



photos by SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

## Quite a find

Little Maryanne Bratcher, who is 4½, has a sharp eye for finding treasures in piles of dirt. She found this horseshoe last week while exploring some dirt piles at a road construction site near 9 Mile and Halsted. She didn't want to give it up to a historical society, despite her mother's suggestion. She just wanted to keep the good-luck horseshoe. So Jean Fox, Farmington Hills city councilwoman and amateur historian, is going to the Maryanne's house to look at the horseshoe and see whether it's old or valuable. Maryanne's mother, Denise, explained, "Even if it's not old or valuable, it's still good luck for Maryanne."

## All schools enriched

The Farmington Public Schools after-school enrichment programs now includes all 13 elementary school buildings. Saturday morning programs have been added at Farmington High School.

"Many parents called us last year and asked that their schools be included," said Terry Leland, director of children's community education for the district.

Classes vary from academic enrichments to fun classes such as martial arts and pre-teen modeling. Classes begin either the week of Sept. 23 or Oct. 1. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis.

In the Saturday morning lineup at Farmington High School are classes called Computer Whiz Kids, Poet Winner and Treasures from Trash.

### Other classes

- Combination Dance — Jazz, tap, ballet and tumbling. Taught by Dennis McVitties' "That's Dance" instructors. No costumes or rehearsals are required.

- Computer Whiz Kids — Learn and BASIC as well as keyboard skills taught.

- Creative Drama Workshop — Self-expression promoted through theater activities such as acting, interpretation, improvisation and body movement.

- Cartoon Creations — A professional cartoonist demonstrates. Children also learn to create their own cartoons.

- Dancing in the '90s — "Come Touch This." Learn the dancing of the hottest stars.

- Elementary Geometry — Draw circles and measure angles in a beginning class. A mobile project in the class.

- Junior Great Books — Improves critical thinking, vocabulary, and reading enjoyment.

- Mighty Mights Martial Arts — Trains children in non-violent, creative behavior. Taught by C. Bone's Academy.

- Petite Gourmets — Kids make healthy snacks and learn food safety and preparation, then eat their creations.

- Pottery Potpourri — Children explore several techniques to make clay objects such as animal sculptures, wind chimes, clowns, fish and pinch pots.

For more information, call 353.3333.

## Farmington High teachers team up for better learning

By Casey Hans  
staff writer

Veteran Farmington High English teacher Margie Gagnik said she feels like a novice again, often working straight through her lunch hour preparing for class.

It's all part of a new concept called "block scheduling" or "team teaching" being piloted at Farmington High School by a group of five veteran teachers, who are combining English and social studies into a full morning of learning for 60 sophomores. Between them, Gagnik, English teacher John Barrett, special education consultant Bob Rodger and social studies teachers Bruce Brown and Jerry Young have 104 years of classroom experience they bring to the project.

Although it has meant more work, the teachers say they find it exciting to try something new.

"I thought for years that English and history were so close," said Gagnik. "That's why I got involved. It's like being a first-year teacher again," Gagnik and Brown first talked about it, then the other teachers got involved.

BROWN SAID he was enjoying it, though some days the program can be overwhelming. "I like the flexibility and being able to bounce things off my colleagues," he said. "All told, I think it's worth the work."

"It's nice to be working with colleagues — it's nice to be part of the team," Young added.

The students are also adjusting to the new classroom mode, staffers said. There is a mix of student ability, including a number of students with disabilities. The program has

**'It knocks down the belief system that those in the system a long time are not willing to take risks.'**

— Judith White  
assistant superintendent

been especially rewarding for those students. "It kind of fires them up," Rodgers said.

The team teaching concept was selected from recommendations in a Secondary Study report, in which Farmington Public Schools staff studied various options for both middle school and high school over a two-year period.

A similar team teaching program is being planned by some Harrison High School faculty members to begin next fall. And, at North Farmington, plans for a mentorship program are being made.

Barrett, who chaired the high school portion of the secondary study, said the new ideas allow the staff to be creative. "They feel like they are a part of a pioneer effort," he said.

At Farmington High, the program includes some segments with the larger group, plus smaller, 15-person seminars, classes, where individual teachers work on writing skills, and have more in-depth discussions. Students are also expected to work on projects both individually and in teams.

On a recent field trip, for example, students hiked to Heritage Park to try out orienteering skills and

learn about teamwork.

