

Lunch break



STAFF PHOTOS BY BILL BRENNER

Back to School spirit: The gang from Forest Elementary - Lloyd Lewis, Marianne Carolan, Meaghan Morris, Teri Keesling, Jeannie Hudkins, Betty Hiebendahl and Dawn Smith - enjoyed the 5th Annual Back to School picnic, held Thursday in Shitawasse Park. Below, Beechview teachers Scott Stautler and Michele Burkmyer raise school spirit with a shake of the poms (left) and Pam Christian and Frisella Brouillette are amused by the condition of some of the hot dogs coming off the grill (right).



School starts with half-day August 27

The first day of school is Monday, Aug. 27 (a.m. only). Afternoon kindergarten begins on Tuesday, Aug. 28. All buildings will be closed on Monday, Sept. 3 in celebration of the Labor Day Holiday.

Students and teachers in Farmington Public Schools will be in their buildings on Friday, Aug. 31, the Friday before Labor Day.

The Michigan Legislature passed House Bill 4099 in the fall of 1999, requiring school districts to give students and staff an extended Labor Day recess. The new law, however, does not apply to those school districts with collective bargaining contracts in place prior to May 1, 1999.

Farmington Public Schools' contracts were approved in 1998 and have negotiated calendar through the 2001-2002 school year. Following the expiration of the current contracts, administrators and collective bargaining units will review the status of the law and the needs of the District to determine if school will be in session the Friday before Labor Day.

Starting times are as follows:

HIGH SCHOOLS

Farmington: 7:30 a.m.-2:23 p.m.
Harrison: 7:25 a.m.-2:23 p.m.
North: 7:30 a.m.-2:23 p.m.

MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Power, Longacre, O.E. Dunckel and East:
7:40 a.m.-2:17 p.m.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Beechview, Hillside, Lanigan, Longacre and Wood Creek:

A.M. Kindergarten: 8:52 a.m.-11:57 a.m.
P.M. Kindergarten: 12:57 p.m.-4:02 p.m.

Grades 1-5: 8:52 a.m.-4:02 p.m.

Eagle, Gill and Wooddale:

A.M. Kindergarten: 8:13 a.m.-11:18 a.m.
P.M. Kindergarten: 12:18 p.m.-3:23 p.m.

Grades 1-5: 8:13 a.m.-3:23 p.m.

Flanders, Forest, Kenbrook and William Grace:

A.M. Kindergarten: 8:03 a.m.-11:08 a.m.
P.M. Kindergarten: 12:08 p.m.-3:13 p.m.

Grades 1-5: 8:03 a.m.-3:13 p.m.

Highlandwood: 8:52 a.m.-4:02 p.m.

Alameda:

A.M. Preschool: 9:15 a.m.-11:45 a.m.
P.M. Preschool: 12:30 p.m.-3 p.m.

A.M. Kindergarten: 8:38 a.m.-11:43 a.m.
P.M. Kindergarten: 12:43 p.m.-3:48 p.m.

Grades 1-2: 8:38 a.m.-3:48 p.m.

Fairview:

A.M. Preschool: 9:15 a.m.-11:45 a.m.
P.M. Preschool: 12:30 p.m.-3 p.m.

A.M. Kindergarten: 8:38 a.m.-11:43 a.m.
P.M. Kindergarten: 12:43 p.m.-3:48 p.m.

Early Childhood:

A.M. Preschool: 9:15 a.m.-11:45 a.m.
P.M. Preschool: 12:30 p.m.-3 p.m.

A.M. Headstart: 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
P.M. Headstart: 12:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

City considers 'hiring' museum help

By SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER
suebuck@homecomm.net

Linda Horvath, a Farmington Hills resident, wants to assist in the preservation and care of the museum collection in the city-owned Gov. Warner Mansion museum, located on Grand River, west of Farmington Road.

Farmington city officials are considering her appointment as a part-time director/curator. Her exact title is yet to be determined, and the position would be unpaid, for now.

"Lines of authority would be drawn," said Farmington City Manager Frank Lauhoff. There would be strong oversight, he added.

Horvath has experience at historical sites in Montana and Port Huron, Franklin, Romeo and Holly in Michigan. She holds a 1994 master's degree in museum study from the University of Oklahoma and a bachelor of arts degree in sociology with an interest in archaeology.

A 16-year, non-paid professional at Cranbrook Institute of Science, she has volunteered as a docent at the Gov. Warner Mansion.

The museum needs to be set up as a business, Horvath said. "You are selling your product and your history. The fund-raising committee can't run the place. You don't need to set up like the Smithsonian."

Horvath suggested holding fund-raising events off-site, possibly at the Spicer House in Farmington Hills, to keep food and drink from being taken into the mansion and prevent breakage of items inside the historical home.

Funds are a factor in the operation, said Farmington Mayor

Bill Hartsock. "We have always been strapped in terms of finances and expertise," Hartsock said. "We need a business plan."

Councilwoman JoAnne McShane was enthused by Horvath's passion. "We have long talked about having a director," McShane said.

The opinions Horvath shared with the council during its Aug. 21 study session were, at times, quite frank.

She urged council to become more selective in its acquisitions, with more than one person determining the value of each piece in the collection and where it should be placed. The collection would become more period specific to the home and its history.

