

Schools plan to hire coordinator for drug programs

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
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Wanted: A director who will help coordinate the vast array of Farmington Public Schools and community substance abuse prevention programs.

Qualifications include knowing how to think, working with babies and having a zero tolerance.

Farmington Public Schools will post the new position internally. District officials want to have someone hired and the office running by November.

The person would administer the budget for Safe and Drug Free Schools grant and related activities and serve as a contact

for similar programs, which includes BABES, THINK, public liaison, student assistance and Farmington Families in Action.

Also, the new director would act as a go-between for both Farmington and Farmington Hills police departments, city governments and 47th District Court.

Other duties include serving as an advisor to the Alternative Academy, Health Advisory Council, Sexual Harassment Committee, Wellness Committee, Guidance and Counseling Committee.

"As you can see, there is a lot to do," said Judy White, assistant superintendent for curriculum.

Farmington Board of Education members unanimously approved creating the position at its regular meeting Oct. 6. The director will work out of the Farmington Training Center.

The position would be bargained under the Farmington Association of School Administrators and pay between \$68,544-\$74,700, depending on experience.

Though the director works for the district, school officials see the office as being a community outreach. The district will ask the cities for financial help for the new office.

Drug and alcohol use doesn't happen while kids are in school, but between the hours 3-6 p.m.

'We have so many programs in the community. We know all the pieces are out there floating around. We need someone to put the pieces together and make the programs work.'

Cathy Webb
—School board president



Hiring: School board President Cathy Webb says drug use by kids happens before parents get home.

before parents get home, said Cathy Webb, board president.

"We have so many programs in the community," Webb said. "We know all the pieces are out there floating around. We need someone to put the pieces together and make the programs work."

Much of the district's substance abuse prevention efforts have been coordinated by Ester-

lee Michaelson as the Safe and Drug Free Schools program. Michaelson, who has been working in the district for 28 years, is expected to be one of the internal applicants.

"We are certainly encouraging her to apply," White said. "She would be a strong candidate."

When asked if she will apply, Michaelson said, "Absolutely."

Fieger set to speak



Speaker: Geoffrey Fieger will discuss his candidacy.

The Birmingham Temple will host what may be the only Republican vs. Democrat discussion before the election at 8:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 26. Geoffrey Fieger will discuss his candidacy and views on state issues. Susie Heinz, the director of Gov. John Engler's Detroit Office and former Wayne County Commissioner as well as a former chairperson of the Michigan Republican Party, will discuss Engler's record and his views for Michigan's future.

the public for the Birmingham Temple is at 28611 W. 12 Mile Road in Farmington Hills, between Inkster and Middlebelt.

The event is free and open to

District night court to start Oct. 20

BY TIM SMITH
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Not everyone can make it to 47th District Court during regular business hours to file papers or pay tickets. They soon will have an additional two hours.

On the third Tuesday of each month, the 10 Mile Road court will stay open until 6:30 p.m. — two hours later than the traditional 4:30 p.m. closing time. The change takes effect Oct. 20.

"The main reason is to hopefully provide added access to the court system for the public," said

David Walsh, administrator for 47th District Court, which serves Farmington and Farmington Hills. "Our (regular) hours are sometimes difficult to accommodate people."

The regular court hours of 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. aren't very accommodating to some for a pretty good reason, Walsh said. Those will continue to be the hours on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays and all but the third Tuesday each month.

"Realistically, other people are working during those hours as

'Realistically, other people are working during those hours as well.'

David Walsh
—Court administrator

well."

The court has been assessing extended hours for some time, Walsh said. The change is permanent "Unless we're not drawing anybody in during those times.... We'll evaluate it, obviously."

The change is unrelated to the court's ongoing campaign for expanded, improved facilities, he said. "It's just an attempt on our part to be more responsive to the public."

47TH DISTRICT

A subcommittee is working on a feasibility study, having toured other area court facilities. Its goal is to sell city officials on the merits of asking the public for a tax increase to pay for a new facility.

With several full meetings of that committee completed, the next step is for an architect to be selected.

47th District Judge Marla Parker agreed about the expanded hours being a good way to be responsive to people's needs. She was asked about the change at Wednesday's "Celebrity Server" night to benefit Farmington Families in Action. The benefit took place at the Farmington Road Big Boy restaurant.

Arthritis Today
JOSEPH J. WEISS, M.D. RHEUMATOLOGY
18825 Farmington Road
Livonia, Michigan 48152
Phone: (248) 478-7860

CHECKING YOUR BLOOD IN ARTHRITIS
When you are under treatment for arthritis, your doctor will want to check your blood periodically. In this evaluation, he will look for the amount of hemoglobin in the red blood cells and the number of white blood cells and platelets present in your blood.

He will make these evaluations periodically for several reasons.

First, any of the drugs used to treat arthritis have a potentially irritating effect on the stomach. The result can be a ulcer with bleeding and blood loss. Taking the blood check alerts the physician to the side effect of medication.

Second, arthritis itself can cause the bone marrow to slow its production of red cells, white cells and platelets. Trending the blood and platelet count provides the physician measure of the effectiveness of present therapy.

If assessment indicates that your anemia comes from the arthritis or its medicine, your doctor has certain therapies if the anemia is associated with the drug medication, your physician can prescribe low doses of folic acid which reportedly show will offset the unwanted effect of a very good arthritis drug.

If the cause of your anemia is from arthritis itself, your physician can order the medication erythropoietin. This injected medication stimulates bone marrow to overcome the inhibiting effect of blood cell production caused by your arthritis.

Periodic blood work in arthritis is both useful and necessary.

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Dentistry in the 90's
by Herbert M. Gardner, D.D.S.

DRYING TIMES

Those who take antihistamines for colds, flu, or allergies should be aware that these medications dry the mouth along with runny noses and watery eyes. This unwelcome side effect deprives the teeth of the buffering effect of saliva. This is no small matter, since saliva not only limits the growth of cavity-causing bacteria, it also bathes the teeth in minerals that help early-stage cavities remineralize, or heal. In the short run, drinking plenty of water can help keep teeth and soft oral tissues moist during limited use of long-term medications as anti-depressants and high-blood pressure medications that cause enduring cases of dry mouth.

If so, the dentist should be consulted about mouth-lubrication treatments. At LIVONIA VILLAGE DENTAL ASSOCIATES we care about your dental health and that of your family. If you have any questions about medication and its effect on your teeth, we can help. A periodic dental check-up serves to address existing oral problems and its means of detection for the entire family. We're located at 19171 Merriman Road, where we recommend a regular routine of office visits for the entire family. Call 478-2110 to schedule an appointment. Smiles are our business.

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Now Accepting New Patients

Judith Brysk, MD, is a board-certified specialist in Obstetrics and Gynecology. She recently joined the practice of James Kommesser, MD, Catherine Chartier, MD, Chandrika Joshi, MD, and Beata Weiermiller, MD.

After earning her medical degree at the University of Michigan, Dr. Brysk completed her internship and residency at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor. She is a fellow in the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology and is a member of various other medical associations.

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