

## WALLED LAKE SCHOOLS

## Officials: Grad ceremonies likely won't be moved

BY JILL HOCKMAN  
STAFF WRITER

After weighing input from Walled Lake's high school seniors and their parents, school officials say next spring's graduation ceremonies will probably be held in the same spots as the last school year's.

But adjustments will be made to both ceremonies. Walled Lake Western High School's graduation at Meadowbrook pavilion will start earlier to allow for more daylight during the ceremony, and seating changes at Walled Lake Central's football field graduation will make room for more spectators to attend the event.

Principals from both high schools made those recommendations Thursday night at the Walled Lake school board meeting.

School superintendent James Geisler said he expects to give final approval to both graduation plans within a month.

"Our real desire is to maintain the tradition of graduating here at the school," said Central High School principal Jerry Hartsock.

But seniors were concerned about a shortage of seats. Last year, each graduate received just four tickets for family and friends.

So athletic director David Yarbrough devised a strategy to add some 1,200 seats — upping the stadium's audience capacity to about 3,200.

In past years, graduates sat on the field facing the audience, situated in the bleachers on the home side of the field.

But next spring, graduates will sit facing the end of the field. The audience will sit in the home and visiting side's bleachers.

urs, in addition to school-owned bleachers that will be set up on the track, Hartsock said.

The new seating plan preserves the school's graduation tradition, while expanding the field's seating capacity, he said. "I believe we're able to accomplish both," he said. "It was a real winner idea."

With the new plan in mind, senior class officers voted Thursday in favor of holding graduation at the school this year.

At Western High School, "parents and students voted overwhelmingly to go to Meadowbrook," said principal Gary Bredahl.

Last year, the school's graduation ceremony took place at Meadowbrook pavilion after a spirited and controversial campaign to move it out of the school gymnasium.

Bredahl said many seniors and parents attended the graduation at Meadowbrook. "I think they liked the surroundings and I think they liked the atmosphere," he said.

The facility also has more seats than the school gymnasium, he said.

Of the 229 Western High School seniors who cast votes on the issue in their homeroom classes, 178 voted to go to Meadowbrook and 51 voted to hold graduation at the school.

Of the 51 parents who cast votes at a parent meeting, 41 wanted the ceremony at Meadowbrook and seven wanted it at school.

The school will pay about \$3,200 to rent the facility, Bredahl said.

That money was already set aside in the school budget, he said.



Show goes on: Denny Hughes, Don Sinclair and Mike Garr produce their safety show at Longacre Elementary School in Farmington.

## Safety from page 1A

delight of students.

At that point Garr points out that you should stay at least 3 feet away from any heater, and should keep pets and objects at least that far away as well.

In keeping with the National Fire Prevention Week theme of "Watch What You Heat," the part-time thespians talk about kitchen fires as the most frequent.

From an unusual stove that turns off automatically when the cook leaves to the "fire safe," used to store matches, lighters and other combustibles, "The Answer Guys" do their darndest to come up with innovative ways to prevent fires.

Garr plays straight man, pointing out valuable fire safety lessons after the flawed "inventions" fail.

A coffee maker, microwave

■ The way they present it, it helps get the message through. I don't know of any other fire department that does this kind of thing.

Gill Principal Mike Duff

oven and smoke detector that were actually burned in kitchen fires are part of the act. The smoke detector, deformed into an elongated, rough, water-drop shape, makes a dandy back scratcher, says Ted.

But the lesson is clear about keeping good batteries in a smoke detector.

"The battery lasts for a year; the people believe in it forever," Ted says.

Garr points out that of the houses Hills firefighters have surveyed, half don't have any smoke detectors and another quarter have smoke detectors with dead batteries.

"The Answer Guys" are the latest production in a long line of successful shows that featured "Gadget the Clown" and "Dash Dakota," always with a fire safety message.

"I think this is the funniest one," said DyAnn St. Clair, who was videotaping her husband's latest acting part.

The show was a big hit with Gill students James Mullens, a fourth-grader, who thought the dynamite skit was a blast and Kendra Krol, a second-grader, who liked the entire show.

"I thought everything was funny," she said.

Longacre Elementary Princi-

pal Bill Smith said the fire department's assembly is always the most popular one of the year and it's free.

"This is a valuable lesson," he said. "Some of the props like the microwave and the coffee maker are from real fires. That's the kind of stuff that stays with the kids."

Smith said he's been impressed by the quality of the performance by the firefighters. The troupe performs twice at most schools, once for kindergartners to second-graders, and again for the upper grades.

"I watched the two back-to-back," Smith said. "I was impressed the way they changed the script for the older students and included some material suited to that age group."

The firefighters will perform at several senior citizen residences this week.

## New number for call-ins

Farmington Hills residents will need to call a new telephone number — 473-9532 — for the city news line and city council call-ins. The call-in number is for residents of the Farmington Hills City Council during regular meetings on Mondays. Again, the new number is 473-9532.

## Quakertown Daughters meet

The Quakertown Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution will meet at noon Tuesday, Oct. 10, at the home of a member. DARR State Librarian Sue Davis will present a talk on English genealogy. Anyone interested in attending should call Emily Seavitt at 1-313-278-1249.

## Celebrities to serve

Circle Wednesday, Oct. 11, on your calendars as the night to dine out at the Farmington Big Boy Restaurant, and you may have Rod Wing Keith Primeau or Observer reporter Larry O'Connor serve you.

