



State Sen. Jan Dolan, Farmington school board trustee Cathy Webb and Mayor Helen Prutow and State Sen. Jack Faxon examine the

Renovation complete; peace, quiet returns

By Susan Bush
staff writer

SPACIOUS AND epic and span, that's Gill Elementary School now that its renovation and expansion is complete.

Overcrowding is eliminated, officials say. The 25-year-old school now has room for 500 students.

"Everyone was on top of each other," said Cathy Webb, a Farmington school board trustee, in describing the crowded conditions.

She should know. She has a fourth grade son who attends the school.

There's even three extra classrooms, according to principal Mike Duff. One will be used for science, a second for the gifted and talented program and the third for a community room for meetings and PTA's, Duff said.

Construction for the nearly \$3.5 million renovation began in April.

Monday, Helen Prutow and Cathy Webb, Farmington school board members led a tour of the new Gill, accompanied by Sen. Jack Faxon and Rep. Jan Dolan. Gill is now completely air-conditioned.

PRINCIPAL Mike Duff's office has large windows. He can see and be seen easily.

"I like to see outside duty being done on the inside," Faxon said. "Sometimes you don't want to be seen in a principal's office. But here, you can see everything."

A conference room, resource room and a first aid room is also available.

New carpeting was installed in the hallways. "We have new carpeting in all our schools," Prutow said.

A new teacher's lounge finds teachers staying in for lunch rather than going out," Webb said.

"It's done so much for staff morale," Webb said.

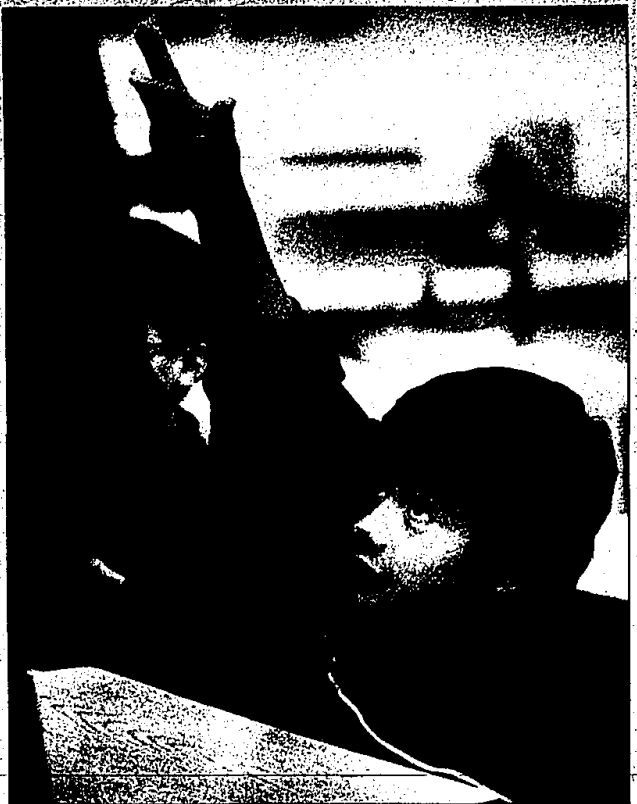
The new cafeteria gets all the kids through their lunch periods in one hour. "It can also be used for assemblies and has chairs that pull away from the walls," Webb said.

The new gym with acoustical tiles is a hit with students who cited higher basketball hoops and new equipment.

But Mark Ostach, a Gill fifth grader, is just thankful for the peace and quiet that has come once again to Gill. "Last year, my teacher brought in earplugs so that we all could work," he said.



Media specialist Elaine Carlson helps third-grader Oliver Schmitt look for a book on astrology in Gill's spacious media center.



David Sproul, a fourth-grader at Gill Elementary, has a question for State Sen. Jack Faxon during a tour of the Farmington Hills school.

police/fire calls

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

- SPA FIRE**
No one was injured when a small fire broke out under the outside deck of a hot tub at a house on Rutledge Crossing Sunday, causing an estimated \$2,000 damage, according to a Farmington Hills fire report.
- When firefighters arrived they saw wires under the deck and shut off all electrical service.
- WASHER FIRE**
Damage was estimated at \$1,500 when a fire was started in a clothes washing machine in the laundry room of a house on Willow Court, Monday, according a Farmington Hills fire report.

- A spark in the equipment ignited electrical wiring and cable insulation in the machine electrical wiring. Firefighters extinguished the fire with a foam extinguisher, according to the report.
- THEFTS REPORTED**
Approximately \$4,452 in cash, checks and credit card receipts were reported stolen from Little Bambino, 30705 12 Mile, Nov. 14-15.
- An American flag valued at \$400 was reported stolen from Orthopedic Surgeons, 28700 Eight Mile, Nov. 15-16. Damage to outdoor lights was estimated at \$400.
- A cellular phone valued at \$700 was reported stolen from New Center Computers, 31420 Northwestern Highway, Nov. 16.
- Wire wheels valued at \$1,600 were reported stolen from a 1989 Oldsmobile on Northwestern Highway, Nov. 15-18.

- A golf bag, clubs, cart, putters, golf balls, tees, shoes and gloves valued at \$740 were reported stolen from a house on Glenecreek, Nov. 1-18.
- A phone, kerosene heater, saw, copper pipe and power mixer box valued at \$1,300 were reported stolen from a house on Colfax, Nov. 17-18.
- A 1989 Corvette valued at \$35,000 was reported stolen from Rod & Race Shop, 20712 Robinson, Nov. 14-18.
- Hubcaps of an unknown value were reported stolen from a Cadillac on Freedom Road, Nov. 16.
- DAMAGE REPORTED**
No damage was estimated when someone smashed two outdoor yard lights and removed the chrome trim from headlights on a scrap vehicle at Am-Tow, 31168 Eight Mile, Nov. 15-18.

Training hits cultural diversity

Keeping up with the times is what the Farmington Hills Police Department is doing.

In November, police officers will receive training in cultural diversity and the effect it has on policing and law enforcement policies, according

to police Chief William Dwyer. The mandatory training will discuss the growing cultural diversity in the country and its imposing new dynamics in society and the workplace. Change is underway and it's important to recognize and value that cultural diversity, Dwyer said.

Other departments have accepted Farmington Hills' invitation to join the training. They include West Bloomfield Township, Walled Lake, Wixom and Franklin. The training will be conducted in the department's training room by Lansing Community College representatives.



In the bag

Larkshire Elementary School students Lyndsay Thelsen (left), Kelly Hornfeld, Kenny Lee and Kevin Geary proudly display the bags of food for the school's 24th-annual food drive Nov. 2. Students and parents gathered and

bagged nearly 3,500 food items which will be donated to 27 area Farmington-area families. The Larkshire PTA donated \$1,200 for food.

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