

Test

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and how subjects are taught. Another positive sign is that 85 percent of students who were in the proficient category have 3.5 grade point averages or higher, said Barbara Cherem, director of Assessment and Evaluation.

Other board members suggested that improved scores will coincide with improved student attitudes toward taking the test.

Trustee Cathleen Webb said her son tested proficient in all four subject areas, and thought his attitude toward the exam was indicative of how other students felt.

"He thought it was a waste of time," Webb said. "We ought to

Farmington District Report						
High School Proficiency Test • 11th Grade First Time Testers						
Test	Percent Proficient		Percent Honors		Percent Met the Standard	
	29	31	29	31	29	31
Math	63.0	67.2	31.4	26.2	5.6	6.7
Science	44.8	52.3	45.8	39.2	9.7	6.7
Reading	57.7	66.8	39.0	39.4	3.3	3.7
Writing	53.3	52.2	43.0	35.8	3.6	12.1
Communication Arts	38.0	39.6				

* Students must attain proficiency status in both reading and writing to earn a Communication Arts endorsement.

get the message out that this test is very important."

Farmington had 95 percent participation in the test, whereas less than 50 percent of stu-

dents in the Birmingham district took the exam. Though several students there opted out of taking it, Birmingham still finished as one of the top districts in the

county.

"Selectivity does lead to excellence, doesn't it?" Inch said sarcastically.

Test results will be reviewed by building administrators and school improvement teams. Officials are still concerned about juniors' reading and writing scores.

At least 19 percent of Farmington juniors were within a few points of scoring proficient in the writing portion of the test, said Carolyn Mahalak, supervisor of Testing and Evaluation.

"That's a group that would warrant attention," Mahalak said.

Arthritis Foundation looks for people to join training team

The Arthritis Foundation, the Michigan Association USA Track and Field, and some of Michigan's top running champions and coaches are seeking men and women to take on the challenge of competing in a marathon by being a part of the Arthritis Foundation's Joints in Motion training team.

The team will soon begin training for the Bermuda Inter-

national Marathon, scheduled for Jan. 18, 1998. Teams throughout the state will be joining Arthritis Foundation teams from across the country who are participating in the event in support of furthering arthritis research and community based support and education programs for men, women and children affected by arthritis and related diseases.

Running or marathon experience is not required. The Joints in Motion training team will train anyone interested - from the novice to the seasoned athlete. Team members will also have various training and competition options to choose from including the marathon, half marathon or 10K. Each participant will also receive training guidance and direction from some of Michigan's top running champions and running coaches.

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Plan

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ted in the master plan. The commission listened to pros and cons about the project. It then decided having Malan Realty Investors develop the 76-acre area would better rejuvenate a "stagnant" portion of the city than developing it in a piecemeal fashion.

In the works from Malan is a 24-hour Super Kmart, adjacent "Main Street-life" shopping center and 172 single-family condominiums.

"It does consolidate a lot of fragmented parcels," said commission vice-chair Sharon Garmes. "I like the idea of one developer coming in. I'm pleased there's so much residential in this (plan). That's the wave of the future."

"We want an area where people want to live in, and walk to stores. (But) utility improvements are way overdue."

The concept now moves over to the city council for the next step in city planning commission chair Glen Fleischacker said could be a "long, tedious process."

Fleischacker assured residents that their input would be sought - with issues such as traffic heavily scrutinized - throughout that process, to include public hearings before the commission and council.

Even though the commission was only recommending whether the parcel on the southeast corner of Orchard Lake-14 Mile qualified for the kind of project proposed by Malan, a number of residents wanted to be heard anyway.

Several questioned a traffic engineer's report that the project would only minimally impact the existing traffic situation near the project site. Malan is proposing to build a connector road between Northwestern-Orchard Lake, south of 14 Mile, in order to alleviate congestion.

Among concerned residents was Sandra Lewin, who said driving in that vicinity already is "like the California freeways."

Andrew Nickelhoff envisions

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Sharon Garmes
—Farmington Hills Planning Commission

"chaos" there, particularly if something isn't done to improve roads before the conceptual project becomes reality. Making matters worse is a West Bloomfield Township proposal to build a major development practically across the street.

"I would ask that there be some coordinated planning with West Bloomfield," urged Nickelhoff, "because this is an area that has to be planned."

Concurring was Lorna McEwen of West Bloomfield. She said township residents "are fighting as hard as they can to keep any development in the area to a minimum. We're not going to win everything. But I think there should be some cooperation."

Another issue brought up by a representative for Orchard Place Condominiums, located south of the project site, was how such a mega-project might impact an existing flooding problem.

Several residents did speak in favor of the development, mostly how it would rejuvenate business and restore infrastructure in the neighborhood behind it - where residents live on dirt roads and are served by wells and septic tanks.

Bella Brookenthal and Charlene Green also said the proposed complex would be a major aesthetic improvement over the current Kmart center.

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