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Fifteen Cents

Schools facing book shortage

By SUSAN AVERILL

FARMINGTON—"We are desperately short of books," said Bob Allison, administrative assistant at Harrison High School.

Harrison's situation isn't unique; the lack of textbooks is being felt in each of the district's three high schools.

Part of the administrative assistant's job is to keep an eye on supplies, which most school officials say are old, ripped, worn, dated and inadequate.

"We stretch them as far as they can go, and then some," said Jack Lawing, administrative assistant at Farmington High School.

"THE ENGLISH department does a good job of making a paperback last three years," he said. With two students handling the books each year, that means a total of six before it becomes unsavable.

The situation in North Farmington High School isn't quite as bad, said North's administrative assistant Bob Beckman.

"Most of our books are in good to fair condition, although we're running them longer than we should in some cases," Allison said. The lack of texts is mak-

ing teaching more difficult for teachers who must share a book, photocopy a lesson and test and take nothing home but the answer sheet.

HE'S NOT EVEN sure that a two-mill increase will better Harrison's supply and textbook situation.

"I think we'll just about maintain the level we have now. What has hurt us is that we have cut to the bone because of last year's millage failure. It would take double the amount we cut, because of inflation, to build us back up to where we were," he said.

Prices on chemicals for the science department at Farmington High has doubled over the last two years, Lawing said. The situation is meager, but so far so good.

"They keep a good inventory," he said. Stockpiling to avoid higher costs has been eliminated as an option because of the limited active life a chemical may have.

THE DEPARTMENT, however, has been hamstrung because no capital outlay for equipment can be made.

Harrison's math department, known for its advanced programs, may also suffer without additional millage support.

"Harrison has always been high in

the math department, but what are we going to do if the new techniques are not available?"

Jack Lawing said that if further cuts are made, they will most likely appear in science, industrial arts and home economics.

"THESE ARE some of the most expensive courses, and because of the equipment we need, they are also confining," he said. New machines are impossible to get, so the old ones are repaired time after time, until they are too worn to use.

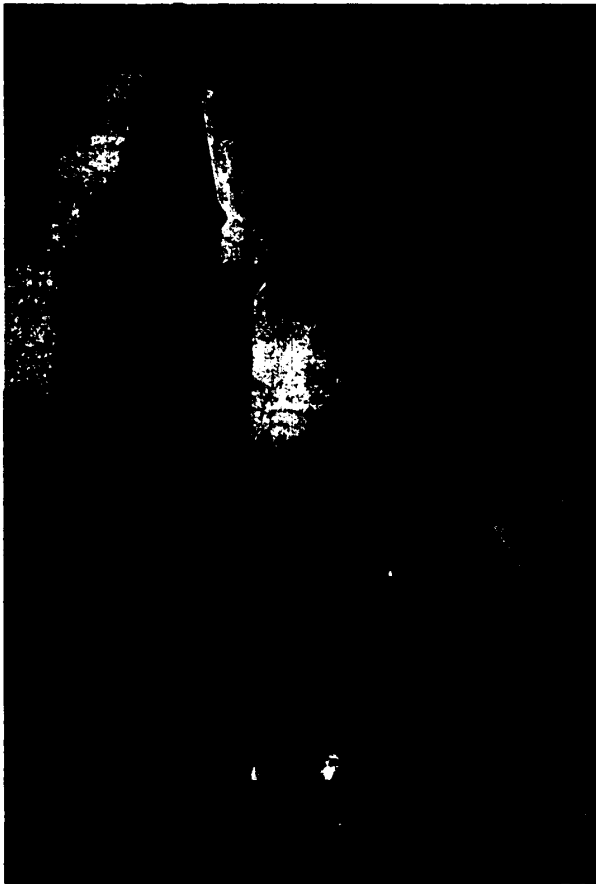
The expense involved with school-owned musical instruments has put a crimp into Farmington High's music budget.

"About three years ago we ordered an instrument with the delivery date a year away. We were later told it would take another year and in the meantime the company went out of business."

"The other bid was for \$800, with a delivery date a year away. We had to cancel it," he said.

AUDIO-VISUAL equipment at Harrison has gone beyond its peak of usefulness, Allison said.

