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Detroit Country Day School Open House

Sunday, Oct. 21 • 1-4 p.m.

Pre-k through Grade 12

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Benefit walk reaches Pennsylvania

Firefighters and police in Farmington Hills joined the "Bridge to Bridge: Side by Side" walk October 11 from the Ambassador Bridge to the Brooklyn Bridge, to raise disaster relief money.

As of Tuesday, the walkers were located on US-6 between Ansonia and Wellsboro, Pennsylv-

vania. They are expected to arrive at the Brooklyn Bridge in New York on October 18.

Jim Etzlin, a firefighter and paramedic with the Farmington Hills Firefighters Association, said, "Anybody who's participating in the walk will be accepting pledges. The primary reason for the walk is to show our support,

to demonstrate the fire services and law enforcement solidarity."

Joining the fund-raiser for families of police, firefighters and emergency medical technicians who died in the World Trade Center attack are the Farmington Hills Police Officers Association, Command Officers Association and Police Benevolent Association.

The walk, which began at the Ambassador Bridge, will conclude on the Manhattan side of the Brooklyn Bridge.

Walkers will symbolically pass a firefighter's helmet along the route so they can be presented to the City of New York. At least one firefighter and one police officer will walk together along the 600-mile route.

Donations will be accepted before, during and after the walk.

All proceeds go to the Widows and Children's Funds of the Uniformed Firefighters Association of New York and the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association of New York.

To donate: Make checks payable to either the UFA Widows and Children's Fund or the PBA Widows and Children's Fund and mail to:

Bridge to Bridge: Side by Side,
c/o Farmington Hills Fire Fighters Association, P.O. Box 184,
Farmington, MI, 48332-0184.

Lewis from A1

is a big highlight in their careers as principals."

Unfortunately, because of security reasons, a trip to the White House won't be possible, she said.

Lewis was nominated by Forest Elementary staff with support by parents and students. It began last year in Traverse City, when he was named Michigan's Outstanding Principal.



Lloyd Lewis

Principal by the Michigan Elementary School Principals Association at the annual conference October 2000. Michigan has aligned its standards with the national criteria.

The National Distinguished Principal for Michigan award automatically follows the Michigan Outstanding Principal award.

"Everybody knew about it except me," Lewis said. "The exciting thing is that almost the entire staff had chartered a bus and left school Thursday afternoon when school let out."

Lewis had his own cheering section at the conference, which also included family.

"It was the most humbling thing which has ever happened to me," Lewis said. "I see this as representative of what hundreds and hundreds of hundreds of educators do on a daily basis. It's such a remarkable accolade. It's something in my wildest imagination I wouldn't even have considered."

Lewis has been principal of Forest Elementary for five years. He came to the district from Burton Elementary in Huntington Woods where he was principal for nine years in the Berkley School District.

Before that he was the founding administrator for the Center for Advanced Study of the Arts in Oak Park, a high school program and consortium of five different school districts.

He has a bachelor's degree in political science and business from Eastern Michigan University. His masters of education is from Wayne State University.

Family ties

The Lewis family once owned the Southfield News until it was sold and became the Southfield Eccentric, Lewis said.

"It was founded by my mother and started in my basement, literally," Lewis noted.

He taught in the Berkley School District where he also was a high school counselor.

Lewis is a longtime friend of Farmington School District Superintendent Bob Maxfield's family. Maxfield and Lewis worked in the Berkley School District. "Bob and I started together," Lewis said.

Lewis' daughter, Elise, is married to Jim, Maxfield's son. That means shared baby-sitting responsibilities for their mutual grandson, Ethan, 2.

Lewis and wife, Hazel, have two other adult children, Sharon and Jeff and two other grandchildren, Zoe Allen, 4, and Maracna Allen, 2. The Lewis' reside in Waterford.

"This is long overdue," Bob Maxfield said. "He's outstanding. He has a wholesome set of values. Teachers are always quoting him about what's right for the kids."

Lewis believes in customized instruction, and it's not unusual for him to pay home visits.

Hands shot up when students from Connie Quinlan's fifth grade class at Forest Elementary were asked who wanted to be in a picture with Lewis.

Student Jessica Schultz of Farmington Hills, said she was surprised about Lewis' award. "He always is out doing stuff," Schultz said. "He always is nice. I don't think he ever goes into his office."

That's true, said Erica Marcos, student and a Farmington Hills resident. "I'm excited," Marcos said. "There are a lot of other principals, but he was chosen out of all of them."

Added student Evan Hughes: "He deserves it. He's a good principal."

Lewis doesn't expect to go on tour or give speeches. "I will just keep doing what I have been doing," he said.

Maintaining focus is key. "That means doing the best thing we can do for our kids," Lewis said. "The award is a celebration of the team approach of working with kids."

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