

For Farmington teacher

# Bucket brigade a fulltime duty

By SUSAN AVERILL

Until this year, Florence ("Daisy") Sharp worked part-time for the Farmington School District as a reading consultant and spent the rest of her time campaigning and organizing a special independent reading program.

Now she works full time for the district on the elementary reading program, her "Bucket Brigade."

"Because of our state-wide presentations, the Farmington School District decided to make it a district-wide program. Now it's built into the reading

program," she said.

Bucket Brigade gets its name from buckets that volunteers stuff with reading and counting aids and carry to each school.

Because the service is expanding, it will need more volunteers, she said.

"You don't have to have kids in the district to be part of our program," she said. "Twenty per cent of our volunteers don't. Some of them are senior citizens, mothers with nursery children and high schoolers. We welcome anyone."

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the reading service, based in Ten Mile Elementary School.

"They supply everything and you don't have to bring any experience or expertise," she said.

Mrs. Sharp said she has been with the program since its beginning five years ago.

Farmington, she explained, was the second district in the state to try the program, furnished originally in a kit by the Michigan Association for Learning Disabilities (M.A.L.D.).

Many through the efforts of Farmington volunteers, there is now a chapter of the Bucket Brigade in every state and 27 foreign countries. More than 20 Michigan school districts have adopted the program, with the largest brigades in Flint, Grand Rapids, Lansing, Lincoln Park, Westland and Wayne, Mrs. Sharp said.

All Farmington elementary schools, except those served by the Cycle IX Intern program, will have Brigade volunteers who will work with the reading specialists.

"The reading teachers and myself will be the professional input to this program. We'll be involved in the diagnosis of simple learning problems and we'll suggest remediation techniques."

"The volunteers will make materials and play games with the students, which will remedy certain academic reading needs."

High school students from North Farmington and Mercy were counted



DINGHY SHARP

among last year's 178 volunteers, but this year Mrs. Sharp hopes to add students from Harrison and Farmington high schools.

MRS. SHARP HAS gained her certification in reading and learning disabilities after beginning employment with the district as a speech pathologist. She has worked for the Farmington schools for 14 years and is a resident of Farmington.

To volunteer for the Bucket Brigade, call Mrs. Sharp at Ten Mile Elementary School and ask about the reading program, she said.

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## Brotherton, Cooper will speak at C of C

State Sen. Daniel Cooper (D-Oak Park) and State Rep. Wilbur ("Sandy") Brotherton (R-Farmington) will speak on the new business privilege tax at the Farmington Chamber of Commerce breakfast 8:30 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 18 at the Bot-stord Inn.

Businessmen and other community members are welcome.

### Artstart program seeks students

Artstart, a cultural enrichment program for pre-school children from three to five years old, is looking for students. Those interested in enrolling their students can contact Nancy Doude, 2708 Farmington Rd.

Artstart's philosophy is that of setting the stage for the child to discover for himself many means of expression through arts and crafts, media, music and the world of make-believe, according to Miss Doude, Farmington Artstart coordinator.

"Artstart children are never programmed to think that any project or activity can be done only one way. Each child's individual expression is of prime importance," she says.

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