

Student style council preps for the prom



Tux strut: Jesse Solocinski (upper right) walks down the aisle during the prom fashion show at Harrison High School Wednesday. In photo above, Jennie Trefilek and Wes Moreland show their style. The event was hosted by Harrison's senior class.

Candidates key in on safety, budgets in Walled Lake race

Improving school safety and dealing with district growth are some of the issues three candidates for the Walled Lake schools board of education plan to address if elected.

Incumbents Thomas McConnell and Randolph Ston are seeking election for two four-year terms on the board beginning in the 1998-99 school year as well as newcomer Michael Karson.

The three met the 4 p.m. April 4 filing deadline turning in petitions for candidacy. Candidates have until today to withdraw their petitions for the June 8 election.

Karson, 39, of West Bloomfield is married to Anne and has two children enrolled in the district at Pleasant Lake Elementary — David, 11, and Jeffrey, 7.

A health care administrator at Leisure Village in Wayne, this is his first bid for a public office.

Karson's main concern is improving the budgeting situation of the district which, he said, has been negatively impacted by Proposal A. He wants to prevent the future loss of programs by lobbying state lawmakers to change the current funding mechanism.

"Unless this issue is addressed right now, we'll be setting ourselves up for a long term problem," Karson said.

Sandra Motz, district executive director of business services, said that while operating revenues have been slightly lower than expenditures she doesn't anticipate the need to cut any programs in the near future.

With a \$5.1 million check from Lansing expected to arrive in the district next week, Karson said a portion of that funding should be used to create additional classroom space in some of the elementary buildings.

He would also like to promote school safety through annual programs, perhaps with local law enforcement, in an effort to prevent violence.

School safety is the primary concern for McConnell, a 38-year-old Walled Lake resident who was appointed to the board in 1993-94 and elected to subsequent one and

four year terms.

The shipping specialist at BASF in Detroit is married to Sharon. His 16-year-old son, Matthew, attends Walled Lake Western High. His 10-year-old son, Jacob, attends Walled Lake Elementary.

While McConnell said the schools are safe, he would like to see the district take a more proactive approach to dealing with safety issues such as weapons, drugs and violence.

"I think when kids go to school... it should be a safe haven for children," McConnell said.

That could be accomplished, he said, through more education and making students aware there is a zero tolerance policy.

"I'd also like to see us continue to improve upon our building facilities for the future," McConnell said. "We're doing a good job, but we need to continue that because of the growth in the area."

McConnell, who said he feels he represents the average working person, would like to use his six years of board experience to continue to serve the district.

Ston, a 54-year-old Commerce Township resident, said since he was appointed to the board in August 1997, he realizes how important a part he plays in the district.

"It's a volunteer type of thing, but it could be a full time job," Ston said.

Ston, a counselor and sociology professor at Oakland Community College in Farmington Hills, is married to Mary and has a son, Adam, who is in fifth grade at Commerce Elementary and a daughter, Sara, who is a seventh-grader at Clifford Smart Middle School.

His main concern is to add more classrooms to the north end of the district, possibly by expanding onto elementary schools.

"We have to balance the north (end of the district)," Ston said.

But with a bond issue passed in 1996, he said, "We'll have to look toward using existing funds."

Ston said future redistricting should be a year-long process involving employees and parents.

Congressman to host forum on tax issues

U.S. Rep. Joe Knollenberg, R-Bloomfield, will conduct a public forum on taxes Wednesday, April 15, at Oakland Community College's Wallace Smith Theater.

The forum runs 7-8:30 p.m. and is open to resident of the 11th Congressional District, which includes Farmington and Farmington Hills and parts of western Wayne County.

Knollenberg will talk about two major tax reforms: the consumption tax and the

flat tax. The forum, which will include a panel discussion and a question and answer period, is designed to lay out where the country is in regards to taxes and where it should go in the future.

John Mach, director of tax at Plante & Moran, and David Sowerby of Loomis Selacy & Co., will join Knollenberg in the panel discussion. The Wallace Smith Theater is at 27055 Orchard Lake, south of I-696, in Farmington Hills.

Raczkowski is tops with cops, selected as lawmaker of year

The state's police union has named State Rep. Andrew Raczkowski, R-Farmington Hills, as its 1998 Legislator of the Year.



Andrew Raczkowski

Police Officer's Association of Michigan selects a lawmaker annually for having a proven track record for supporting law enforcement. This year, Raczkowski made the

grade.

Raczkowski is in his second year of a two-year term as a state representative.

"Rep. Raczkowski has shown, in his first year in office, a deep commitment to the issues that are important to Michigan police officers and their families," said Kenneth Grabowski, POAM legislative director.

"He has been there to listen to our needs and concerns with an open mind and an amazing ability to quickly understand new issues."

"We look forward to working with Rep. Raczkowski in the months to come."

As a freshman lawmaker, Raczkowski guided two pieces of legislation through the state House.

One bill would protect state florists from predatory practices by out-of-state flower companies; the other allows more than 140 hospital landing areas to remain open so hospitals can maintain their level of quality care.

Both bills are before the state Senate for consideration.

"This award culminates a busy beginning to 1998," Raczkowski said. "The pace of the office is exciting and challenging. There is never a dull moment."

Senior commission sponsors Health-O-Rama site at William Costick Center on Wednesday

The Farmington Area Commission on Aging — a joint commission of the cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills — is again sponsoring a Health-O-Rama site 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 15, at the William Costick Center, 28600 11 Mile.

Adults (participants must be at least 18 years old) are offered tests and services on height and weight, vision, hearing, blood pressure, health education and counseling and referral.

In addition to those free tests, a number of other tests will be offered for minimal fees, includ-

ing colorectal cancer screening kits (\$8), cancer antigen blood test for women (\$26), prostate specific antigen test for men (\$25), H. Pylori blood test that screens for various stomach ailments (\$16), HIV test kit for use at home (\$36), and a new bone density X-ray of the forearm that screens for possible degree of osteoporosis (\$26).

The blood panel test consists of 23 profiles and the cost is \$22.

A four-hour fast is recommended before the blood panel test.

Dr. Steven Forche, a dermatologist from Farmington Hills, will

be available to answer questions about moles, warts, acne, skin cancer and other skin care issues. MedMax will provide body composition tests and nutrition counseling.

This is an opportunity to obtain free and low-cost health screening and tests and services. Screening tests do not take the place of regular visits to your health care provider, but can help detect a condition that is developing and may lead you to earlier treatment.

For more details, call Carole Hund at 474-7700.

NOTABLES

Bruce Sutton was recently honored as a "Distinguished Teacher" by Northwood University. Sutton, who teaches at North Farmington High School, was selected for the award by Ryan Soffa, a Northwood honor student. Northwood invites each of its honor students to nominate a teacher who had a profound influence on his or her academic achievements and philosophy.



Ryan Soffa and Bruce Sutton teachers who take extraordinary steps to prepare students for not only higher education, but for

life itself," said Dr. Catherine Chen, provost of Northwood's Michigan campus. "Honoring them as distinguished teachers is a token of the respect they have earned. We are proud of both Bruce Sutton and Ryan Soffa."

Sutton makes his home in Farmington Hills. Ryan Soffa is the son of Jeffrey and Esther Soffa of Farmington Hills.

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