

Carrier of the Year



For Farmington: David Smith accepts his trophy as the Farmington Observer's Carrier of the Year from Larry Geiger, circulation director for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Selection of the Carrier of the Year is based on length of service, amount of collections, prompt settling of accounts, customer service and proper record keeping. The winner must be a previous Carrier of the Month.

Board to review schools-of-choice report

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

A report on schools of choice will be presented during Tuesday's Farmington Board of Education meeting at board headquarters on Shawwassee. The meeting starts at 8 p.m.

The document is the result of a 10-month study by a committee of school administrators, teachers and parents, which examines schools of choice and offers suggestions on future expansion.

The report is timely, Gov. John Engler calls for more schools of choice in his education reform plan.

Farmington Public School District already has several, including Alameda and Fairview early childhood centers, Highmeadow Common Campus and Gill Elementary's year-round program.

Examined are such issues as the organization needed to support new programs and curriculum associated with schools of choice and how to keep parents informed. The group also looked at programs in other districts.

"We have several schools of choice already," said Judy White, assistant superintendent for Curriculum and Staff Development. "We want to present a vision for expanded choice in Farmington."

Schools of choice are considered those places that have no defined attendance area or distinguished by either curriculum, educational approach or operate differently from the traditional school calendar.

"This report is not intended to

be a mandate," said Highmeadow principal Jan Colliton, who chaired the 25-member study committee. "Our report is basically an educational piece."

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The committee didn't have to look far. Highmeadow Common Campus, the early childhood cen-

ters and Gill's year-round program have been considered a success by the district.

Farmington has restructured programs on the secondary level, including the zero hour at North Farmington High and the Alternative Academy. Those are not considered schools of choice by definition, Colliton said.

Also included in the report is a survey of both parents and staffs to gauge interest in schools of choice.

"Personally, I think it is important to look at the issue of schools of choice and what it may or may not mean for our district," Colliton said. "There is an interest in choice out there. At the state level, it's very evident."

"I think it's important we look at that issue so we have more control over the future of our school."

Residents found defective on smoke detectors

If your smoke detector's battery is dead, the device won't work.

Sounds elementary. But Farmington Hills firefighters found during Target Project 1993 that in the neighborhood they inspected, about half of the houses had no smoke detectors and that about half of the smoke detectors found did not work.

The fire department, with help from volunteer Farmington Area Citizens members and Target Department stores, which provided 100 nine-volt batteries, went

door-to-door on Oct. 16 to inspect homes for fire detectors in the Grand River Homes subdivision in Section 35.

Of the 49 homes inspected, 24, or 49 percent, were unprotected, with five having no smoke detector and 19 having nonworking detectors. A total of 70 detectors were tested, with 36, or 51 percent, failing. A total of 44 detectors were installed in 32 homes that required smoke detectors.

Of those detectors that failed,

14, or 48 percent, were missing batteries, four, or 14 percent, had loose connections, and 11, or 38 percent, had dead batteries. Of 36 smoke detectors that failed, 29 were in some way attributable to the battery.

The fire department offers smoke detectors free to residents in Farmington Hills, except for residents of condos and apartments where the landlord or association is responsible for their installation.

Since it is the heating season,

residents should be aware of the dangers of carbon monoxide in the home.

The colorless, odorless gas can be a by-product of gas or oil furnaces, wood stoves, charcoal grills, gas ranges and space heaters.

A new carbon dioxide detector, which works like a smoke detector, is now available. Anyone interested should contact the Farmington Hills Fire Department at 553-0740.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
has been authorized by the Michigan Department of
Natural Resources to hold a public hearing on the
proposed amendments to the Michigan Department of
Natural Resources Code, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311,
312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322,
323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333,
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