"Right now you are Farmington's attic," Horvath said.

She's concerned with a number of factors like temperature and humidity fluctuations in a building which she said can't be climate-controlled.

She suggested exhibits should be rotated, adding, "There should not be exhibits in any room where there is a window in it." Ultraviolet rays have an impact, so specially-designed window film could be used, Horvath said.

She also advised changing locks.

Horvath wants the city to set specific standards that would be included in a mission statement.

Councilman Arnold Campbell cited the importance of "establishing a structure which perpetuates itself."

"You're the right lady to pull all this together," Councilwoman Mary Bush told Horvath.

Volunteers

Bus safety from page A1

sories are culled from several sources provided to the Observer by Farmington Schools:

Students should arrive at the designated bus stop 10 minutes before the scheduled pickup time. They should be ready to board the bus and not waiting in vehicles when the bus arrives.

It's important to stay away from the bus' wheels. Students crossing the road should do so in front of the bus for their safety. Students aren't allowed to switch bus stops if they are late for the bus.

Middle and high school students need to have a note from their school office on order to ride a different bus home. This is only granted on a space-available basis. Elementary students aren't allowed to ride different buses.

Once on the bus, students should sit as directed by the driver and may be assigned a

seat, if necessary. Students are expected to sit three in a seat, when needed, and to stay seated while the bus is moving. The driver gives permission to switch seats.

Other basic rules are as follows:

- Items not allowed in school are not allowed on the bus. This includes skateboards and roller blades.

- Keep the bus aisles and emergency exits clear at all times.

- Use appropriate language.

- Sit with your back against the seat.

- Talk in your classroom voice.

- Eating, drinking, yelling and horseplay aren't acceptable.

- Students violating the bus rules may receive a conduct report, which is given to school officials. Students who continue to disobey the rules may be suspended from the bus, according

to school-provided information.

The district expects parents to accept joint responsibility for proper conduct of children while they ride the bus and wait at the bus stop.

Bus officials want parents to explain to their children that a bus may take a different route home at times and to not be upset if they find themselves in an unfamiliar area.

Drivers also have some rules to obey around school buses, violations of which could earn them a traffic ticket.

- When overhead yellow or overhead red lights are flashing on a moving bus, prepare to stop.

- When overhead red lights are flashing on a stopped bus, vehicles must stop no closer than 20 feet away from the bus.

- When only hazard lights are flashing on a bus, proceed with caution.

"It's a New Day at Crittenton!"



Lyle Perna

Crittenton Maintenance Technician

"Crittenton's new administration has been very receptive to the employees' concerns, questions and ideas. They have done many things to benefit the staff, which has helped a great deal to improve attitudes and working conditions."

"Crittenton has been my community hospital for many years. I got my first job there when I was 16, had my children there and spent 12 days in intensive care while they saved my life. We are so fortunate to have such an excellent medical facility in our backyard!"

Melinda Conway Callahan
Executive Director

Rochester Community Schools Foundation

CRITTENTON HOSPITAL
MEDICAL CENTER

Quality Care...Close to Home & Work

1101 W. University Drive, Rochester, Michigan 48307-1831
www.crittenton.com

Some students will have new start times

By ALICE ASHMORE
STAFF WRITER
ashmore@homecomm.net

The start of school always means a change of routine from the lazy days of summer, but some Livonia students are going to have to adjust to different starting times this year.

Elementary students (with the exception of Webster Elementary) will begin classes five minutes later, said Sheila Alles, director of elementary education. School begins with a half day on Aug. 27.

Regular elementary class times are scheduled to begin at 8:45 a.m., with dismissal at 3:35 p.m. Lunch will be from 11:50 a.m. to 12:40 p.m., Alles said.

The change was made to allow additional time between bus runs for elementary and middle school.

Middle school times have been adjusted too, Alles said.

Classes will begin at 8:10 a.m.

and dismissal at 3 p.m., with lunch from 11:15 a.m. to 12:05 p.m.

Webster will follow the same hours as the middle school due to combined busing, she said.

"As always, children come first," Alles said. "We wanted to make sure that children are safe on bus runs."

The change in class schedules shouldn't be a surprise to parents.

"All of our elementary and middle schools sent letters home to parents last spring," Alles said.

She said she expects no problems over the modified start times. "I'm sure parents are as concerned with student safety as we are."

Clarenceville District students will follow a schedule similar to last year's.

According to information provided by the superintendent's office, classes for elementary

students will begin at 8:34 a.m. and dismissal at 3:30 p.m.; middle school students will attend from 8 a.m. to 2:50 p.m.; and high school students start classes at 7:30 a.m. and will be dismissed at 2:25 p.m.

Clarenceville schools also begin on Aug. 27.

Classes will begin in Livonia on Monday, Aug. 27, with elementary students attending for only a half-day.

First through sixth graders will be in class from 8:45 to 11:50 a.m.

"Kindergartners, both a.m. and p.m., will in abbreviated sessions," Alles said.

Morning kindergartners will attend from 8:45 to 11 a.m. Afternoon students will attend kindergarten from 10:35 to 11:50 a.m.

Tuesday, Aug. 28, will be the first full day of classes.