

Union chief makes plea to hire school teachers

In a dramatic plea before the Farmington School Board this week, the Farmington Education Association President Gerald Kaplan asked that laid-off teachers be rehired.

With a dozen former district teachers standing in the board meeting room, Kaplan told the board these teachers represented the welfare of several hundred district students' education.

"Students are going to have to return to overflowing classrooms this fall. I think the board should ask itself why many residents are paying an additional \$2,500, besides their regular taxes, to send their children to private schools," said Kaplan.

While lauding the public school district on its physical facilities, administrators and teaching staff, Kaplan said many parents were unwilling to send their children to a school district where there were 25 to 40 students in a classroom.

"The crux of the private schools is that parents would rather have their children in classes with 12 to 15 children rather than 40," said Kaplan. "I don't think anyone expects Farmington to reach that goal. But I hope the school board doesn't feel that classrooms with 25 and 30 students is the alternative."

Kaplan said that promises of improvement in the school structure if the millage was passed would just be promises if teachers weren't rehired.

"The promises only will be realized when the teacher-pupil ratio is lowered," he said.

Even though this year's school budget is going to face cuts because of a \$120,000 drop in state aid, Kaplan said the district could lower the teacher-pupil ratio with "a little imagination."

Board Trustee Michael Spiece questioned the administration on why new teachers were being hired when teachers with previous experience in the district weren't rehired.

School Supt. Marianne Van Ameyde defended the practice saying teachers had to be hired who were qualified and had proper certification for specific positions.

"It is inappropriate to say we are violating the contract by hiring these teachers," said Van Ameyde.

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Stand up and cheer

Power Junior High varsity cheerleaders are just back from a six-day cheerleading workshop at Eastern Michigan University. The girls studied everything from acrobatics and tumbling to pom pom routines and crowd control. Their teachers were collegiate cheerleaders from the International Cheerleading Foundation. In front (from left) are Dianne Mullen, Cathy Gregory and Pam Ensor. In back (from left) are Janice Ann Fagan, Marilyn Goyette and Cheryl Cabot.

Old winery set for face lift according to new owners

Remodeling plans and "a structural feasibility study" for an 80,000 square foot restaurant-theater complex in the old LaSalle Winery will begin in a month, now that the Farmington City Council has approved James Constand's liquor license application.

City Manager Robert Deadman says the class C liquor license, if granted by the Liquor Control Commission, would be the last available in Farmington until the 1980 census. The petitioner owns Jim's Garage in Detroit.

"From our initial investigation we believe Constand is qualified," Deadman says.

Constand's attorney, Karl R. Bennett of Farmington Hills, says his client and business will apply for a building permit after conducting a structural feasibility study of the building.

He emphasizes the building will not be a dinner-theater operation.

"Don't use the term dinner-theater on this project," Bennett says. "That has a bad connotation to people. You wouldn't have to eat to watch the theatre. But we don't even know if the building can house a theatre; that's why we're going to make a structural study."

The attorney says backers have talked with theater people "but we've made no solid agreement."

William C. Young, a real estate developer with Chamberlain Co. of America, working with Constand on the project, says theater or no theater the building will require extensive renovation to meet code.

He estimates the restaurant would seat "upwards of 450 people" and says the cost would be "upwards of \$1 million dollars."

Originally the winery building was a terminal for the Detroit Urban Railroad. Constand promises to preserve the original character of the building.

Library offers college credit by examination

Both branches of the Farmington Community Library are participating in a college credit by examination plan that offers people the opportunity to obtain recognition for college level achievement.

Called the National College Level Examination Program (CLEP), the program allows anyone to obtain college credit by taking CLEP exams based on knowledge acquired through intensive reading, through on-the-job experience, or correspondence courses.

If the results on the CLEP tests are acceptable to the college of your choice, you can receive college course credit.

CLEP offers general exams and specific subject exams. General exams measure a person's college level achievement in five areas of liberal arts, while subject exams measure specific skills.

Each college or university decides which CLEP tests it will accept and the amount of credit it will award. Persons interested in taking CLEP tests should first contact the college they plan to attend to find out if the test will be accredited.

Davis embarks

Navy Mess Management Specialist Third Class Frederick Davis, son of Dr. Frederick Davis of 2721 Grand River, Farmington, is on a Mediterranean tour aboard the aircraft carrier USS John F. Kennedy.

Davis and his shipmates are scheduled to visit Naples, Italy, and Barcelona, Rota and Palma, Spain.

4 area students get WMU stipends

Four Farmington students graduated from Harrison High School in June were offered scholarships by Western Michigan University.

The three students from Farmington are Mary K. Williams, 2630 Badalment, Gina A. Gervais, 2804 Brookview, and Susan B. Moore, 2801 Westmeath.

Ann Rogers of 25129 Harcourt, Farmington Hills, also received a scholarship from Western.

Ranging from \$800 to \$2,000, the scholarships depend on financial need and academic grades and are renewable each year if the student maintains adequate grades.

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