



Fire survey

Farmington Hills firemen survey this house after it was gutted by fire Thursday. The fire, at 20809 Pearl Street, was extinguished by firemen from Fire stations 1 and 3. Details as to how the fire started were not immediately available. No one was injured. (Photographed by Ralph Gert.)

OBITUARIES

MRS. GLADYS COULTER, 88, of Farmington Hills died July 17, 1974, in Farmington Nursing Home in Farmington. She was born Feb. 5, 1886, in New York.

Surviving are husband George, son John of Farmington Hills, and three grandchildren.

Services were July 19 at the Harry J. Will Funeral Home in Livonia with burial in Oakview Cemetery in Royal Oak.

MRS. DELLA LEVI, 68, of Farmington died July 24, 1974, in Oak Hill Nursing Home in Farmington. She was born in Illinois.

Surviving are daughters Mrs. Winona Woods, Mrs. Martha Clifford and Mrs. Linda Philp all of Farmington, sons Robert of Ann Arbor and Herman of Oscoda, Mi., sister Mrs. Reva Rhodes of Florida, 16 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Services were July 26 at the

Thayer Funeral Home in Farmington with burial in Parkview Cemetery.

HAZEN BURNETT, 78, of Farmington died July 29, 1974, in Grace Northwest Hospital in Detroit. He was born May 25, 1896, in Deerfield.

Surviving are wife Dolly, son William of Farmington, daughters Mrs. Louis (Esther) Armbruster of Southfield, Mrs. Delores Brennan of Bloomfield Hills, Mrs. Edwin (Cleo) Donovan of River View and Mrs. William (Rosalie) Robinson of Flat Rock, two brothers, two sisters, 17 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Services were Aug. 1 at the Heene-Sundquist Funeral Home in Farmington with burial in Port Creek Cemetery in Berlin Township of Monroe County.

RALPH REMICK, 54, of Farmington died Aug. 2, 1974, in Grace Central Hospital in Detroit. He was born in Detroit.

Surviving are wife Jeanne, mother Florence of Farmington, daughters Mrs. Janice Kwass of Sterling Heights and Deborah Remick of Farmington, sons Ralph III of Sterling Heights, Paul of Almont and James of Kalamazoo, brothers John of San Antonio, Robert of Oak Park, Bruce of Taylor and Richard of Detroit and four grandchildren.

Services were Aug. 3 at the Thayer Funeral Home with burial in White Chapel Cemetery in Troy.

MRS. CATHERINE THORNTON, 63, of Farmington died Aug. 1, 1974, in Detroit Osteopathic Hospital in Highland Park. She was born May 7, 1911, in Pennsylvania.

Surviving are husband James, daughters Mrs. James (Mary Lou) LaPrise of Hartland, Mrs. Dennis (Pat) Roux, Mrs. Frank (Frances) Firek and Mrs. Kathy McLean all of Northville, brother Edward Martin of Pennsylvania and 11 grandchildren.

Services were Aug. 5 at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church in Farmington with burial in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Southfield. Arrangements were by the Heene-Sundquist Funeral Home in Farmington.

MRS. ETHEL ZACHARIAS, 81, of Farmington Hills died July 25, 1974, at home. She was born in Detroit.

Surviving are daughters Mrs. Theda Fitzgerald of Farmington Hills and Dorothy Zacharias of New York, sons Courtland of San Diego and Almond of Australia, sisters Mrs. Ida May Neugebauer of East Detroit and Mrs. Emil Cocquyt of Detroit, four grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Services were July 29 at the Thayer Funeral Home in Farmington with cremation in Evergreen Cemetery in Detroit.

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FEA director criticizes school budget reduction

By DIANE HUBEL

FARMINGTON HILLS — The Farmington school board has not taken enough time to react to, and carefully consider, the administration's proposed cuts, according to the executive director of the Farmington Educational Association.

Roger Allen, the FEA's executive director, said his organization is particularly concerned with the cuts as they apply to the elementary school program.

The FEA realizes that massive cuts are necessary as a result of the millage defeat, he said, however it is concerned with how these cuts are being distributed throughout the district.

"It is obvious that the greatest number of cuts have been made in the elementary school programs," Allen said. "There should have been a more even-handed system of reductions across the board in the district."

He said that the district should have been meeting with interested parties, such as the teachers and other staff members as well as members of the Parent-Teacher organizations prior to the July 30 election.

A REQUEST by the Farmington School Board for a four mill increase in voted operational taxes was defeated by the voters during a special school election July 30.

That defeat left the district \$1,000,000 short of what it needed to operate on what it considered a bare minimum level, thereby forcing it to make cuts in the programs offered in the district.

"We all knew what the financial situation of the district would be if the millage was defeated," Allen said. "It has been the position of the FEA that we should have been meeting and discussing an alternative budget long before the election. Now the board does not have the time it needs to go over the budget and react to it, before deciding what to eliminate."

He suggested that the noon-time-aide program be cut in half, the districts fund equity (budgeted surplus) be reduced to last year's level, and that the clerical staff in secondary schools be reduced.

He called the closing of Bond Elementary a "necessary evil," adding that it was preferable to make cuts in physical plants, rather than in educational programs.

ACCORDING TO ALLEN the district could save approximately \$27,000 by cutting the noon-time-aide program in half.

He said that although it may be necessary to send some children who live close to the school home for lunch, it is one service that could be cut without doing any harm to the educational system of the district.

The district could also save approximately \$50,000 by eliminat-

ing one secretarial position in each secondary school, he said.

"Currently there are a number of secretaries in each secondary school. Since there were no administrative cuts made in the secondary schools the administrators could absorb the slack created by the loss of one secretary."

He also suggested that the budgeted surplus be set back to last year's figure.

The district always budgets surplus funds to allow for a degree of operational flexibility.

The figure last year was \$65,000. This year's figure has been set at \$117,000.

It is Allen's suggestion that the district reduce this year's figure to last year's level and use the difference for educational programs.

"It may be a close margin but if it was acceptable last year, it certainly should be acceptable in this

year of financial strain," he said. "The difference in those two figures would allow for eight additional teachers who might otherwise have to leave."

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S business manager William Prisk said he thinks the \$65,000 figure does not leave the district enough reserve funds should it have to meet unexpected obligations.

"You have to think of the \$52,000 difference between the two figures in comparison with a \$20 million budget which we are working with. On a day-to-day basis that figure represents less than one day's expenditures. That is just too close for comfort," Prisk said.

Allen said he has discussed these ideas with various members of the board, in an effort to get them to reconsider the budget cuts.

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