"It's five years old and starting to wear down. We can't replace it," he said.



Mass transportation usually means the Grand River Express. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

OCC students aid in tax preparation

By SUSAN AVERILL

FARMINGTON HILLS—If you had a 1974 gross income of \$7,000 or less, accounting students at the Orchard Ridge campus of Oakland Community College will help you prepare an income tax return.

The service is offered 6 p.m. Tuesdays and 9 a.m.-noon Wednesdays on the second floor of F-building on the campus. No fee is charged, but a \$1 donation for the Orchard Ridge child play center will be accepted in exchange for the service.

More than half of the 75 people who have used the service have been senior citizens, and most of the preparation has been done on Wednesdays.

Leonard Podsiadlik, assistant professor of accounting, credits poor Tuesday night weather with the top-sided turnout.

Few students have taken advantage

of the program, Podsiadlik said, perhaps because they have enough knowledge to take care of their usually less complicated incomes. Senior citizens, he said, often seek help on the new property tax credit for seniors, which many find confusing.

BASED ON INCOME and proof of property taxes paid, seniors are returned a certain portion of their taxes. And if they rent, they are given a rent rebate.

Podsiadlik said he began the program, which started the third week in January, because he thought a community college should serve the community. He said he hates to see people waste money.

OCC's play care center has received \$55 from the tax service.

The program will benefit not only the community, but also the accounting students who are helping him with

the project, Podsiadlik said. Though students don't receive any extra credit for the work.

"It's an opportunity for them to get experience working with people," he said.

The seven or eight students who volunteered to assist him are his "top students." He always reviews their work, however, and has found that for only one mistake—the substitution of another number for the social security number.

"PEOPLE ARE very confused with income taxes—they're a little illogical." For example, a \$750 standard deduction for a dependent won't feed and clothe a child for a year, so the amount seems inappropriate, he said.

The program was first offered three years ago, without restrictions. It hadn't been offered since because of lack of student interest and floods of what Podsiadlik calls or "cheap-cheap" people.

The department, he said, was "burned pretty badly" when people with gross yearly incomes of \$15,000 and more would ask for help.

"I helped one man for nearly four hours. If I had charged him professionally for the job, it would have come to about \$150," he said.

Even so, at least one person with an income over the \$7,000 limit arrived this time, asking for help. The students were allowed to help him for the practical experience, Podsiadlik said.

He and his students will offer the service up until the April 15 deadline.

While some ride buses, majority still drive cars

By JUDY OWEN

What does a youthful city councilman have in common with a longtime Farmington resident?

They both ride the bus frequently.

Bill Hartsack, a municipal finance analyst and Farmington city council member, began the 7:15 a.m. express bus at Grand River near Farmington whenever his job takes him to his office in downtown Detroit.

He avoids bad weather driving and parking problems and finds time in the 25-minute trip to catch up on his reading.

ANOTHER RESIDENT, an elderly citizen, also is a faithful bus rider. For her, the bus is her only means of transportation. She is a frequent proponent of additional bus service for the city.

In the automobile-dependent trans-

portation network of southeast Michigan, these two are clearly in the minority.

A transportation study completed in 1974 estimates that only 4.6 per cent of the daily person-trips in the region are made by bus, rail or other public transportation.

The study, conducted by the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG), projects the traffic load of 1990.

IT WAS THE ENERGY crisis last winter which probably pointed up problems that residents could be facing in less than 15 years.

Hartsack began riding the bus at the height of the gas shortage last year but found the convenience and decided to continue.

Residents who headed to the Dearborn area also could join the gas-saving trend and park their cars at Or-

chard Mall at Maple and Orchard Lake roads then board the Direct Access Shuttle (DASH) service.

But in recent months there has been a drop in the number of DASH riders as that service has been reduced.

Senior citizens in Farmington can take advantage of tax cab service at discount rates.

SEMCOG's plan calls for a blending of automobile and mass transit systems.

With the exception of scanty bus service, the Farmington-Farmington Hills area is largely automobile-dependent.

Interstate-96 slices through Farmington Hills, while a business arm of I-96 cuts through Farmington to wind up at Grand River. Soon, a north-south arm will join I-96 just west of Farmington Hills.

