

# Schools anticipating metric changes

By MAURIE WALKER

**FARMINGTON**  
"A changeover to the metric system isn't going to be an overnight thing; it will take something like 10 years for everyone to get used to it."

So said Lewis Schulman, assistant superintendent in charge of elementary education of the Farmington School District.

In line with the Michigan State Board of Education's order that by 1976 "all school books must include the metric system," the Farmington school board has set up a committee to study the system.

"It isn't going to be an overnight change, however," Schulman said.

The Farmington School District is offering a course in the metric system as part of its adult education classes this winter.

"Teachers are also attending seminars on the metric system," Schulman added.

He said that the metric system will not only be included in mathematics, but in athletics, shop and in clothing sizes.

"Every school book publisher is making certain it includes metrics in its new books, and private firms are organizing seminars on metrics."

He said part of science and chemistry classes already include the metric system, but that the school will move slowly in the changeover.

Bill Martin, assistant principal at Farmington Junior High School and chairman of the study committee on the metric system, agreed that the changeover will be gradual.

"Persons out of school 10 years or so will have to sit down and really study the

new system. It will take a lot of educating for persons to get used to it," he said.

Martin said the committee is looking over material on the system as it comes in.

"No decision has been made yet on anything as to when we will really get into metrics."

Martin said the State Board of Education has set June of 1976 as the deadline for the metric system to be the dominate form of measure in the schools.

"A math book has been published with more metrics in it so the students are getting some material on the system. However, we are just scratching the surface."

Schulman said computers containing the metric system are now being produced.

These cost about \$200, "a little too expensive for our use."

He said that some "phoney companies," charging \$25 for one class in the metric sys-

tem for teachers, are springing up, but that free workshops are being supplied by Oakland County.

The Farmington school board's committee studying the metric system includes, in addition to Martin, Al Lanigan, representing the elementary school; Russ Bonkowski, the junior high math; Dick Swan, representing junior high science; and Bill Gucciardo, representing senior high math and science.

## Marlowe Belanger is first citizen

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Insight '73; the Foreign Exchange Student Program; and a presentation for the recognition of the arts in the Farmington Hills charter.

Her community activities extend beyond the field of the arts however. She has served on the board of the Community Band and Orchestra, was past president of the Kendallwood Women's Assn, and was organizer and past president of the Kendallarks.

She is currently working with the board of the Oakway Symphony and the Farmington Musicale.

The Michigan Fine Arts Council advisory panel has been another of her interests,

as has the Michigan Ballet Theatre and the Madrigal Club of Detroit.

A member of St. Fabian parish, Mrs. Belanger has worked in church-related activities for both choir and youth.

She also won the scout leader merit award for her work as a girl scout leader.

All this while raising two children, Ann and Bryan, in the Belanger home at 28262 Quail Hollow.

"Marlowe Belanger is a remarkably creative and energetic person," was a comment by her supporters for the award.

It seems an understatement.

## Farmington Calendar

### ARTS BUS

Saturday, Feb. 2, at 12:40 p.m., a bus will leave the Farmington Community Center to see "Sleeping Beauty".

live theater by the Prince Street Players of New York at the Detroit Institute of Arts. Reservations are necessary.

### GARDEN CLUB

Monday, Feb. 4, the Farmington Garden Club will meet at noon at the Farmington community center, 10 Mile and Farmington Rd. Mini-flower arrangements will be made as Valentine gifts for nursing homes.

**the farmington enterprise & observer**

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36251 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia, Mich. 48150

Phone 261-8600

Published every Wednesday and Friday

Home Delivery Service

Newstand ..... per copy, 15¢  
Carrier ..... monthly, 75¢

Phone 261-3800

Published by Observer Newspapers, Inc., 36251 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia, Michigan 48150 every Wednesday and Friday and Philip H. Power, Publisher. Second class postage paid at the U.S. Post Office, Plymouth, Michigan.

Address all mail subscription change of address forms 3578 to P.O. Box 2428, Livonia, Michigan 48151.

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