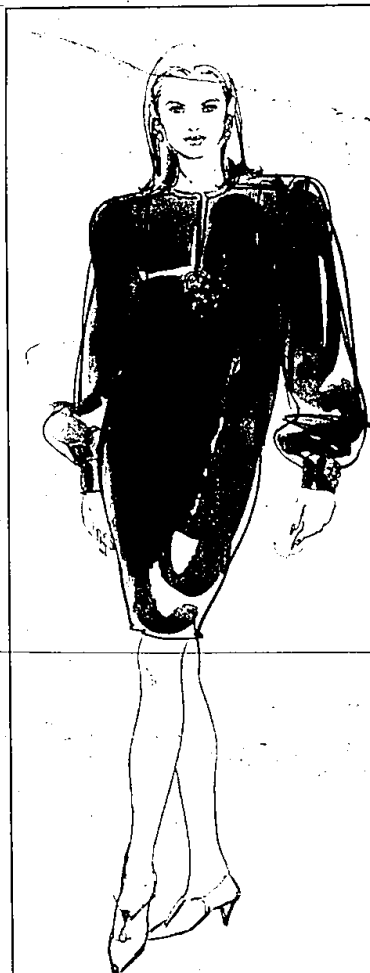
Another recent assignment, "Writing the Persuasive Essay on a Social Studies Topic" linked writing and analytical skills to history and issues of racial bigotry. First, students viewed the movie "Glory," then wrote an essay arguing about the use of black soldiers and racial prejudice. Students were graded on the clarity of their ideas, sentence structure and vocabulary, the strength of their arguments.

BECAUSE OF cutbacks in the district, teachers have not been given additional conference time for the program, so squeeze their meetings into their only conference hour and sometimes their lunch hour. This conference period must also be used to prepare for traditional, afternoon classes the teachers handle.

Judith White, assistant superintendent for curriculum and staff development, said she realizes time is a problem and is pleased the teachers moved forward with the program. She is especially happy that a group of veteran teachers chose to participate.

"I think it's wonderful," she said. "It knocks down the belief system that those in the system a long time are not willing to take risks. They are the ones who have the confidence in themselves to bit something off and make it work."

They get rejuvenated. White said she would eventually like to see the program spread into the math, computer and science areas. They plan to evaluate all the programs culled from the secondary study to determine their impact on the students and their learning.



LIZ CLAIBORNE

PETITE DRESS

COLLECTION

SHOW

Friday, September 27  
11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Formal Show at Noon  
Livonia

Saturday, September 28  
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Formal Show at 1 p.m.  
Birmingham

Meet Lori Sacchetti of  
Liz Claiborne who will present  
the fall and holiday  
collection of career, social  
and weekend silhouettes  
Shown, blue rayon satin  
chemist 2P14P, 5144

"Get  
to Know the  
Feeling"

Jacobson's

NOW OPEN SUNDAYS

We welcome In-Store Charge, MasterCard, VISA® and American Express®  
Shop until 9 p.m. on Thursday and Friday. Until 6 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday.  
Shop Sunday Noon to 5 p.m.

## Car kills man on Grand River

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

A 77-year-old Farmington man died Tuesday morning after being struck by a car as he crossed Grand River west of Halsted.

Walter George Kreuter died at 9:57 a.m. at Botsford General Hospital, Farmington Hills, after he was struck at about 6:40 a.m. as he crossed the thoroughfare.

He was returning from Denny's restaurant to the Bill Cook car dealership where he left his car for service at 6 a.m., said Sgt. Ray Cranston of the Farmington Hills Police

Department's traffic section.

"HE LEFT his car at Bill Cook with the intent to have his car serviced and then walked across to Denny's," Cranston said. "In fact, we found that his car was the first in line outside dealership service doors."

As Kreuter returned to the dealership, he had almost made it across Grand River when he was struck by an eastbound Novi man. Kreuter was struck on the curb lane on the south side of the road.

CHARGES WILL not be filed against the Novi driver. Kreuter was wearing dark clothing, and the accident occurred before daylight, Cranston said. Alcohol was not involved in the accident.

This is the city's first pedestrian accident and fourth traffic fatality this year. A fifth fatality occurred on 14 Mile — on the border of Farmington Hills and West Bloomfield Township — and is expected to be turned over to West Bloomfield.

"(Number of traffic fatalities) is probably right about normal for the calendar year," Cranston said.