Sometimes this year, SEMCOG officials plan to complete public hearings on the 1990 plan then adopt a road map to be used to guide development an expansion of mass transit systems.

SEMCOG guidelines require that the plan:

- Be a related system of highway, rail and public transit networks.
- Be economically feasible.
- Be a safe system operating without costly damage or time loss.
- Avoid negative social impact of relocating families and businesses.
- Avoid negative environmental impact.

In the Farmington area's future are two regional major highways.

Plans call for upgrading Eight Mile Road from the Grand River freeway (I-96) in Farmington eastward 21 miles to the Ford Freeway (I-94) in Harper Woods.

Middlebelt Road would be upgraded from the Metropolitan Airport area north to I-96 in Farmington Hills. Accompanying intermediate-level transit plans involving a fast service bus system would run along Eight Mile Road from Northville to St. Clair Shores.

Council OK's liquor license

FARMINGTON HILLS—Criticism that the investment was not large enough and that the ownership was not local failed to stop council approval of a liquor license request for a Pizza Hut restaurant.

In a 4-2 vote, the council recommended approval of the firm's application for a tavern license (beer and wine) for its soon-to-be completed operation on the north side of Ten Mile east of Orchard Lake.

Keith Deacon and Earl Oppertbauer voted to deny the request at Monday's meeting. Voting for approval were Joan Dudley, Fred Lichtman,

Robert McConnell and Jan Dolan. The firm originally had requested a Class C license but planned to serve only beer and wine. Later the request was modified to a tavern license.

"THE GEOGRAPHIC location is in its favor, but I was disappointed when I saw the investment figures," McConnell said.

The figures, not including corporate overhead, showed a \$200,000 investment. The council has, at times, required a \$400,000 investment.

"We should establish our policy and abide by it," he said.

Lichtman said that part of the reason for the \$400,000 investment requirement was to discourage bars as opposed to restaurants or lounges.

"IN THE PAST seven years, I don't know that it (the limit) has been given much consideration," Lichtman said. In most cases it was difficult to apply the investment criteria because the restaurants requesting licenses were in hotels or shopping centers.

McConnell said that since the community has all the taverns licensed with policing establishments with liquor licenses, it should benefit on the tax role.

In other action, the council approved a 1.6-acre cluster housing project to be located north of Twelve Mile, west of Middlebelt.

Hills police award citations

FARMINGTON HILLS—Apprehension of a 16-year-old youth after he allegedly held up a gas station earned a rookie officer a police citation Monday.

David Lee, a member of the Farmington Hills force for seven months, earned a citation for the arrest Jan. 17. He was off duty when he saw the hold-up at Maverick Gas Station, 2075 Grand River.

Lee and another 11 officers and three residents singled out by the department for citations and letters of commendation.

Citations and commendations were headed out in connection with the arrest of a man charged in the Sept. 27 robbery of the Bank of the Commonwealth.

GEORGE BARTISSEK, a five-year

veteran of the department, and Lee received commendations for their efforts. Bartissek allegedly was fired upon in the incident.

Citizen citations went to John Randolph and Gary Leebor for their efforts in the case.

Police said Randolph followed the suspected hold-up man's car from the bank to a nearby shopping center because he did not like the way the person in the car was acting. He furnished the license number of the car and made an in-court identification.

Leebor also made an in-court identification of the suspected hold-up man and furnished the license number of the car in which police found the stolen money and a number of guns.

A THIRD citizen citation went to Ralph Evert for his service to the de-

partment. A photographer, Evert has been called on to provide photographs which the department has used in court cases. He has aided the department for 21 years and was a member of the police auxiliary.

Commendations for a high average of case clearances went to members of the detective bureau including Lt. George Maier, Sgt. Ernest Miller, Sgt. Richard Wernicko and officers Linda Harris, Rick Murphy and Raymond Marchewitz.

Also recognized with commendations were four members of the department's newly organized Special Patrol Operational Team (SPOT). The group is aimed primarily at halting break-ins and hold-ups.

Honored were Sgt. Gordon Ross and officers Marty Bledsoe, Dan Massey and Dale Hall.

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