

Enthusiasm shows: Deborah Knapp — Miss Deborah, as she is known to students — teaches phonics to a small group of Glastonbury students.



STAFF PHOTOS BY SHARON LEMIEUX



At the board: Glastonbury students Ryan Galvin and Laura Dunn complete an assignment.



All about flight: Teacher Jean Peedle works with Justin Knapp (left) and Josh Ablitz on a project on flight. The five-student class took a field trip to the Henry Ford Museum, which was dedicated to the history of flight.

## Glastonbury from page 1A

other hand, are often forced to face a classroom of 30 or more students and tell everyone to turn to page 32 and finish the assignment. Some students will be bored and some will need more prompting, like having hands-on activities.

When Glastonbury opened four years ago, there were four students. Today, there are 15 students and Knapp promises to keep the teacher-student ratio at 8-1.

The school was born when Knapp was unhappy with her son's public school experience.

"I saw him moving on at the teacher's pace instead of his own pace," she said. "Now he's in

**■ 'Many children who think differently can't work in standardized education. The ones who think differently are the ones we should watch.'**

Deborah Knapp  
Glastonbury director, teacher

fourth grade and working on seventh grade math and we're able to accommodate him."

Test scores are secondary to the learning process, Knapp said.

"Kids are so test-oriented," she added. "They don't clearly

understand how to think things out."

Even though Glastonbury is housed in the Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church, the school is without religious ties. The school has offered first through eighth grade classes and

added kindergarten this year.

"We believe every child who walks into our school is a winner," she said, adding that building self-esteem is essential.

"In our school, effort is what counts," Knapp said. "It causes them to have a lot more integrity with their own work."

Knapp tells a story about a student who came to the school in fourth grade and was reading at a first-grade level. The student is back in public school doing "A" and "B" work.

"Many children who think differently can't work in standardized education," Knapp said. "The ones who think differently are the ones we should watch."

## Hills mayor plans to tackle ambitious schedule in 1994

BY BILL COUTANT  
STAFF WRITER

Incoming Farmington Hills Mayor Larry Lichtman got right down to the business of 1994 after ceremonies at the city council meeting to honor the city's top employees for 1993.

"Among our residents, there are many talented people who have not yet stepped forward to share in service to the city," he said after being sworn in. "I hope that my year as mayor will inspire more people, and especially more young people, to participate in civic affairs."

Lichtman, the son of former Hills Mayor Fred Lichtman, and the other council members set up an ambitious schedule of study sessions to clear up issues from last year and set goals for this year.

On Jan. 18, the council will meet at 7 p.m. in council chambers to discuss the possibility of building a multipurpose indoor arena.

A study session with the library board and Farmington City Council on the library's 5-year plan is tentatively scheduled for 6 p.m. Jan. 31 at the Hills library branch on 12 Mile.

At 6 p.m. that evening, council members will meet in council chambers with developer Gary Jonna to discuss a 96-acre development planned for property on the southeast corner of 12 Mile and Middlebelt.



Mayor Larry Lichtman

An all-day session on goals is set for Feb. 5 in the lower level conference room beginning at 8:30 a.m., and a session beginning at 6 p.m. on Feb. 7 will concern the status of the Community Development Block Grant program, the city's false alarm ordinance, the implementation of a Dumpster ordinance and violations of the city's sign ordinance.

The goals session is an annual workshop. The session on an indoor arena will focus on the final report of a committee, chaired by Lichtman, that looked at the feasibility of building and running an indoor ice arena, that could include a restaurant and other facilities.

The report, which included a market study, took a year to compile and included input from rink managers in other cities, cost estimates from architects and results from a communitywide survey.

In other action, the council:

■ Authorized the city manager to convey property to the Minnow Pond Drainage District/Oakland County Drain Commissioner. The city will receive \$825,000 for the property of which \$600,000 will go to the general fund and the rest will go to the city's capital improvement fund.

■ Added the Orville Botsford House to the city's Historic District.

■ Agreed to discuss Heritage Park and its operation at upcoming meetings. The problem of gold fish in the pond adjacent to Farmington Road would be tackled as a separate issue at the Jan. 24 regular meeting because any changes should be made before spring. Other issues, such as the future of buildings on the property will be taken up at a later meeting.

■ Awarded work on a concession/comfort station for Founders Sports park to Hickson-Costigan Inc. of Farmington Hills for \$133,000. That was the low bid among 14 companies that bid on the project. Dan Potter, director of special services, said the building's target completion date is May 9, when three baseball fields and three soccer fields should also be completed at the park.

## Taxing from page 1A

Work on an indoor ice arena, which could also be used for other purposes, will go forward, he said. "I was very skeptical at first," Costick said of the project. "But I've been impressed with the work of the committee, and I think it could work."

Farmington Hills officials will also take a look at the community library and what plans it has for the future. After a vote to bond a new building and add tax money for operations failed in August, the library board will be proposing a new five-year plan.

Another problem for Farmington Hills is the yet unanswered

need for an additional district court judge. A proposal to add a third judge at the 47th District Court fell victim to the state budget ax.

Even if a third judge was approved, although the state would pay the judge's salary, the cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills would have to cover additional staff costs and courthouse expansion.

Although 1994 will include fewer road improvements than in recent years, the city is still hoping for federal and state money to improve the M-102/Grand River interchange. Costick said a failed

bid that would have paid for about \$8 million for the improvements as a demonstration project could be tried again in this session of Congress.

Other challenges the city faces include:

■ The expansion of the DPW garage.  
■ Re-franchising the city's cable TV system.  
■ The consideration of a \$300 million gaming program.  
■ Continuing to develop volunteer programs.  
■ Redeveloping the city's portion of the Eight Mile corridor.

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