

## Service from page 1A

shoulders."

Such reactions are not uncommon, said teacher Kathy Malner who met with sophomores to explain the program. Many are worried about what type of volunteer work they'll be able to do, she added.

Farmington principal Deb Clark and teachers Ed Davis and Malner presented the idea to the Farmington Board of Education during a study session March 7.

The board will decide on the program at its March 28 meeting. Trustees appeared to welcome the proposal. Trustee Susan Lightner said she supported the concept but urged caution.

"Where we now have students working . . . in what are part-time jobs, we want to make sure they don't become learning service jobs," Lightner said. "I don't want to see (companies) slide part of their budget off on a service that is unpaid for a service that was once paid."

Community service is in place on a volunteer basis at North.

Seniors, who volunteer 20 hours and write an essay, receive a stamp on their diplomas and wear a purple honor cord.

In the program's first year, 46 students took part. The number has increased to 60 this year with more expected to do service work by May, Malner said.

Some student volunteer efforts have included working for Habitat for Humanity, helping seniors at Detroit Baptist Manor, tutoring elementary kids, and teaching physically and mentally handicapped kids horseback riding at the Tollgate Center in Novi.

"The one thing I have noticed overwhelmingly from these kids is when you ask them about their community service," Malner said. "They always say what they learned from the experience. Not what they gave . . . but what they learned."

Bloomfield Hills Lahser High has a similar program in place. Students there do 40 hours' worth of the community service as a requirement for graduation.

Lahser teacher and Farmington Hills resident Neil Simpson takes a group of students annually down South on Habitat for Humanity projects. In February, North Farmington students joined Lahser students in Charleston, S.C.

"It's an education of the heart rather than the mind," said Simpson, whose son, Jeff, teaches at North. "When they go on trips like the one for Habitat for Humanity they learn things you can't measure."

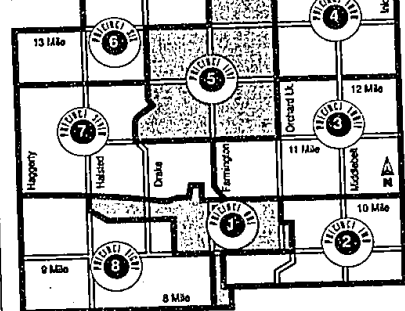
That suits sophomore Josh Klemme, who likes the idea of community service. He is concerned about the details, though.

The program would tie in class work with real-life situations. Klemme is concerned that would mean taking a class he wouldn't normally take.

"I think personally, I could work in a soup kitchen without that kind of training," he said. "I think it's important to be involved."

### Farmington Public Schools

Voting precincts



Where to vote:



1. Longacre Elementary  
34650 Arundel
2. William Grace Elementary  
20040 Shiawassee
3. East Middle School  
25000 Middlebelt
4. Warner Middle School  
30303 W. 14 Mile
5. Wooddale Elementary  
28600 Peppermill
6. Forest Elementary  
34545 Old Timber
7. Hillside Elementary  
36001 W. 11 Mile
8. Gill Elementary  
21105 Gill

TOWNE UNIVERSITY ARCHIVE

police and fire training, and global education (foreign languages and English as a second language).

Calkins said the full-time faculty will be beefed up. Currently, there are fewer than 300, and 21

have opted for early retirement. Twenty years ago, there were 304. OCC has met teaching needs with "adjunct" faculty — part-timers who are experts in their fields — but needs to emphasize full-timers in the future, she said.

## Birthday from page 1A

with her parents beforehand. Robert didn't learn about it until he saw Julie typing the invitation on his office computer.

"I was half expecting her little sister, Danielle, who's 6, to put in a note saying, 'Give them to me instead,'" Robert Kaplan joked.

Kaplan, an accountant for Friedman, Canu & Kaplan in Farmington Hills, said he and his wife, Kim, a sixth-grade advanced science teacher at Roosevelt Middle School in Oak Park, have al-

ways tried to give Julie a cross-section of experiences.

"We've let her see how fortunate we happen to be, and she has never taken that for granted. She has worked during Christmas at a soup kitchen. We've let her see what's out there, and she knows that she is very lucky."

Paternal grandparents Elliott and Cecile Kaplan, of Livonia, are brimming with pride.

"This has been Julie's way since forever," Elliott Kaplan said. "When she was in Toronto,

her aunt gave her \$1. She put it in a collection-type plate."

Julie said that she has always noticed that there are others who aren't as fortunate. When she grows up, she wants to be a physical therapist or a teacher.

"I would be helping people who need help," Julie said. Parents whose children will attend the party are more than happy to oblige Julie's request to donate.

But some say they would still bring a little something for Julie.

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Rowe is a professor of environmental systems technology at Oakland Community College. The meeting is open to the public.

### Any local historians?

Anyone interested in Farmington-area history take note: The Farmington Historical Society is sponsoring the 12th annual Lee S. Peel Historical Research Writing Contest.

Anyone, except those judging the contest, may enter, and there are four age categories: I. Elementary schoolers, grades 1-5; II. Middle schoolers, grades 6-8; III. High schoolers, grades 9-12; IV. College students and adults.

Submissions should be original work and must be entered before April 12. Audio and video tapes, slides, photographs, and neatly written or printed texts of any length are acceptable.

Sources may include personal recollections, interviews, family diaries or letters, old photos, paintings and sketches.

First prize — the Lee S. Peel Writing Award — will be \$100, and second prize will be \$50. Four best-in-age prizes of \$25 each will be awarded. Winners will be announced at an awards ceremony in late May or early June at the Farmington Historical Museum.

The contest is named after Lee S. Peel, a promi-

nent local educator, historian and author. For more information, call Lois Brenz at 477-5057.

### Don't forget the afghans

A commemorative afghan, featuring nine historic sites in the Farmington area, can be purchased through the Farmington Historical Museum.

Cost is \$39.95 before June 1, \$44.95 after that date. Proceeds will benefit the museum.

The afghans come in three colors — Williamsburg blue, navy and rose — and are available at the museum, 33805 Grand River, during open hours 1-5 p.m. Wednesdays and the first Sunday of each month.

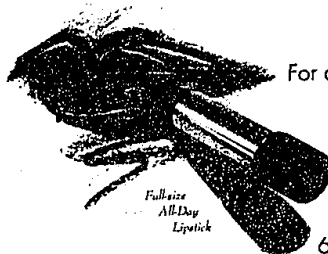
They also can be purchased by mail. Checks should be made payable to the Farmington Historical Museum and mailed to: Afghan — Farmington Historical Museum, 28600 Liberty St., Farmington 48335.

Additional information may be obtained by calling Dick Carvill at 478-6257 or Nancy Leonard at 476-4125.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 33411 Grand River, Farmington 48335, faxed to 477-9722 or dropped off at the newspaper office.

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