



SHARON LEMIEUX/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**Towering project:** Officials of Nardin Park United Methodist Church hope the steeple renovation is finished in time for an outdoor Father's Day service.

## Steeple from page 1A

The work, part of the church's "Keep It Glowing" campaign, is about more than just aesthetics, though.

"Thirty years of erosion, the elements and pollution have taken their toll on our steeple," said Timper, a Farmington Hills resident and director of the Michigan Association of Police, a police labor union.

"It's a major project for the church," he added. "It (the renovation) is preventive. If we didn't do this now, we'd just have bigger problems in years to come."

In addition to "re-gilding" the cross and crown, workers are tuck-pointing, caulking and cleaning the limestone tower.

Most of the work is being done by Grunwell-Cashner Co., a Detroit firm that handles historic preservation.

Subcontractor CAN Art Handworks, which has worked on the Michigan Opera Theatre and the Penobscot Building in Detroit, is doing the "re-gilding" work on the cross.

Nardin Park was formed in 1927 by a merger of two churches and originally located on West Chicago Boulevard in Detroit. The Kresge Foundation donated \$50,000 to help with a building program slowed by the Depression.

In 1963, the original building was sold to the Ebenezer African

Methodist Church, and Nardin Park relocated to its present site in Farmington Hills. The church building, constructed of limestone and brick, was dedicated Oct. 17, 1965.

Today, the church has about 1,500 members served by the Rev. Richard Peacock.

On Father's Day, Sunday, June 18, an outdoor service is planned, weather permitting, to show off the completed tower renovation. "That's when the tarp comes off the crown," Timper said.

Reporter Larry O'Connor and photographer Sharon LeMieux contributed to this report.

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NEWSPAPERS

## Service from page 1A

Pierce and another student spoke out at a board meeting April 25. He said he's aware the plan is on hold but is concerned the proposal will be resubmitted next year.

And that's very likely, said a North Farmington official.

"We are looking for time to address (the board's) concerns," said Kathy Calapos, assistant principal at North Farmington. "We feel this is a good program... There is a potential this will be brought up for discussion again next year."

Underclassmen will be encouraged to mount another petition drive next year, Pierce said.

Community service is not the issue, Pierce said. Many North Farmington students already participate in "Halter Rake," volunteer at the Hamilton House, and

help out in a number of functions, he added.

"It's about involuntary servitude," Pierce said.

Another North student told the board she's opposed to service learning. Senior Jenna Ravani cited President John Kennedy's Peace Corps as a good example of how to encourage volunteerism.

But she added, "Forcing high school students to give up their time unnecessarily is along the lines of (Lyndon) Johnson's (Vietnam) draft."

Pierce asked board members if the student protest was in vain. Those who organized the petition drive have modeled themselves as responsible citizens, Board president Cathy Webb said.

"You have been heard," Webb said.

## Hearing from page 1A

It wouldn't matter whether or not it was a family member. I still don't think he should be released."

If Diamond were to get a resentencing hearing, because there is no record of the original sentencing hearing, he would have a good chance of being released, Dunne said.

The parole board has rejected Diamond as a candidate for good reason, Todd said.

"Whether or not he is mentally competent, the issue should be decided on the merits of the case."

The petitions should not be something Howard will consider because he will be dealing with strictly legal issues, Dunne said. Those petitions might be considered at a parole hearing, however.

"Why he's still in prison is not the issue," Todd said. "That's for the parole board to decide."

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