

# Policy from page A1

spots for 148 applicants to vie for in the lottery. The elimination of sibling priority causes more problems and potentially hampers Highmeadow more than it benefits families in the district, said Highmeadow parent Janet Holm.

"It relates to the participation of parents," said Holm, whose children attend the school and wouldn't be affected by the change. "We all have 24 hours in a day, whether we have six children or three children. It doesn't matter."

"It's exasperating if you have a number of elementary (aged) children close together. They all have to be put on the bus in the morning. You have to be home when they get there or have arrangements for them because the times are staggered."

"The secret to anything is really a happy child and a happy family," added parent Kathy Scherer, who has three children at the school. "And success comes in school with those two things in order. If we can't keep our children in the same building, I don't know how that is going to happen."

Their sentiments are shared by at least one board member.

Good public policy supports what's best for the student, said Trustee David York, who is a former Highmeadow parent.

"And the best for the learner is that which helps parental involvement and parental commitment, and that which helps student self-image in their school," he said. "I think sibling preference comes down on that side on both counts."

Board members have dealt with the issue since it was enacted in 1989 when Highmeadow opened. Sibling priority also applies at Gill Year-Round School, but enrollment at Highmeadow has sparked the most debate.

In 1994, the board agreed to uphold the policy after several parents and then Highmeadow principal Janice Colton spoke out in favor of it. Three parents complained to the board after the limited amount of openings last year.

A district committee of five — including K-12 director Don Cowan — reexamined the policy and met with five parents before making the recommendation.

"Trustee R. Jack Inch commended Cowan for trying to divide the fishes and the loaves" on the issue.

"Because this is an issue you get attacked from both sides no matter what happens," Inch said. More Highmeadow parents will be speaking out at the Jan. 21 board meeting, Scherer said.

Trustee Bobbie Feldman put out a call to parents holding an opposing view to show up, too.

"We'd like to hear from everybody," Feldman said.

# Winter from page A1

Green said Breyer suffered a closed head injury. Although both drivers were wearing seat belts, the air bags in Breyer's Cadillac did not deploy because it was struck in the side.

"It's still under investigation, but the roads were snow covered, with blowing snow," Green said.

Farmington Hills firefighters went on 20 runs for the day, up only slightly from the average of 15.

"That's not a big swing," said Hills Deputy Fire Chief Pete Baldwin.

Baldwin said there was only one downed power line and no other weather-related activity.

In Farmington, roads were quickly cleared, helping to head off possible problems, said Farmington Deputy Public Safety Director Mike Wiggins.

"We had a few accidents," Wiggins said. "But it was pretty normal."

But the snowy conditions should remind motorists that winter driving takes more caution and time than driving in under good conditions.

"You've got to prepare yourself as a

driver for a total slow down," said Gary Bubar, Michigan AAA community safety consultant.

Bubar said drivers need to plan on a slower commute even without accidents and other weather-related delays.

"It's not going to be any better," he said. "Everything's going to take longer. You need to remind yourself to maintain a following distance and increase it."

Drivers have to pay even more attention to the road during the winter, he said.

"This is not the day to be changing your CDs or searching the FM dial," he said.

And if you have anti-lock brakes, be aware that they can help you in poor driving conditions only if you use them correctly.

"Normally we threshold brake (or pump the brakes)," he said. "With anti-lock brakes, you should apply them firmly and stay on the pedal. Under most conditions they will give you better control because you will

have your steering."

Although most accidents occur at slower speeds, drivers should be sure to use seat belts because air bags deploying at slower speeds impact work best if the driver is belted, he said.

"Absolutely no child under 12 should be sitting in the front seat if there is an air bag," he said, citing recent serious injuries and deaths from air bag impacts.

Winter drivers should make sure their heating and cooling systems, oil, fluids and especially windshield washer reservoir are topped off. Batteries lose much of their effectiveness at lower temperatures, he said, so they should be in good working



STAFF PHOTO BY BRADLEY LEMKE

order.

Bubar said motorists should carry a "winter kit" in their vehicles that include booster cables, flashlights, some small tools, towels, either flares or hazard triangles, a snow brush and ice scraper, Kitty Litter or something for traction, a snow shovel, extra clothing and an eight-hour candle. A cellular phone is also a good idea, he said.

