

# Teacher training sessions to take over Civic stage

By TIM SMITH  
STAFF WRITER  
tsmith@homecomm.net

When the city of Farmington purchased the Civic Theatre, officials insisted the facility could be viable, as long as businesses and corporations used it for weekday conferences.

It took a few months, but this week's Farmington Public Schools elementary study summer academy, "Celebrating the Journey," is the first such use of the landmark Grand River facility.

More than 200 elementary teachers will attend three two-hour sessions, 8:30-10:30 a.m. Monday through Wednesday, in the Civic's lower auditorium. Before the sessions, they will enjoy breakfast at the nearby Grand Cafe. Breakout sessions will follow, at the Farmington Training Center, from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day.

These sessions will focus on a variety of educational topics, such as the use of technology in curriculum, enrichment programs, conflict resolution, assessment, student portfolios

and goal-setting.

Teachers voluntarily signed up for the workshop, which goes toward the state-mandated four days of in-service teacher training, said Jerry Fouchey, director of curriculum and staff development.

"It's a wonderful facility, but this is our first time through," Fouchey said. "So we'll try to figure out the sound system and the lights."

The district is planning to use the Civic for future staff development programs, Fouchey added.

"Of course, we're excited that the community is going to be

using the facility," said Farmington Mayor Bill Hartsock. "Especially in an event like this. It brings a lot of people downtown during the day. There should be an ancillary benefit for restaurants and other businesses."

Bill Richards, assistant city manager, said the school teacher training is the "perfect kick-off" to the theater rental program.

The 8:30-10:30 a.m. general sessions at the Civic include the following:

■ Monday, David Bydlowski, Charles Kline and Fred Ribitz, who will perform "Science Exploration: Brain-Based Instruction

## "CELEBRATING THE JOURNEY"

■ 'It's a wonderful facility.'

Jerry Fouchey  
—Farmington Public Schools

Through Music, Magic & Comedy."

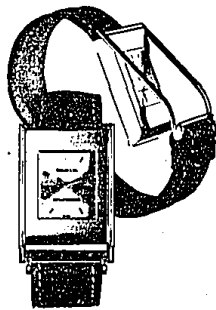
■ Tuesday, Elba Santiago LeBonte, "Diversity in the Elementary Classroom."

■ Wednesday, Bill Page, "Ya Got What Ya Get."

Page, a former teacher and educational consultant, will talk

about how teachers must teach the kids they get in their classrooms, "not the kids we used to get."

He will supply practical ideas for increasing achievement, attitude, discipline and success of each student.



"The Schlumberger Watch" by Jean Schlumberger

Watch with the closure ingeniously concealed in the bezel. In white eighteen karat gold on a black leather strap or yellow eighteen karat gold on a brown ostrich strap. From \$2,750 to \$3,550.

TIFFANY & CO.

TROY • SOMERSET COLLECTION 248-437-1800 • OPEN 10-9, SAT 10-6, SUN 11-6  
www.tiffany.com

On June 8, 2000 RadioShack broadcast a Jewel concert into all of our stores.

This broadcast was misidentified in our print advertising as being "High Definition."

The broadcast and all subsequent in-store broadcasts of the concert will be in digital quality picture and sound only.

We regret this error and any confusion it may have caused.

THINKING ABOUT  
CENTRAL  
AIR  
CONDITIONING  
**LENNOX**  
FREE ESTIMATES  
(734) 525-1930  
UNITED TEMPERATURE  
8919 MIDDLEBELT • LIVONIA

Canton  
**LIBERTY FEST**  
Arts & Craft Show  
JUNE 24 & 25  
Over 120 Booths  
Canton Top's Largest Craft Show  
presented by  
Smetanki Craft Shows  
810-658-0440  
call for exhibitor info

## Teachers from page A1

become a reality locally.

While all three issues on the ballot concern educators, teacher testing affects them on a more personal level.

"There's a certain cynicism in the question of testing," said Jack Faxon, headmaster of the private International School in Farmington Hills. He's also a retired state senator. "What bothers me in the proposition that teachers are somehow lacking in skills. I find it offensive."

"We aren't asking other professions to do the same thing. Why, all of the sudden, should teachers have to take tests? What do we think these people are? The people who wrote this up have a cynical view of teachers."

The "writers" are members of Kids First! Yes!, the organization that gathered enough petition signatures to put these issues on a ballot.

"It's unfortunate Mr. Faxon would want to talk about motives," said Greg McNeilly, communications director for Kids First! Yes! "In the Legislature, he withstood a test every four years. Doctors, electricians, police officers and EMS workers all get periodic testing. Those entrusted with our children's education should do the same."

