



It was a proud moment for Jack Abramowitz of Farmington when he received his high school diploma this week. His wife and children were there to applaud the new degree holder. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

Commencement shows 'class' of senior students

By CORINNE ABATT

It's just a piece of paper, worth maybe a quarter.

But to the 14 graduates of the Farmington school district's high school completion program, that diploma is a ticket to a new life.

Four of the 14, ages 17-19, are already enrolled at Oakland Community College. More plan to pursue some form of higher education. Living the philosophy "it's never too late," they talk of hundreds of opportunities open to them once that precious diploma is in hand.

It was Donald Howell, program director, who hosted a dinner-graduation party for the graduates at Bonnie Brook Golf Club this week.

TEACHERS Mrs. Jan Martin, Mrs. Ellen Wallis, Mrs. Betty Wolford, Mrs. Sylvia Lawing and Mrs. Myrna Rapp were on hand to applaud the

proud "seniors" along with a crowd of family and friends.

For many, it was a victory dinner—some had waited 10 or 20 years for the moment. They had sat in day classes at Bond School or evening classes at Farmington High, pouring over history and math, writing papers for social science when their friends were out having a good time.

A few went full time, more fitted the classes around a work schedule.

Howell, who gave a brief commencement speech called it "a great experience to enjoy their success."

Estimating 6,000 potential students for the program in the Farmington area, he says, if enrollment warrants, more kinds of classes will be added (all term which opens Monday Sept. 8. Those interested should contact his office in the administration building.

The program is in its eighth year. The day school classes were added three years ago.

Consumer protection program is supported

A select number of senior high school students will be able to take a course in consumer protection in the fall.

The Farmington Board of Education recently voted to add the extra class to the curricula of the school district. The class would allow two students from each high school to work with the Oakland County Prosecutor's Consumer Protection division.

Three Farmington students were expelled from the pilot study after they and other students were searched. The other students complained of their treatment to a Detroit daily newspaper.

The students, Gary Chappell, Richard Bremer and Doug Johnson, were working as volunteers before they, as well as the other students volunteers, were dismissed.

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT of secondary education, Lewis Schuman said the young men enjoyed their work and thought the experience valuable, though they didn't return to their jobs for the remainder of the school year.

All three are graduating seniors at Farmington High School.

Schuman said the students will answer phones, respond to complaints, and help people with complaint forms. In the past, they did consumer surveys and a small amount of investigative work.

The students will not be paid, but will receive credit for their work.

Crowd blasts rate hike

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ing, there were 25 people present. Elzie proposed a \$2 a month life line phone service permitting 15 calls a month for senior citizens and low income persons, a metro dialing service people can understand, and a simpler long distance system.

He urged public participation in such hearings and told the panel, "As far as Consumer Alliance is concerned, the public has been raped long enough."

One who favored the rate hike was Thomas Diekmann of Farmington, Communications Workers of America representative.

Citing Bell as the fourth largest employer in the state, he said 60 per cent of company revenues go for wages. A cost of living increase guaranteed workers last year is due this summer.

Gerry Eggen, Human Rights party representative, announced his group is conducting a petition drive for public ownership of utilities.

Ralls promised to see that meetings would be better publicized and that they would be held in convenient locations.

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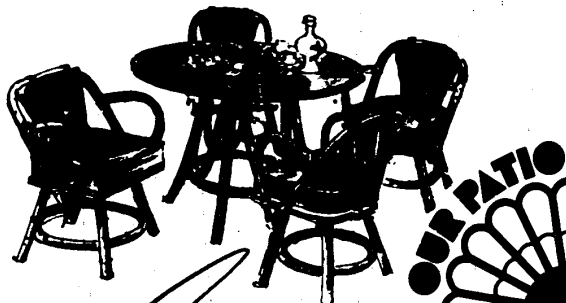
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Athletic budget discussed

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ments and the high school testing programs.

"I don't think that's proper. That's not the way we should do it," Corliss said.

The bands and vocal music departments had been forced to finance some of their own activities, probably more so than the athletic program, they said.

"They (the bands) had the programs, but they didn't have the financial backing from us they should have had," Mrs. Makinen said.

She said some of members had to wear wear uniforms, which made them look like "ragamuffins."

"They don't have to look like they're king of the hill, but they should be adequately clothed and adequately equipped. We don't have the right to expect the students to fund these things himself," she said.

"I think we've been somewhat less than fair to some of our programs who have not been treated in the same manner," Corliss said. "I don't care how you cut it, the percentages don't shake out."

The school year ends June 30. Prisk said he hopes to have the audit of the district completed by the third week in July so that the budget may be adopted during the first week in August.

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