"You just have to remember to slow down," he said.

# MEAP from page A1

and math at fourth and seventh grade levels.

In Oakland County, Farmington was in the middle of the pack. Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, Novi, Rochester, Troy, and West Bloomfield districts posted better reading and math scores at both fourth and seventh grade levels.

Building results have been released yet. A preliminary look shows some schools — like Flanders and Wooddale elementaries — remain consistent while Forest did well, Maxfield said.

"Others have fallen off," he said. "Their staffs and principals are saying, 'Oh my gosh.'"

"The nice thing is nobody is whining, no one is complaining; no one is making excuses. The answer is we can do better."

Last year's results on the Comprehensive Tests of Basic Skills — administered to third

and sixth graders — indicated there might be a drop off, Maxfield said. School officials will examine all areas that could have led to the drop off.

MEAP tests allow districts to monitor curriculum and analyze where they need to beef up instruction.

"(When) you get that information you better use it," Maxfield said.

Timing of the results don't auger well with the district preparing to seek a \$110 million bond issue and millage renewal. Maxfield is not worried.

"Again, I'm confident — in addition to holding us accountable (for test scores) — our community holds us accountable for a lot of other quality measures," Maxfield said. "So it's something we have to face."

# Ameritech from page A1

market, but have been not behaved very competitively.

Farmington Hills Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi said the idea sounded like a good one, "so far."

"I hope it brings more competition and better rates," he said. "I wouldn't mind seeing more competition in cable (TV) as well."

Farmington City Manager Frank Lauhoff said he thought local users would benefit from the competition, and like Vagnozzi, would like to see more competition as well in the cable industry.

"The greater the competition, the better for the consumer," Lauhoff said. "I'm glad to see it."

Lauhoff added that the new law and other trends in the industry will bring about a lot of changes in the industry.

Ameritech must meet a public interest "test" that requires it:

- To rapidly accelerate competition in all markets and for all services.
- To bring competitive prices, increased choice, and expanded services, resulting in consumer benefits.
- To comply with structural safeguards and not use its position to impede competition.

**Farmington Observer**  
(USPS 187-840)  
Published every Monday and Thursday by Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009-0910. Periodical postage paid at Birmingham, MI 48009-0910. Postmaster: Send address changes to Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009-0910. Telephone 644-1100.  
SUBSCRIPTION RATES  
\$42.00  
ONE YEAR (in Oakland County)  
NEWSPAPERS  
Cable  
Mail  
HOME DELIVERY SERVICE  
\$55.00  
Cable TV Weekly  
\$15.00  
All advertising published in the Farmington Observer is subject to the conditions stated in the applicable rate card, and copies of which are available from the advertising department, 33411 Grand River, Farmington, MI 48335 (419-447-5450). The Farmington Observer reserves the right not to accept an advertiser's order. Observer & Eccentric Newspapers has no authority to lend this newspaper and only publication of an advertisement that constitutes full acceptance of the advertiser's order.

**READER SERVICE**  
HOW TO REACH US  
► Newsroom: 810-477-5450  
► Newsroom Fax: 810-477-9722  
► Sports: 313-953-2141  
► Reader Comment Line: 313-953-2042  
► Classified Advertising: 313-591-0900  
► Display Advertising: 313-591-2300  
► Home Delivery: 810-901-4716  
► Cable TV Weekly: 313-953-2182  
► HOMELINE: 313-953-2020  
► Open houses and new developments in your area.  
► Free real estate seminar information.  
► Current mortgage rates.  
► CLASSIFIED AFTER HOURS: 313-591-0900  
► Place classified ads at your convenience.

