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The Farmington Observer

CRC **MPA** **SN**

Transportation, athletics jobs filled

**BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER**

The Farmington school board Aug. 18 filled two key vacancies on its administrative staff.

Hired as athletic director was Brian Swinehart, a veteran coach and teacher in the district. William Tousey, meanwhile, moves over from a Lansing-area district to become transportation director.

Swinehart takes over operation of the athletics and physical education department, filling a position vacated when Ronald Holland retired after the 1997-98 school year. Tousey is succeeding Julie Teddy, who also

FARMINGTON SCHOOLS

retired. Both started their new jobs Monday.

"I'm very excited about this," said Swinehart to the school board, after his appointment was OK'd. "I look forward to carrying on the traditions Ron Holland established in the athletic department and physical education" and "meeting head-on" the challenges of the next few years.

The Michigan State University graduate will oversee the first

year of the combined high school ice hockey team and changes to physical education, as well as making sure the change to night-time football in fall 1999 takes place without too many glitches.

Swinehart, a teacher at High-meadow Common Campus and East Middle School since 1990, didn't take long to impress the district administrator who led interviews more than a week ago.

"Brian just rose to the top" of eight job candidates who were interviewed, said James Myers, executive director for K-12 instruction and student services. "Overall, he had a real good

sense of what the future should hold for athletics and physical education."

Superintendent Bob Maxfield said it is "always a pleasure" to see someone come up "through the ranks, be willing to take that next step."

Tousey, transportation supervisor since 1993 at Charlotte Public Schools, said he is "looking forward to the challenge" of taking over the transportation helm in Farmington.

He was selected from a field of 18 candidates, said Cheryl Cannon, the district's assistant superintendent for business and finance.

Death from page A1

young," Gerds said.

Before Farmington Hills police and fire departments heard the official cause of death, they were stumped by preliminary reports stating a natural cause of death. Both departments had initially responded to a reported electrocution.

"Did he suffer some kind of heart attack or did he touch a

wire that set off a heart ailment?" Farmington Hills police Sgt. Tim Swanson asked.

Farmington Hills Fire Marshal Stephen Hume said the incident had all the makings of a routine electrocution.

"It was all straightforward until (Monday) when we started getting this conflicting information," Hume said Tuesday after-

noon.

The incident occurred shortly after 3 p.m. at a home where Kobak, an employee of a local siding and window company, was installing vinyl siding. While performing contract work for a homeowner he came into contact with standard 220-volt wires while using an aluminum ladder. He hung onto the wires for about 10 seconds before he fell to the ground, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

Witnesses told police they heard him yell and saw his arm tangled in the wires before he fell.

Farmington Hills Fire Department crews attempted for 20 minutes to revive the man. He was transported to Botsford Hos-

It was all straightforward until (Monday) when we started getting this conflicting information.

Steve Hume
—Fire marshal

pital where he was pronounced dead after attempts to revive him failed. He never regained consciousness.

The man's co-workers told emergency personnel that he had been born with heart problems but were unsure what they were.

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