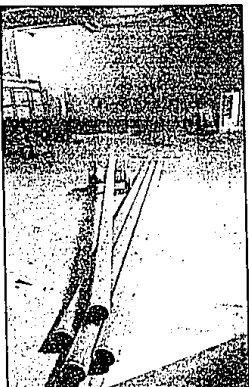


# Bond from page A1



Work it out: Longacre Elementary is one of six schools where bond issue projects continue.

planning, patience and even some sacrifice, said Cowan, a former district administrator who is working as an independent consultant to the district on bond issue projects.

Cowan recently toured several work sites with the Farmington Observer. The projects were part of a \$93.1 million bond issue approved by voters in September 1997.

At one of the tour stops, North Farmington High School, junior varsity/freshmen football coaches Rick Jones and

Jim O'Leary said they gave up a third practice field in order to house construction vehicles and materials.

"They said they'd have it back to us in great shape when they were done," Jones said. "It's been a good tradeoff."

Standing nearby, Cowan noted that "this is a good example of the teamwork we've been getting all across the district."

But that "team" spirit is certain to be tested early during the year, as various wrinkles get ironed out.

"We plan to keep communication open with parents and staff," Cowan said. "And make necessary adjustments."

"There are a lot of things that happen that you can't foresee. So you've got to be ready to make those adjustments right away."

## Meals and masonry

During the tour, Cowan pointed out where work is wrapping up and where future projects are planned. He also highlighted examples where school life might be a little different, at least early on this coming year.

■ Lunch and this will eat hot lunch in the classrooms while the new cafeteria is readied for a late September debut. Meanwhile, taking over in the parking lot where portables for music classrooms formerly were located, are piles of dirt and rubble, not to mention cement and iron where a new performing music area is beginning to take shape.

■ Students at North will walk past a temporary wall, which runs the length of one hallway, separating them from construction workers toiling on future science labs. Teachers in the 10-classroom addition on the east side will deal with boarded-up windows, although air conditioning should be operating by Monday.

"The facilities will be ready for teachers and kids," Cowan said. "But they won't be totally complete. They'll be able to teach. They just won't have the frills."

■ Outside at North, new traffic patterns will help minimize bottlenecks: North students and teachers will leave, via separate driveways, at the same approximate time, construction tractors and trucks start pulling in for the "second shift."

In early September, a traffic light on Farmington Road at Walnut will help "stagger traffic enough so kids can get

**Spark of activity:** This crew member does metal frame work on window that will become a dividing wall in the large group instruction room at Longacre Elementary.

out."

■ Buses will pull in and pull out at Farmington High School, as usual. But — with a shortened bus loop in front of the building — there will be less room to do so.

"For buses, it will be a tight fit," conceded Cowan.

■ Dunklel students walking to-and-fro from classes on the east side of the building will venture past a boarded-up work site, where the new media center eventually will stand. Construction efforts will be double-shifted there, as well.

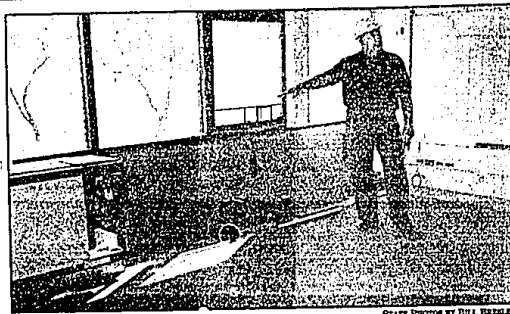
■ But the world will seem much brighter for Kenbrook students who spend time in the media center. Crews blasted through cinderblock walls to open up space for windows, enabling natural light to filter into what had always resembled a dungeon.

Those are just a few of the things staff members and students will see. What they hopefully won't see, thanks to hard work and planning (by construction managers McSEV and others), are dirt-covered furniture and books.

They also won't need to step around piles of debris and construction equipment; crews were in overdrive during the last couple weeks before classes to clean up and fence off work areas.

## Domino effect

Meanwhile, Cowan emphasized the



Taking shape: Project consultant Don Cowan points out new heating and air conditioning units at Kenbrook Elementary School.

importance of projects being completed on time, so that subsequent jobs can begin.

Dunklel's very crowded cafeteria eventually will be transformed into offices and the current offices will be turned into a guidance area. But the first step is completing the new cafeteria, Cowan said.

"This room should be able to seat half of their (700-student) enrollment," said

Cowan, looking over the new cafeteria, expected to be ready by the middle of September. "So they'll have two lunch hours."

At North, when the new classroom wing opens Monday, "We'll shift classes over there and free up classes in the northwest wing," which will in turn be renovated into technology and music classrooms, he said.

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## Check completion dates for your school

■ Six buildings in the Farmington district are preparing for Monday's start of the 1998-99 school year. But bond issue construction projects won't be 100 percent completed. Following are some of the key target dates for those schools:

### LONGACRE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Aug. 31, three temporary classrooms will be required while addition is completed.

Sept. 14, occupy classroom addition.

Sept. 18, temporary fence removal.

Sept. 21, occupy media center.

Oct. 2, new paving and sidewalks.

Oct. 19, occupy gym and music room.

### FARMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL/ PHASE 1

Aug. 31, occupy all remodeled and new spaces except for three new science labs.

Sept. 21, occupy three new science labs.

Other: temporarily house science classrooms in vacated business and music area; refer to Phase 2 sequencing plan; temporary drive/bus drop-off to be developed in front of building; temporary drive/bus drop-off to be moved to back of building during subsequent Phase 2.

### O.E. DUNKLEL MIDDLE SCHOOL

Aug. 31, occupy art, vocal music, instrumental music rooms.

Sept. 11, complete site paving work.

Other: serve lunch from existing kitchen, with students to eat lunch in gymnasium; review Phase 2 sequencing plan.

### KENBROOK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Aug. 31, occupy classroom addition.

Sept. 14, delivery of classroom bookshelves.

Sept. 25, final grade and pave site.

Oct. 19, occupy cafeteria. Until new cafeteria is ready, serve lunches from location outside media center, with students temporarily eating in music and art rooms.

### NORTH FARMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL/ PHASE 1

Aug. 31, occupy classroom addition.

Other: classroom addition to house displaced classrooms associated with Phase 2; create new computer lab on second floor; start Phase 2 site utility work; implement newly developed traffic plan for students, parents and staff.

### GILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Sept. 14, completion of addition.

Other: use of portable classroom unit, moved from Dunklel; temporary housing of classroom in media center or music room; final paving and restoration of site.

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