

# Walled Lake eyes new school construction

It's beginning to look more and more likely that the Walled Lake School District will ask voters for money to construct additional classrooms in the not-too-distant future.

References to the need for more school buildings are becoming commonplace at school board meetings, and Supt. Don Sheldon added his voice to the chorus last week when he said the only long term solution to overcrowding would be construction of an additional school or schools.

Students from portions of West Bloomfield, Farmington Hills and Walled Lake attend school in the district.

Sheldon told the school board recent that Farmington Hills has just approved construction of a development of 780 single-family homes in the Walled Lake District.

"Any solution to current problems of overcrowding will only be temporary until there is additional construction within the district," he said.

A CITIZENS COMMITTEE is currently assessing the district's physical plant. Although the committee's report has not yet been presented, it is expected to recommend that more schools be constructed.

Sheldon's comments about overcrowding came within the context of a report directed by the school board on classroom conditions for the music program at four elementary schools—Maple, Union Lake, Walled Lake and Loon Lake.

The board directed the administration to prepare the report after the teachers union, Walled Lake Education Association, filed a grievance charging that the district had not met its contractual obligations to provide adequate room for music classes.

Although the board voted 6-1 to deny the grievance at its May session, it directed the administration to come up with possible solutions. Sheldon cited five major reasons for the district's inability to provide separate classrooms for vocal music instruction in the four elementary schools.

"Class size," Sheldon said that the district's relatively small elementary class sizes has required a lot of space.

"THE LOWER the class sizes, the more space is used. The more space used, the less it is available for other purposes such as vocal music."

\*Program priority: Principals assign classrooms to fit the curriculum needs of each school. A number of special services, such as reading support, remedial instruction and instrumental music compete with vocal music for space.

\*Attendance boundaries: The district dislikes changing attendance boundaries because parents and children develop loyalties to their neighborhood school.

\*Transfer students: Moving students within a given attendance area to another attendance area is even more unpopular than changing bound-

ary lines, although it is done occasionally to limit class size.

\*Support program space: The 12 elementary schools are architecturally dissimilar with few exceptions, making it difficult to accommodate various support programs as well as providing

rooms for art and vocal music everywhere.

IN SUMMARY, Sheldon contended that there are three ways to accommodate all support programs and special program needs: Increase class

size in the building, transport students to another building or purchase portable classrooms.

Sheldon the administration hopes to work out partial remedies to the problem at almost all the elementary schools in question by the start of

school next year. "I would caution you that these are only temporary remedies," he added. "The problem won't be resolved until we have additional facilities in the Walled Lake School District."

## Set your sails for Great Lakes

If you've got the urge for big time sailing, set a course for the Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Division office, Orchard Lake and Eleven Mile.

The division is offering classes in Great Lakes sailing. The next session will begin on June 26. A classroom session that evening will be from 7-9 p.m. The class will then split into two groups, one meeting Mondays and the other on Wednesdays, for on-the-water classes. Monday sessions will be from noon to 3 p.m.; or 3-5 p.m., July 10, 17, and 24.

Wednesday on-the-water sessions will be from noon to 3 p.m., 3-6 p.m. or 6-9 p.m., July 12, 19 and 26.

Cost for the class is \$35. It will teach techniques of off-shore sailing, operation of sail and rigging, use of navigational charts and aids and safe sailing practices. The class is taught on a 28-

foot sloop on Lake St. Clair.

Basic sailing classes also are offered in conjunction with Red Cross certified instructors at the Bloomfield Beach and Boat Club on Elizabeth Lake. Enrollment is limited to 10 persons in each session. The course leads to Red Cross certification in basic sailing.

Cost is \$38. A session will begin on July 17, from 6-9 p.m. and another on July 19. The recreation office may be contacted by calling 474-6115.

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## Contest, show, set for quilters

The Great Lakes States Bi-Annual Quilt Contest and Exhibit, sponsored by Lutheran High School North Ladies Guild, is scheduled for July 29 to Aug. 6.

Quilters who wish to exhibit, or enter the contest, are invited to send a self-addressed stamped envelope to

the school for information on the seminar, entry forms, general information, tickets or answers to any questions.

Letters are to be addressed to Lutheran High School Quilt Contest, 18223 Twenty Four Mile, Mt. Clemens, 48044.



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