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The partial wall collapse at the former Racquetball Farmington building at 34200 Nine Mile Road is now in the hands of an insurance company, according to John Kencsol, Farmington building inspector.

Public Services Director Kevin Gushman declared the building unsafe following an accident May 17.

"A guy doing demolition work

took down a wall which took down the roof," Koncsol said. "Half the building fell in. They are trying to retrofit the building."

A structural analysis will follow. The building is now owned by Dennis Rice of Modern Moving in Livonia. The company planned to gut the inside of the building making room for their mini-storage and warehouse service. Their semi-trucks will be parked outside.

"We're getting the damage fixed now," Rice said. "We hope to be operational by September."

Immediately following the accident, the area was cordoned off with a snow fence and Farmington Public Safety officers were warned to be careful if they entered the building for any reason.

"All employees responding should exercise care and caution," said Mike Wiggins, deputy public safety director, in notes contained in the daily police log.

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
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A Wall Street firm's analysis implies Clarenceville district taxpayers are not getting enough bang for their buck.

What the study doesn't take into account are the higher costs to run a suburban district, especially one in Oakland County, Superintendent Tom Tattan

Standard & Poors' study was part of an overall look at the state's more than 500 public school districts, which examined 1,500 items of data involving financial and academic achievement. S&P analyzed school data from 1985-90.

In Clarenceville's case, S&P's School Evaluation Services summary stated the district "produces average student results with comparatively high spending."

Under strengths, S&P cites Clarenceville for moderately above-average MEAP composite scores and AP participation. The 1,900-student district includes portions of Farmington Hills, Livonia and Redford.

The school chief doesn't dispute the conclusion, but takes issue with the way it was derived.

"I guess their assessment is correct. I'm not sure the state aid average is the benchmark we should be using," Tattan said. "I prefer to use the benchmark that is part of Bloomfield Hills and Birmingham at \$11,000 per kid."

Clarenceville spent \$7,646 per student in 1999, which is well above the state average of \$6,565 and higher than systems with similar demographics, the report said. S&P's evaluation is available on the Internet: <http://www.scs.standardandpoors.com>.

Clarenceville was compared to districts outstate, which don't have to pay the same wages or cost of living expenses, Tattar said.

The study also doesn't take into account that Clarenceville came in as a "hold-harmless" district under Proposal A, meaning its per-pupil spending rate remained the same.

To achieve passing scores on the MEAP, the district had to spend \$134 a student, which is \$26 more than the state average and higher than its peers according to the report.

A district's performance cost index - or PCI - was measured by per-pupil spending combined with MEAP composite score

"Any district that has state aid higher than the state average is going to be penalized by that," Tattan said. "They are looking at MEAP scores in terms of dollars you are getting."

Challenges and concerns S&P found included well-below average MEAP and ACT participation. The district also had moderately below average gradua-

Some students in districts like *Birmingham and Farmington* have refused to take the MEAP test, which has had an effect, Totton said.

ACT participants reflect the number of university-bound students. Many Clarenceville graduates go onto Schoolcraft College or Oakland Community College, which doesn't require they take the ACT, Tattan said.

Below-average graduation rates is a symptom of the district's transient population, Tattan said.

S&P's findings could be useful, especially as a management tool, Tattan said. One problem is the information is more than a year old.

"I don't want to spend too much time on it because it's old data," he said. "We're well beyond this anyway."

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It took two years for Amy Proctor Mantyla to get on the "Who Wants to be a Millionaire" game show with host Regis Philbin.

The Harrison High school counselor hopes everyone tunes in this Sunday at 9 p.m. on ABC's Channel 7. Mantyla made it to the hot seat but is not willing to divulge any further information.

"They asked me not to reveal anything," Mantyla said. "I've been trying to get on for two years."

She found out she was selected June 3 following an April 12 audition.

"I like Regis and the show," Mantyla said. "The studio is smaller than it looks on TV. There are only about 150 people in the audience."

Mantyla's husband, Pete, is a Farmington school district teacher who coaches girls and boys basketball.

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