of Farmington. Residents or business people with questions, concerns or suggestions should contact the department at 473-7252.

Another Hazardous-Waste-Disposal Day is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 12, at the 47th District Court parking lot, when Farmington and Farmington Hills residents can rid their households of paints, insecticides and other items which need special handling.

Farmington Fire Marshal Joe Schornack suggests residents recycle as many harmful substances as possible. Chemicals put into landfills can erode protective lin-

ers and enter local groundwater.

Some information on the four categories of substances which can be brought to the hazardous waste collection day in October:

- **Reactive products** — these can react with air, water or other chemicals with dangerous results. An example is calcium hypochlorite, a swimming pool chemical which can be explosive when put with paint or kerosene.

- **Corrosives** — these strong acids can eat away at other substances. They include bleach and drain openers.

- **Ignitable products** — gasoline and furniture polish can both pose fire hazards if improperly stored or used.

- **Toxic products** — these can be poisonous, can pollute the environment and insecticides. They include herbicides and insecticides.



Waste Management Co., which handles the city's rubbish disposal and curbside recycling program, will also handle the items on Oct. 12, Schornack said. The 47th District Court is on 10 Mile east of Farmington Road.

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