

# Farmington Schools Proud Of Bus System

By MARJORIE EICHER  
Community Relations Coord.  
Farmington Public Schools  
Take dozens of top-notch drivers who like children and thousands of potential school bus riders and a school district that covers a 35 sq. mi. area and you have a major item in a budget called "transportation."

Farmington Public Schools point with pride, on the one hand at their 37 vehicle fleet that takes their students to and from school and on educational field trips. On the other hand, for the taxpayers' sake, the Board of Education hopes to pay and pay a diminishing role in the transportation business.

For moving people hither and yon costs chunks of money, as many an urban transportation system in the red can attest. Yet, school bus transportation is the lifeline of a rapidly growing, far-flung suburban system.

**HOW TO FIND A happy medium?** One answer, the Board of Education decided, was to adopt the philosophy that as new schools were built in the district, they were located in the center of square mile sections in the township to place them within walking distance of the homes they served.

How does this affect busing students? It's straight arithmetic. In 1951 when the total school enrollment was 2,390 students, Farmington transported more than 80 percent of these youngsters. True, they were housed in only four of our present buildings (and four outlying one-room school-houses) and there were few subdivisions then.

Yet today, with almost six times as many students, they are transporting only 4,723 of our total enrollment in 13,570 — about twice as many as were bused in 1951. If our pattern had not changed, Farmington Schools would now be operating 100 buses. And item 2400 in the budget might read,

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•  
**JOIN A LEAGUE NOW**  
OPENINGS FOR TEAMS and INDIVIDUALS

Kings & Queens	•	Mixed	•	Sunday
5 to Team		8:30 p.m.		
Men's 850 House	•	Averages 775-850	•	Monday 9:15 p.m.
Tuesday Mixed	•	4 to Team	•	Tuesday 6:45 p.m.
Ladies' House	•	Averages 650-725	•	Tuesday 9:00 p.m.
Men's 925 House	•	Averages 875-925	•	Tuesday 9:15 p.m.
Men's Shop League	•	Averages 775-850	•	Friday 7:00 p.m.
Friday Mixed	•	4 to Team	•	Friday 9:15 p.m.
Nite Hawks	•	Mixed 4 to Team	•	Saturday 7:00 p.m.
Ladies' Beginners	•	Every Morning and Afternoon	•	Free Nursery
Saturday Junior Leagues	•	Boys and Girls	•	Beginners 9:00 p.m. Advanced 12 & 3 p.m.

## BEGINNERS' LEAGUES

For people who would like to bowl in a league but do not have a high average.

**WOMEN** — Monday night 9:15 p.m.  
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one full-time man for lubrication, alone. The only time mechanic Greeshover is called out is when maintenance work is done. With an eye to breakdowns and road trouble, Greeshover keeps six buses as spares for 35 or so children aren't stranded.

After some 100,000 miles, buses are sold at public bid. Greeshover is the one to sell. The Board of Education, however, discourages other schools from buying them, for safety reasons. But the old buses find themselves in transformation to campers or commercial vans.

**HOW MANY SPARE** tires would you keep in your garage if you had 37 cars? Greeshover stocks only 10. He finds this adequate to supplement the contracted tire service that comes in weekly to pick up and replace tires.

Bus transportation on a large scale in Farmington's schools dates back to 1941 when the township schools were consolidated with the schools of the city of Farmington.

Over the years, school bus drivers have developed an almost fanatic devotion to safety. "We're proud of our safety record over these years," says Superintendent James M. Read. In the past 11 years, the most serious accident involving a school bus occurred when a boy ran into the rear of a turning bus.

Farmington has no railroad crossings for school buses or walkers to negotiate. Other factors contributing to a good safety record are the erection of stop lights at trouble spots, the addition of turning lanes at busy intersections, the erection of stop lights at trouble spots, the addition of turning lanes at busy intersections, the erection of stop lights at trouble spots, the addition of turning lanes at busy intersections.

**STUDENTS WHO** ride the

## Stone Creek Chatter

PAT SZYMANSKI 476-8295

Quite a rash of illness has hit the Wilk family of South Duncan. Danny and David came down with the mumps and passed their misfortune on to Bobby and Bob. It just isn't Bob's month. A few weeks ago he landed in the hospital for a day because of a painful kink in the neck. Next in line for the mumps treatment is Mark, the youngest.

Another lad on the injured list is Mark Kinorski, who celebrated his 11th birthday on Aug. 24 with his broken arm in a new cast.

The George Kalles and their tribe took a camping trip up to Higgins Lake. They had pretty fair weather and managed to do some swimming and fishing in the Au Sable. Before the trip was ended they had ventured as far as Grayling.

ANOTHER fellow who hit the trails to the north was John Pearce of Crookside who accompanied his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Mills, to Mackinac City for a week. Most of their time though was spent on the island.

The Kalles enjoyed a visit from George's mother who journeyed up from Pennsylvania with brother Mike. They stayed a week.

THE O'CONNORS of Brookplace had Barbara's niece, Mary Lou Dikos visiting for a week.

