COHA surveys on development

Residents' input asked

BY LARRY O'CONNOR

A coordinating group for Farmington Hills homeowners' associations wants to know what residents think about develop-

the problem."

The aurvey asks respondents if they've had contact with developere during the past five years and whether the experience was positive. COHA officers want to develop a database of developers and whether they have a track record of keeping promises made to existing residents.

People are also asked to rank pending projects - Super Kmart on Orchard Lake and 14 Mile and West Bay oil drilling in the southwest portion of the city in order of concern.

Surveys are due Dec. 12.

Information collected will be shared with COHA's 44 to 50 members and other associations, possibly including other Oakland County homeowners' groups.

COHA may eventually try to

develop a database of developerand residents think about development.

The Council of Homeowners Associations is conducting a survey with neighborhood groups as part of a recently formed subcommittee that will delve into development and gauge how it affects existing residents.

"We want to talk to people in various neighborhood associations and find out what their experiences have been like, and Andy Nickelhoff, COHA first vice president who lives in Mestagua subdivision.

Though 95 percent of the city and cycloped, several in-fill projects – those built between existing subdivisions – continue cause are remarked and remove the cause are remarked as a subdivision.

A developer and city settled on 27-house development on Power Ruad through a consent judgment, despite protests from neutry residents. The outcome is troubling, Nickelhoff said.

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(USPS 187-840)

Not too cold for fun



snow flew: Brisk tem-peratures didn't bother 4-year-old Ben Krome of Farming-ton, who got a push from Murie-Louise Brisk tem-Louise Begtsson at Shiawassec Park last week before the snow began to fall.

BY TOM HOPPMETER

Sub teachers pay hiked, more wanted

BY TM SMITH
FATMINGTON
FORTH WHITE

Tuesday's decision by the
Farmington Board of Education
to raise the pay for substitute
teachers was ripped by several
veteran classroom fill-ins, who
didn't think the increase was
sufficient.

"We have worked for them for
years and feel it's a slap in the
face," said nine-year district aubstitute Marsha Kifferstein,
shortly after the board voted 5-1
to increase the hourly base rate
from \$10.10 to \$10.35. A sub who
works a full day will carn about
\$76, up from \$73.23, subs with
10 or more days in the same
assignment also will receive a
2.4 percent increase to \$100.81
per day or \$13.91 per hour.
Sub teachers Jerry Young, who
unsuccessfully implored hoard
members to further study the
issue, and Judy Palett said they
didn't think the raise — which

The new rate puts Farmington at the top of the substitute pay chart for comparable, surrounding districts.

takes offect on Dec. 1 - would attract quality fill-ins for an increasingly difficult and demanding job. There are 185 substitutes now no a roster regularly tapped into by the district.

"When you give us a \$1.76 (per day) raise, "Young said, "that's not much."

But according to district per-

But, according to district personnel director Larry Lobert, the new rate puts Farmington at the top of the substitute pay chart for comparable, surrounding districts. Short-term subs in Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills and Walled Lake, for example, earn daily rates of \$69, \$71 and \$69, respectively.

Lobert, during and after the meeting, also detailed a \$5 per

day bonus for those substitutes who worked 50 days the previous year, an effort to reward loyalty and dependability.

Fifty of our subs will qualify for the previous year's pay differential, Lobert said.

That incentive is hoped to keep the district's substitute pool from declining too severely. There has been somewhat of a decline in the available pool, Lobert said, because Farmington is hiring substitutes for its full-time teaching staff.

Kifferstein said the substitutes, who do not belong to the teacher's union, were disappointed about the board's decision for nother reason — they thought they were told they would have another chance to discuss wages with district personnel before a with district personnel before a proposal went to the board. Lobert said such a promise was never made.

"We didn't make that commit-ment," said Lobert following the meeting. "I did listen to their input. But I don't want to get into an argument about that.

There was never a notion that we were going back and forth* with talks.
Most of the board members (Joseph Svoke was absent) backed the proposal. But Jack Inch wasn't thrilled about it. Inch, a college professor, said the \$10.35 per hour rate 'in not a wage for a tremendously difficult job. No way would I have ever substituted. I don't want to solve other people's problems in the classroom.

substituted. I don't want to solve other people's problems in the classroom.

"If we're looking for substitutes, the amount of the raise per day is minute and the \$10.35 per day bothers me. I don't know what the solution is."

He added that someone could get a job in the labor market and make just as much monay without the hassless and headaches.

"This is a case where the private economy is in competition with us," Inch continued, noting that there are jobs out there that are "a lot easier than coming in and moeting a different group of kids every day."

After the meeting, Lobert emphasized how valuable to the district substitutes are.

"We surrely value want they give to us, because we couldn't run the schools without them." It's as simple as that," Lobert enid.

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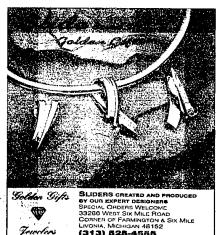
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