With teacher testing, McNeilly said, parents would know if their children's teachers are qualified. He said a precedent was established when the Department of Education implemented a test for teacher certification.

## Unknown factors

McNeilly said the test hasn't been developed yet and he's unsure how often teachers would be tested or what consequences they would face if they failed. He said the Legislature will formulate a program.

It's the unknowns that bother educators, including the headmaster of Steppingstone, a school for gifted students in Farmington Hills.

"If this issue affects our normal procedures, we couldn't keep our school what it is," said Kiyo Morse.

The lack of detail makes it difficult to comment, said Tom Chrzanowski, head of the Farmington Education Association, the local teacher's union.

"The devil is in the details," he said. "We don't know what this test looks like, who will monitor it, who will create it or score it. We also don't know what happens if you fail it."

"The fact is that if teacher testing becomes a reality that means vouchers are a reality and that's something we're not looking forward to."

McNeilly said teacher testing isn't cynical toward teachers, as Faxon believes. It's unfriendly to their tenure system.

Teachers, after working four years in the same school district, achieve tenure status. Tenure benefits include certain safeguards against dismissal. "Ninety-five percent of teachers will do wonderfully," McNeilly

ly said. "It will strengthen public confidence in teachers. The other 5 percent might want to seek employment elsewhere."

Richard Halsey, executive director of the Association of Independent Michigan Schools, is concerned that testing will allow the state to control hiring practices at private schools. His interlock-based organization represents 28 private schools, including Country Day, Cranbrook, Steppingstone and the International School.

"If the state wants to control teacher hiring, I'd be surprised if very many of our schools participated in the voucher program," Halsey said.

The superintendent of Farmington public schools is less concerned about the topic.

"Frankly, this isn't a very big part of this proposal," Bob Masfield said. "It's almost as if teacher testing was an afterthought. I can't believe that anyone would vote for or against this just because of the teacher testing issue."

Meanwhile, teachers routinely attend workshops and seminars throughout the year to hone their skills and stay abreast of educational trends. From Monday through Wednesday, Farmington elementary school teachers will participate in "Celebrating the Journey," a staff development seminar at the Civic Theatre and Farmington Training Center.

(See related story above.)



## Seniors get the care they need and the respect they deserve at Sunrise Assisted Living.

Sunrise Assisted Living can make a wonderful difference in the quality of life for seniors who need assistance with daily living. You'll find round-the-clock caregiving tailored to individual needs and preferences, life-enriching activities, licensed nursing staff, and a delicious selection of three meals a day and snacks. In a separate area, Sunrise features *Reminiscence*, an innovative program of care for residents with memory impairment.

**SUNRISE**  
ASSISTED LIVING

A home-like quality care alternative for seniors and special  
Reminiscence Neighborhood for those with memory impairment.

Ann Arbor:  
734-327-1350  
(Open!)

2190 Ann Arbor-Saline Road  
Ann Arbor

Ann Arbor North:  
734-741-9500  
(Open!)

1901 Plymouth Road  
Ann Arbor

Farmington Hills North:  
248-538-9200  
(Open!)

29681 Middlebelt Road  
Farmington Hills

Northville:  
734-420-4000  
(Open!)

16100 Haggerty Road  
Plymouth

Rochester:  
248-601-9000  
(Open!)

500 East University Drive  
Rochester

West Bloomfield:  
248-738-8101  
(Models Opening Soon!)

700 Pontiac Trail  
West Bloomfield

Bank One's 18-month CD.

**7.05%** APY

A fixed-rate CD from Bank One can really help balance your investment portfolio. But let's not forget all the money you'll make.

Higher interest than most money market accounts, guaranteed fixed rates and full FDIC insurance. The security of a Certificate of Deposit from Bank One can help offset some of your riskier investments and add balance to your portfolio. But we know, it's hard to focus on balance when you're really thinking of money.

For CDs or IRAs, stop by Bank One or call us toll free at 1-800-325-5623 for Personal Accounts, 1-800-404-4111 for Business Accounts.

**BANK ONE**

Preferred Financial Partner for Michigan Athletics  
www.bankone.com

Member FDIC. Annual Percentage Yield (APY) offer good through 6/30/00 and available at Bank One, Michigan, Detroit, Grand Rapids, Benton Harbor area locations only. Requires a minimum of \$1,000 to open. Penalty for early withdrawal. Bank One reserves the right to limit deposits in this account to \$100,000 per customer. Brokered deposits may not be accepted.