**CIRCULATION AFTER HOURS**  
OAKLAND COUNTY: 810-901-4716  
Request subscriptions at your convenience.  
FAX LINE: 313-953-2288  
► You can use a MasterCard or Visa to access the following information from our classified ads. This service is available by noon Wednesday and Friday:  
• Item No. 9822: Vehicles: Used trucks, vans and all makes of automobiles. Cost: \$39.95  
O & E On-Line: 313-591-0903  
► You can access O & E On-Line with just about any communications software — PC or Macintosh. Users can:  
• Send and receive unlimited e-mail.  
• Includes Microsoft Internet Explorer web browser software — FREE!  
• Access all features of the Internet — Telnet, Gopher, WWW and more.  
• Read electronic editions of the Observer & Eccentric newspapers.  
• Chat with users across town or across the country.  
To begin your on-line exploration, call 313-591-0903 with your modem.  
At the LOGIN prompt, type: NEW  
At the KEY prompt, type: 9508  
If you need help signing on to our service, just call the O & E On-Line Hotline: 313-953-2266

**Quit Smoking in Just 7 Days!**  
**QUIT FOR LIFE™**  
All Natural  
100% Guaranteed  
Distributed by Enhanced Life Systems  
an Independent Representative of  
The Art of Better Living, Inc.  
Call (810) 426-7664

**Bond from page A1**  
ing improvements and another \$23.45 million on technology. Both total \$110 million.

Steiber wanted to know where the other \$5 million would come from.

Interest earned from issuing \$110 million in bonds would make up the difference, said Cheryl Cannon, assistant superintendent for finance. That fig-

**DENTISTRY WITHOUT FEAR!**  
"TWILIGHT SLEEP"  
INTRAVENOUS SEDATION  
LIVONIA VILLAGE DENTAL ASSOCIATES  
MARTHA ZINDERMAN, RN, DDS  
(810) 478-2110

**Arthritis Today**  
JOSEPH J. WEISS, M.D. RHEUMATOLOGY  
18829 Farmington Road  
Livonia, Michigan 48152  
Phone: (810) 478-7860

**in the 90s**  
by Herbert M. Gardner, D.D.S.,  
Martha P. Zinderman, R.N., D.D.S.

**A WAY TO AVERT GUM SURGERY**  
Adults in particular should practice good oral habits to avoid gum disease, which is caused by bacteria in the sticky film (called plaque) that coats teeth. If caught early, gum disease is treatable. In advanced cases, though, infected gums pull away from the teeth and the supporting jawbone weakens, causing teeth to loosen or even fall out. To avert tooth loss, surgery has often been necessary to remove the hardened plaque. Now, there may be a way to avoid surgery. According to researchers at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor who studied 50 people with advanced gum disease, short-term use of antibiotics (applied to the gums and taken orally), combined with deep cleaning of

ure could be \$9 million at a projected interest rate of 6.25 percent, according to the district's financial advisor.

If voters approve the bond, an additional 2 mills would be levied. The district already levies .74 mills, which raised money to build Hillelde Elementary.

A mill is \$1 of tax for every \$1,000 of taxable value of a home, which is usually half the market value.

An additional 2 mills means the owner of a \$150,000 home would pay \$150 more in taxes annually.

Debt mills would be levied during a 23-year period, rolling back gradually to .31 mills in the year 2022.

Steve Sutton of Farmington Hills questioned proposed improvements to the TV-10 studio at North Farmington High and adding a competitive-sized swimming pool at Farmington High.

The district is wasting money on duplicating facilities — such as a competitive swimming pool — instead of developing less costly innovative programs, Sutton said.

**ADRIAN SHEREMETA, M.D.**  
Internal Medicine & Geriatrics  
Board Certified

is opening the first IHA\* office in Livonia specializing in the treatment and preventive health care of adults

Mission Health Medical Center Building  
37595 Seven Mile Road, Suite 340 • Livonia  
Just East of I-275  
Hours: Open Monday thru Friday  
Saturday and Evening hours available

Insurance Participation  
• BC/BS • Medicare • Care Choices •  
• HAP • Blue Care Network •  
• SelectCare • M-Care  
and many other HMO and insurance plans.

Hospital Admitting Privileges  
(depending upon insurance coverage)  
St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Ann Arbor  
St. Mary Hospital, Livonia  
Providence Hospital, Southfield

**(313) 591-2448**

\*INTEGRATED HEALTH ASSOCIATES  
Pediatrics • Internal Medicine • Obstetrics and Gynecology • Family Practice