

Hills PD's Kids Club honored by Michigan Municipal League

The Farmington Hills Police Department's Crime Prevention Kid's Club earned an honorable mention at the recent 18th Annual Michigan Municipal Achievement Awards Competition.

The award was presented Sept. 12 at the Michigan Municipal League's Achievement Awards Luncheon in Battle Creek.

The Crime Prevention Kid's Club is one of the 48 community policing programs provided by the Farmington Hills Police Department.

Earlier this year, the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police recognized the Kid's Club by awarding Officer Bonnie Unruh its Excellence in Community Policing Award for developing the club.

The club is for children in kindergarten through fifth grade living in Farmington Hills. Each child receives membership materials which include a membership card, decoder apple and quarterly newsletters containing games, puzzles, vocabulary drills and safety tips.

The club's goal is to promote crime prevention, improve police-community relations, and reinforce good behavior and good citizenship.

Target has presented grant money to pay for the program; Determined Productions donated 2,000 decoder apples.

"It is important for the police department to continually look for new and innovative ways to promote positive safety programs to reach both the youth of Farmington Hills and their families," said Police Chief Bill Dwyer.

Precinct locations

Pct. 1: Longacre Elementary, 34850 Arundel

Pct. 2: William Grace Elementary, 29040 Shiawassee

Pct. 3: East Middle School, 25000 Middlebelt

Pct. 4: Warner Middle School, 30303 West 14 Mile

Pct. 5: Dunkel Middle School, 32800 West 12 Mile

Pct. 6: Forest Elementary, 34545 Old Timber

Pct. 7: Hillside Elementary, 36801 West 11 Mile

Pct. 8: Gill Elementary, 21195 Gill Road

Qualified voters ages 18 and older who have registered in their district may vote in this election. For information, call (248) 489-3341 or visit the intermediate district's website: www.oakland.k12.mi.us

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technologies and equipment that are critical to student success in their possible career area, officials said.

The money will be used to improve the four Oakland Technical Centers, make career preparation programs available to all students, and pay for grants to school districts for technical education programs.

Using \$200,000 as the average home price in the Farmington area, residents can expect to pay an annual increase of \$117 for the special education tax and \$22 for the vocational education tax.

Sent to every resident, some of the literature the district inserted in school newsletters didn't contain the cost to voters.

The Farmington Public School District runs its own elections with the help of the Farmington Hills City Clerk who allows use of the voting equipment.

District-run election

Cheryl Cannon, assistant superintendent for business, finance and operations, together

with Judy Steinhebel, her assistant, coordinate school elections. Steinhebel expected a turnout similar to that of school board elections — 2 1/2 to 3 percent. As of Thursday, the school district received back 265 of the 300 absentee ballots it sent out.

The district doesn't send out ballot applications automatically to senior citizens because of the cost, Steinhebel said.

Costs for this special election haven't been tabulated. "The Oakland County Intermediate School District will fully reimburse us," Steinhebel said. Election bills must be submitted by Oct. 31, she said.

In a presentation to Farmington City Council recently, Superintendent Bob Maxfield and Board President Cathy Webb stressed the district's desire to avoid cuts and maintain small class sizes, fine arts programs, athletics and employee training.

This will be the second time Farmington/Farmington Hills voters go to the polls this year.

The first was in June to vote

for school board members. Voters also approved tax renewals for both the Farmington School District and Oakland Community College.

Voters in both cities will elect city officials on Nov. 8; Farmington voters will also decide whether the city should borrow up to \$1.8 million to begin a sewer rehabilitation program. If the city's tax proposal passes, residents would save \$46 per year on a home that sells for \$200,000.

The school proposals appear to have a strong base of support among voters. However not everyone will support the proposals Tuesday.

Joan Mell, 67, a Kondalwood Street resident, doesn't believe enough information was disseminated and will vote no. She'd like the school district to automatically send out absentee voter applications to seniors. Mell doesn't like special elections and prefers issues be listed under one ballot.

"My taxes are double what they were in 1984," Mell said. "I put two kids through college."

She supported her family when her husband, now deceased, became disabled. "It's getting prohibitive for people to stay in their own homes unless they have a good income," Mell said. "Many of the people in my subdivision are older and don't have children in school."

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