Miriam Kay Leach weighed in at 7 lbs. 14 oz. on August 18. Jayne's mother, Mrs. Scheraga, was here to help out for the week after the arrival of her only grandchild. The Leaches celebrated their third anniversary on August 18, while Jayne was still in the hospital.

Tuesday Miriam had company from Flint in the person of her great aunt, Mrs. Bigat. My children Debbie and Karen had visitors from Windsor for the week. Kathy and Charles came here just in time to see me come down with the flu and laryngitis. Later Debbie was sick and on Saturday Karen had a case of strep throat. Saturday Frank and I, still in the throes of a few sniffles, attended the wedding of a lifelong friend.

Later that evening we had a spaghetti supper for Frank's brother Ed and his wife Barb and daughter Lani. The older Szymanski were here from Cincinnati for the wedding.

DOWN WITH tonsillitis are Donna and Greg George of Barfield Drive. Guess my flu bug flew down the street to O'Connors where it hit Barbara too.

The Marino's returned this week from a trip that included a New York visit to Connie's sister and a trip to the New Jersey Bertrand's Island for the kids. The island is a miniature Coney Island. While in N.J. they visited Mary's sister and his father. They also spent a few days in Pennsylv-

nia after driving Connie's sister there from Detroit. On their return home they took Mary Grace to have a cyst removed.

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they live in the same township section as their school and thus do not cross major thoroughfares, they are required to walk up to 1 1/4 miles.

Exceptions for the elementary students recognize the hazards of crossing Grand River, Northwestern, expressways without overpasses and busy section line roads. Under these circumstances, children are bused. Kindergarten are bused where conditions are deemed unsafe and in situations where they do not accompany older children.

Out of this philosophy has grown a network of school-maintained walkways. Many of them are blacktopped and follow easements acquired by the Board of Education. The easements usually provide a more direct route to various subdivisions than if the walkways more conventionally bordered the road.

As the township has grown, the liaison between planners and developers and school authorities has grown. Many subdivisions are now following the Board of Education's leadership and providing these protected walkways as an additional enticement to prospective buyers. Many Farmington children ride bicycles to school on these paths without facing the hazards of the roads.

**EVEN THE CHILD** who walks to school becomes an occasional school bus passenger. Even if he lives next door to the school. For the buses are used extensively for field trips. Without this kind of transportation, much of the significant enrichment of the curriculum provided by thoughtfully planned field trips could not be realized. The trip to the farm, the fire department, Detroit's museums or Kensington's nature reserves would be lost.

Although Farmington Schools will always be involved in how children get back and forth to school, the size of the bus fleet will probably shrink over the years.

"When we reach our optimum growth with an elementary school in every township section, bus transportation will be used for the handicapped children, some secondary students and field trips," predicts Read.

That's a few years off. In the meantime, parents can feel secure in knowing that Farmington's school bus drivers consider themselves obstetricians of a sort—specialists in child delivery.

# Farmington Couple Wed In Double Ring Ceremony

Miss Mary Lou Misko, 20875 Orchard Lake Road, and William Stanley Solmes, 21418 Hamilton Avenue, both of Farmington, exchanged wedding vows on August 14, in St. Mark's Church, Southfield. The Reverend Raymond Burkett officiated at the double ring ceremony.

The bride, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Misko, wore a gown featuring a fitted bodice, beaded scalloped neckline, long lace sleeves, tiered

floor length skirt and a chapel train. A crystal tear drop crown secured her elbow length veil. She carried a bouquet of stephanotis.

Mrs. Susie Solmes, sister-in-law of the bridegroom, served as matron of honor. She wore a floor length coral taffeta gown with a train. Bridesmaids, attired in pink tulle floor length gowns, were Mary Jennings, Eileen Roberts, Shirley Solmes, Sherry Misko and

Debbie Frankowiak. The attendants all wore crystal tiaras with veils and carried cascade bouquets of coral and pink carnations.

**THE BRIDEGROOM**, son of Mr. Leonard B. Solmes and the late June W. Solmes, was attended by his brother, Le Roy Solmes, as best man. Ushers were Joe Louinger, Joe Chapman, Gary Rock, Tommie Misko and Ronnie Misko.

Flower Girl was Kimberly Solmes and ring bearer was Robert Frankowiak. Vocal selections, "Because" and "The Lord's Prayer," were sung by Jeanne Knowlton, accompanied by Mrs. Doris Robbins.

A reception at the U.A.W. Hall on Wixom Road followed the ceremony. Out of town guests were Mrs. Victoria Misko, Mrs. Adolph Misko and sons Bonnie and Tommie, Mr. and Mrs. David Tubbs, Mrs. John Bodnar, and Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Burkett and daughters Peggy and Susie, all of Pennsylvania; and Mr. and Mrs. Joe Gavel Horshead and daughters of New York.

The bride is a 1964 graduate of Clarensville High School and is employed by the Commercial Credit Corporation. Her husband is a 1963 graduate of Clarensville High School and is employed by New Hudson Sand and Gravel.

Their wedding trip took in Sault Ste. Marie, Niagara Falls and points of interest in Pennsylvania.



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