

# Clarinetist wins musicale award

Marianne Leitch, a 1989 graduate of North Farmington High School, has won the Pontiac Tuesday Musicale Dora Dawson Scholarship Competition.

Leitch has a bachelor of music degree in clarinet performance from Michigan State University and is currently pursuing a master of music degree from Wayne State University, where she studies with Detroit Symphony Orchestra principal clarinetist Theodore Oren.

odore Oren.

Leitch has participated in many summer music programs including The Aspen Music School, the DePaul University Clarinet Conference, and the Apple Hill Center for Chamber Music.

In addition to performing, Leitch maintains a large number of private students in the metro Detroit area.



Marianne Leitch

# Hills resident named Mission Health CEO

Brian M. Connolly of Farmington Hills was named president and chief executive officer of Mission Health.

Mission Health is a new corporation formed through a joint operating agreement between Providence Hospital in Southfield and the three hospitals of the Catherine McAuley Health System: St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor, McPherson Hospital in Howell and Saline Community Hospital in Saline.

Together the hospitals of Mission Health make up a network of care with 1,396 inpatient beds and three dozen outpatient and specialty centers. Mission Health has net revenues approaching \$760 million and employs 7,616 full-time equivalent associates.

Connolly began his career at Providence Hospital in 1984, serving as executive vice president and chief operating officer until 1988 when he was named president and chief operating officer.

During his 10 years at Providence, Connolly focused on developing the Providence ambulatory network. Today, that network has 17 outpatient and specialty center locations serving residents of northwest Detroit, as well as those in the northern and western suburbs.

Prior to his years at Providence, Connolly served as assistant vice president of operations at Oakwood Hospital in Dearborn and as regional director of Health Management Advisors in Ann Arbor.

He holds a master's degree in Public Health from the University of Michigan and a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Western Michigan University.



Brian M. Connolly

versity.

Connolly is active in many professional and community organizations. He chaired the Michigan Hospital Association's Council on Catholic Healthcare from 1989 to 1992 and has been a member of the Michigan Hospital Association's Board of Directors since 1992.

He serves on a number of other boards including the Greater Detroit Area Hospital Council, the Southeast Michigan Hospital Council, SelectCare and St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center.

He has also been active in the Archdiocese of Detroit serving on the board of Bishop Borgias High School and the Archdiocese of Detroit's Board of Catholic Education, working with Cornerstone Schools and acting as lay chairperson for the most recent Detroit Archdiocesan Catholic Services Appeal.

# Seniors win fight to move commencement

By Tim Smith

STAFF WRITER

The squeaky wheel gets the grease.

That cliché applies to Walled Lake Western High School seniors, who Thursday finally won their quest to move their June 13 commencement from the gymnasium to Meadow Brook Pavilion.

Walled Lake school board members listened to the last-ditch attempt by the senior class, led by spokesman Brad Holman, to persuade them to do what they didn't during the March 2 meeting—allow the shift to Meadow Brook. The board also listened to a number of people, who spoke out on both sides of the issue, before voting 5-2 in favor of the move.

The result indicated officials were more than satisfied that the students would be able to handle the extra cost (approximately \$3,500) to move the graduation to Meadow Brook and that there was sufficient need, primarily for space and comfort considerations.

When the winning vote was announced, the throng of Western students erupted in a display of happiness and relief. Their controversial battle to buck tradition was finally over, months after it had begun.

"I had no idea how it was going to turn out," Holman said after being mobbed by happy classmates in the wake of the decision at the Educational Service Center. "Five to two, that's a big turn-

## WALLED LAKE SCHOOLS

naound. It's gratifying."

His father, Sam Holman, said the decision taught "everybody a lesson. If you work through the system everything will be wonderful."

The seniors needed an immediate answer from the board, because Meadow Brook officials told Brad Holman they could not guarantee a space for Western's commencement for much longer.

Board members had deadlocked 3-3 on March 2, when students made their initial request. Distance to Meadow Brook (it's about 80 minutes for a round-trip), the idea of breaking the tradition of holding commencement in the gym and cost were cited at that time as reasons to not move commencement.

But for round two, Brad Holman showed board members evidence that businesses, parents and other community members stood firmly behind the senior class. Donations to the cause since the March 2 decision already had surpassed \$2,500.

Holman, on behalf of the 232-member senior class (which voted 197-19 for the move), demonstrated to the board the class could come up with most, if not all, of the money needed to fund a Meadow Brook commencement. He also showed them there was sufficient need to hold the "most important event" of their lives to date in a suitable venue — one

where more of their friends and family members could attend "in style."

Unbearable heat and humidity and cramped quarters marred the 1994 ceremony, a repeat of which the class of '95 wanted to avoid. Another factor in the students' drive was the fact only six tickets per graduate would be made available for the ceremony at Western, where only 2,000 people can be accommodated. Meadow Brook, by comparison, can seat more than 7,000.

"My whole family wouldn't be able to see me graduate in my class if it's at Walled Lake Western," said Jill Wozniak, one of many students to speak to the board. "It'd be a shame. . . I'm willing to cut the apron strings and begin life after high school miles down the highway at Meadow Brook."

Another student read her letter opposing the shift, noting disdain for being forced to celebrate graduation "in a totally foreign place."

Voting in favor of the move were board members Joseph Miller, Thomas McConnell, Marc Siegler, Samantha Rutenik and president David Flammer. Trustees Cynthia Campion and Esther McInnis opposed the switch.

One of the concerns raised by McInnis addressed part of Holman's proposal, that several school buses be employed — with drivers volunteering their time —

to transport to Meadow Brook the band, choir, orchestra and those graduates and family members in need of transportation.

"I'd hate to think one student was forced to be singled out and unable to provide (his or her) own transportation to attend (his or her) own graduation ceremony," said McInnis, noting a range of economic levels across the district.

Brad Holman, answering a question from McConnell, assured the board that he didn't recall the debate over moving commencement "ever being recognized as a wealth issue."

One sticking point remains as far as using buses is concerned — whether volunteer bus drivers would be covered for the trip under the district's insurance plan.

Crucial comments made during the meeting by students included those by one of 450 members of the freshman class, indicating that the issue of relocating the graduation ceremony likely will recur.

"If this is not passed, we will be fighting for the next three years" to move their graduation to Meadow Brook, the student said. "We will not wait. There is no way we will be able to fit our class and future classes in the gym."

About the issue of using school buses, another student said a shuttle was provided from the high school to the Pontiac Silverdome for a 1992 football playoff game.

# Program: Making, building friendships

Learn the importance of friends, where to look for new acquaintances, and how to build your existing friendships.

A program on those topics will be led by Sandy Bowmann of

Boisford at the Farmington Hills Senior Center, 11 Mile east of Middlebelt, at 10 a.m. Tuesday, April 11.

Call 473-1830 to register.

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