They're two of the many celebrity servers who will take part in the second-annual Celebrity Server Night from 6-9 p.m. Wednesday at the Boy Boy at 20788 Farmington Road north of Eight Mile.

The event is a fund-raiser for Farmington Families In Action, the local anti-substance abuse group. All tips collected by celebrity servers will be given to the program, plus Big Boy management will donate 10 percent of the day's total sales.

Some other celebrity servers: Farmington Mayor Arnie Campbell, Farmington Hills Police Chief Bill Dwyer and Farmington Public Schools Superintendent Robert Madfield.

## Business people unite!

Bring back the Downtown Business Association. That's what is being asked in a letter circulating in the downtown Farmington business community these days.

An informal meeting to hear business views and to re-establish the business association will be held at 8:30 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 12, at the Civic Theatre on Grand River.

"In order for our businesses to continually succeed and thrive, it is imperative that we re-establish the Downtown Farmington Business Association," the letter reads. "In the past, other groups were formed but later disbanded either as a result of poor membership or lack of interest."

"We must band together as merchants to form a group that will initiate and aggressively promote our own business."

## Meet those candidates

Local Republican and Democratic clubs will sponsor upcoming meet-the-candidate nights for the city council and mayoral hopefuls in Farmington Hills.

Both forums will be held in the city council chamber of the Hills City Hall, 11 Mile and Orchard Lake roads.

On Thursday, Oct. 12, the Farmington Democ-

## FARMINGTON FOCUS

rotic Club will host a candidate forum beginning at 7 p.m. for the council candidates and moving to the mayoral candidates at 8 p.m.

On the following Tuesday, Oct. 17, a forum, sponsored by the Farmington-Area Republican Club, will be held.

Council candidates will answer questions from 7-8 p.m. and mayoral hopefuls will field questions from 8-9 p.m.

Both forums will be cablecast.

## Milk, bread, flu shot

Farmington Jack Supermarkets, in conjunction with the visiting Nurse Service and Hospice Foundation's annual flu immunization program, will offer flu shots during October at metro Detroit Farmington Jack stores, including two in Farmington.

On Friday, Oct. 13, shots will be given 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Downtown Farmington Center Farmington Jack, and on Saturday, Oct. 28, shots will be offered from 9 a.m. to noon at the Farmington Jack at Nine Mile and Farmington roads.

Vaccinations are available to people 18 and older at a cost of \$10 each. The fee is refundable for Medicare B cardholders.

The Centers for Disease Control suggests that some people check with their doctors before being vaccinated. This includes anyone with an allergy to eggs, anyone with a history of Guillain-Barre Syndrome, women who are or may be pregnant and people who are ill or have a fever.

## They'll 'Skate For A Cure'

On Saturday, Oct. 14, players in the Farmington Hills Hockey Association will be skating to raise money for the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation International at the just-opened Farmington Hills Ice Arena on Eight Mile Road.

The goal of "Skate For A Cure" is to raise \$100,000 for the charity and to thank the community for its sponsorship of the hockey program and now facility, according to Glenn M. Gardner, event chairman.

In addition to pledges, the Hockey Association also needs donated prizes for the young skaters. Some examples are food, tickets to theaters and sporting events, gift certificates and sporting equipment and jerseys.

Volunteers are needed to help with the drive. Call the Farmington Hills Hockey Association at 474-1328 for more information.

## Memory Lane

From the Oct. 13, 1955, edition of the Farmington Enterprise:

■ Fresh beef hearts were advertised at 19 cents a pound at Farmington Meats, 33419 Grand River.

■ Bruce Richards, a 17-year-old Farmington resident, was the recipient of one of the Cranbrook School's top awards, the Clay Does Memorial Scholarship.

■ Farmington Township issued 325 new home building permits in three months.

■ Classified ad: "For sale: Flock of young chickens, 27960 Halsted Road, Farmington, Mich."

CALENDAR OF EVENTS  
WEEK OF OCTOBER 8, 1995

## Mark your calendar!

## 10/TUESDAY

## JANELLE HATS

Especially designed for those individuals experiencing hair loss.

11 am to 4 pm, Millinery

## AMOENA CONSULTATIONS

Representative Sue Blue will conduct private consultations. Appointments, 810-645-8674.

11 am to 4 pm, Intimate Apparel

## RENA LANGE SPRING/SUMMER '98

COLLECTION SHOW

10 am to 4 pm, International Designers

## 12/THURSDAY

## SUSAN MANOS DOLL COLLECTION

Susan Manos will be here to share her unusual collectibles and offer appraisals on your own doll treasures.

1 to 4 pm, Children's

## NEW DIMENSIONS

Self-esteem workshops for girls ages 10-13. Call Ms. Deming, 810-645-8674, for information.

## 13-14/FRIDAY-SATURDAY

## MEN'S OUTERWEAR AND LEATHER

COLLECTION SHOW

4 to 8 pm, Men's

## 14/SATURDAY

## "MAGIC OF MANNERS"

Children, ages 5-8, brush up on their P's and Q's! Call Ms. Deming, 810-645-8674, for information.

## INTRODUCING THE BRIDAL LANE COLLECTION

Noon to 4 pm, Bridal Salon

# Jacobson's

330 W. MAPLE RD. • BIRMINGHAM  
MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY AND SATURDAY, 9:30 AM TO 6 PM  
THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, 9:30 AM TO 9 PM. SUNDAY, NOON TO 5 PM  
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