



Music students garner top honors in Beantown

North Farmington High School music students walked away with top honors at the Boston Heritage National Music Festival held in Massachusetts in May.

A total of 84 North Farmington music students competed against schools representing eight eastern states and two provinces of Canada, taking many top awards, including a trophy for best overall instrumental music program at the event.

All three groups were lauded as best in festival.

The Chamber Orchestra received a silver medal with first ranking, which ranks them as best orchestra group at the festival.

The Symphony Band and Percussion Ensemble both returned with gold medals with first ranking.

meaning they were the best band and ensemble group at the festival. The percussionists also were named "Best Instrumental Group" by scoring the highest points of any such group at the festival.

The North Farmington Instrumental Program received the "Outstanding Instrumental Program" for earning the highest collective scores.

The students, led by director Carl Gippert and percussion instructor James Coviak, were rated on their proficiency in a variety of areas.

While in Boston, students were able to enjoy Niagara Falls and the historic sites in and around Boston.

The trip was organized by Irene Falund, Sandy McKeylly and Mary Barns of the school's Band and Orchestra Boosters.

Winning note: North Farmington High School walked away with top awards at a recent national music festival in Boston. Pictured are (from left) percussion instructor James Coviak, students Jeremy Foland, Tricia Barnes and Tanya Proctor and music director Carl Gippert.

Incumbents win in Walled Lake Schools

By TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

With less than an hour to go before the polls closed Monday night, 12 people were lined up at the Dairy Queen on Pontiac Trail in Walled Lake. At the same time, only school election workers were next door inside precinct 1 at Walled Lake Middle School.

"Maybe we should be selling ice cream," said one of the workers, who told about the nearby line-up.

Precinct 1, chairwoman Betty Kinnel, said people would be lined up had there been a millage issue on the ballot. "But the people who brought the money out (school board), I don't care about."

An occasional voter, such as Fury Vorce, did come and go to voice an opinion. But on this day, she clearly said in the authority.

"It people do so much complaining at the school district, where does it?" Sweet asked. "I feel that if you don't vote, any election, if you try not to exercise your opinion, then you have no opinion."

Apparently, most residents didn't share Sweet's view and didn't feel compelled to show up at the district's nine precincts. With two favored incumbents facing little challenge and no financial issues on the ballot, only 661 of 53,600 registered voters (1.25 percent) turned out.

They easily re-elected incumbents Marc Belsky and David Flammer to four-year terms. Belsky and Flammer finished with 410 and 386 votes respectively, for about 65 percent of the challengers, Michelle Munro (204 votes) and Tim Vorce (160 votes).

According to Belsky, the poor showing at the polls echoed a growing trend in Walled Lake, where only about 20 percent of residents have young children.

"The general citizen in our community only seems to react after decisions are made," Belsky said.

"This year we'll be looking at our

community needs to deal with growing enrollment." The time to get involved is now, not two or three years down the road."

A 1.25 percent turnout also won't do the district any good when it comes to arguing against school finance reform measures in Lansing.

"The only thing Lansing understands is votes," Belsky said.

District election coordinator Robert Crowe said he thought the con-

tinuing discussion of Robin Hood and similar initiatives dealing with equity in the funding of Michigan districts should have brought more out to the polls.

The trickle of voters Monday was in step with the lack of a campaign. Both incumbents did not post signs and didn't make any cold calls to constituents until the final days.

Vorce failed to appear at any of the recent school board meetings, while Munro only began attending last month.

"It's organization," Vorce said after hearing about the final vote. A proponent of outcome-based learning, Vorce raised what might have been the only issue in the race, that the board wasn't communicating adequately, particularly in dealing with the schools of choice subject.

But Belsky maintained Vorce fabricated the issue ("He's never been to a board meeting and they're open to the public") and defended how the board and residents communicate.

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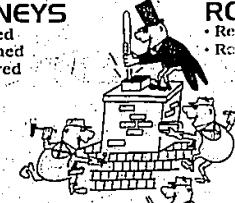
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