



Mayor exchange

Farmington City Mgr. Bob Deadman (right) points out an area of interest to visiting dignitaries during last week's mayor exchange day. Visiting were Mayor Frank Smith and his wife, Marguerite (center).

ter) from St. Joseph, Mich. Looking on is Farmington Mayor Pro-tem Bill Hartsock (left). (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

College ponders how to pay the bills

Schoolcraft College's community services programs have always covered "current" costs — accounting for the salaries and supplies needed to run them.

College officials currently are struggling with the question of whether community services programs should bring in money for "overhead" costs — heat, light, custodial services and administrative costs.

Reluctantly, trustees last week instructed the administration to begin work on a method of recovering some overhead costs.

"It's one of the possible areas in case we do have a negative vote on the June 11 millage," said trustee Gerald Cox.

SCHOOLCRAFT has served more than 21,000 persons this school year with community services, said President C. Nelson Grote.

One group of services was workshops

and short courses like ballroom dancing, which drew 54 persons, Hatha Yoga (62), microwave cooking (48), stained glass art (48), and introduction to recreational vehicles (17).

Another group is seminars and forums like small business management (72), widowhood (91), basic law enforcement for police reserves (99), and displaced homemakers (42).

Cultural and public affairs included five chamber music concerts, two lectures, two poetry readings, one theater program and one dance offering, drawing a total of 1,800 persons.

Diners, dances, films, other concerts and physical education drew a total attendance of nearly 17,000.

RON GRIFFITH, dean of community services, said that while the program as a whole breaks even, some make money and some are "almost free."

He added, "If you slap on an overhead costs that's as much as the direct cost, you'd price yourself out of the market." He cited the nutrition program for senior citizens as one to which overhead costs shouldn't be attached.

The entire community services budget is \$240,000. Fees range from free to \$100.

Grote, in a memo to the board, said: "In consideration of the current level of sophistication of our cost accounting system, a plan that is student contact hour-based appears most practical.

Specifically, some indirect cost factors could be determined and applied against the annual student contact hours generated by community service students.

"The dollar amount could then be computed and transferred annually

from the community services restricted account to the general operating fund."

AT ONE TIME, community colleges could award "institutional credit" for community services course work and receive some state financial assistance.

But in 1976 the Michigan Legislature became upset with paying state money for belly dancing-type courses at one college and disallowed funds for "avocational" courses.

Schoolcraft offers two types of community service courses. "Continuing education" are most nearly traditional, offering credit and generating state funds. The avocational classes — short seminars, workshops and conferences — are credit free and get no state funds, Grote said.

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