

## District to purchase micro-computers

# Farmington schools move into age of computers

By MARY GNIEWEK

The Farmington Public Schools will purchase \$100,000 worth of computers to be used districtwide in a computer education program to be implemented in the fall of 1980.

The plan calls for two micro-computers at each of the 13 elementary schools, four at each of the four middle schools, and 16 at each of the three high schools.

A mixture of PET and APPLE micro-computers will be used for drilling elementary students in math, science, reading and language exercises. At the secondary level, they'll be used in math

and science classes and in a proposed two-semester computer science course in the high schools.

"There's no question there will be seven votes for a computer program. The board is totally committed to it," said school board President Michael Splice.

The board of education heard a two-hour presentation Tuesday night from a committee of teachers, one parent and a student who've been meeting for the past year to study computer proposals.

School administrators are expected to present the board of education with a recommendation to approve the

\$109,944 proposal at the next board meeting on May 6.

Teacher workshops will be scheduled to familiarize instructors with the new machines, which will be portable in each building.

THE COMMITTEE felt a combination of two types of computers would be beneficial to expose students to different types of equipment. Three elementary schools, Eagle, Forest and Middlefield, already have one PET and one APPLE computer each purchased by Parent Teacher Organizations in those schools.

Every other elementary school would have two PET computers, which

are less expensive than the APPLE units. In each middle school, two computers would be stationed in the media centers under the supervision of media specialists. One would be assigned to the math department, and one to sciences.

Harrison High math teacher Richard Strauss, a member of the committee, surveyed math students and found 185 interested in taking computer programming classes.

The first semester would include introduction to computer language with students writing their own programs. In the second semester, students would progress to individual projects, a sec-

ond language, or a combination of both. A written report submitted to board members by the 10-person committee says that the proposal is designed to expose students to micro-computers and programming with a natural flow from elementary to high schools.

"The progression isn't intended to be inhibiting so that gifted students may be involved at a much earlier level in the more sophisticated aspects of hardware use," the report states.

SUPERINTENDENT LEWIS SCHULMAN said six years ago the price for one micro-computer was \$30,000. He compared it to being able

to stock the entire district today for \$100,000.

"The temptation to postpone the purchase until the prices drop is a strong one," Schulman said.

"But if we buy the hardware now, we're not buying outdated material. And instead of waiting another five or six years, we'll be giving the computers to a whole group of students who would've missed out if we waited any longer."

## obituaries

JIM HANSEN

Mr. Hansen, 61, of 33363 Drakeshire Place, Farmington, died April 15. He was a member of the Northville Lodge 186, F&AM and was a Merchant Marine during World War II. Mr. Han-

sen was employed as a general manager of the Anger Engineering of Northville.

Survivors are: wife, Freda; sons, James, Bruce and Kevin; sisters, Lillian and Mrs. Oda Hendrickson; brother

Upton.

Services were April 18, at the Caterline Funeral Home, Northville.

Officiating was the Rev. Lloyd Brasune, of the First Presbyterian Church, Northville. Burial was in the Oakland Hills Memorial Gardens, Novi.

IRENE GARRICK

Mrs. Garrick, 58, of Beverly Hills, Fla., died April 11. She was a former resident of Farmington Hills.

Mrs. Garrick was a former member of Our Lady of Sorrows Roman Catholic Church, Farmington.

Survivors are: husband, Anthony; son, Thomas; sister, Mrs. Mildred Roman.

Services were April 16 at Our Lady of Sorrows. Officiating was Msgr.

Thomas Beahan. Burial was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield.

## Real estate classes are being offered

The Farmington area will have a new school offering real estate training beginning on May 5.

Roger Walker, Realtor, has announced the Walker School of Real Estate beginning with evening classes with a full range of courses designed

for those preparing to take the state sales licensing exam.

The course also offers credit toward state requirements for taking the real estate broker examination.

Classes will be conducted at 33216 Grand River, Farmington.



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