



# Farmington Observer

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## Board settles contract with custodians

The Farmington School District's maintenance and food service personnel have a new bargaining unit — the Michigan Educational Support Personnel Association (MESPA) — and a just-ratified, three-year contract with the Board of Education.

The Farmington CMC (for custodial, maintenance and cafeteria) MESPA unit contains about 225 members, including 64 food service workers, and replaces the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) unit, which was decertified after an election last May.

The new three-year contract, which

was ratified unanimously by the board last Tuesday, provides for a 5 percent pay increase for the first year, a 4 percent increase for the second, and salary-schedule reopeners in the third.

Each percent of increase equals \$19,000 based on a bargaining unit of 225, according to Robert Coleman, the district's director of employee relations and personnel. The increase will amount to \$174,000 for the first year, Coleman said.

With the increase, a head custodian at a senior high school will make \$9.24 an hour, an increase of 86 cents over the hourly rate for the 1982-83 school year.

A cooking manager in one of the district's school cafeterias will make \$7.90 an hour, up 55 cents over the old rate. A kitchen helper will be paid \$6.87 an hour, an increase of 65 cents an hour over 1982-83.

The new contract also calls for changes in fringe benefits, including a doubling of the life insurance coverage to \$10,000 for each member, according to Coleman.

The employees also will have a day off on the Monday after Easter, Coleman added, because they worked on the Monday after New Year's Day while the contract was being negotiated.

**THE NEW contract also contains some important changes in leave policies, Coleman said.**

"If a person takes a long-term leave of absence, he or she must take it for the remainder of the contract year (July 1 to July 1) or for the whole contract year," he said. "This would allow people returning from leave to be placed in a job without laying off people who are already working."

Employees may take a 60-day "temporary medical" leave, according to Coleman. "Let's say a person is going into the hospital for surgery," he said. "That person could take a 60-day leave and still return to his or her old position after that."

The old contract ran out on June 8, 1983, and the new one was worked out in 11 sessions, according to Coleman. "I think it's a fair contract," he said, "and I'm certainly happy to have the negotiations completed."

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## Schools advised on land

By Tom Bear  
staff writer

The Farmington School District probably will hold on to 52 acres of undeveloped land on two sites it owns in Farmington Hills. On the other hand, the district may be selling about 50 acres on nine other locations it won't be needing in the future.

That's what will happen in the near future if the Farmington Board of Education follows the advice it was given last Tuesday by the chairman of an 11-member task force, which has been studying the district's properties and its needs since last August.

The board voted, 7-0, to accept the report issued by the task force, which was chaired by William Prisk, the district's assistant superintendent for finance and services, and included representatives of the community and the schools.

Further study will be needed before

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Outgoing Clarenceville Supt. David McDowell stands before the school district's athletic field which is being dedicated to him. Someday soon a sign bearing his name will grace the field where his name now is carved in the snow. DAN DEARY staff photographer

## Honored Sport field named to fete C'ville chief

By Teri Banas  
staff writer

David B. McDowell will be remembered long after he leaves his post as superintendent of the Clarenceville School District at the close of this year.

And that's more than just a polite statement.

Plans are under way to name the district's athletic field in honor of the man who headed the system located in parts of Livonia, Bedford Township and Farmington Hills.

"There's really no special name to it now. It's just been called the Clarenceville Football Field," said the district's athletic director, Leo Kinsella.

In the future, the field, near the district's administrative offices off Middlebelt, will be called the David B. McDowell Athletic Field.

As superintendent for the past 18 years and the high school principal there before that, McDowell has been a supporter of the athletic department.

"He's always supported us, as much as possible and as long as it was financially possible," Kinsella said. "He's always been a very good athletic booster. In his official capacity, he's always felt strongly for all extracurricular activities."

"BECAUSE we only have one high school, I always tried to get to all the band and choir concerts, the drama productions and the sporting events as much as humanly possible," said McDowell. "And having had three daughters attend Clarenceville, I understood the games."

When McDowell does leave Clarenceville this June, his legacy will mean more than just a name-

plate at the field. In conjunction with the testimonial, plans are brewing to renovate parts of the athletic field. Assistant Supt. Edward Salisz is in charge of the planning.

"We've come up with some ideas like building a new gateway out of brick pillars with a nice sign over it. We also want to replace the old scoreboard, which is just about shot. It's not working very well. The new one will have his (McDowell's) name on it," Salisz said.

In addition, Salisz is checking into the cost of constructing a ticket booth at the gateway. Currently, tickets to sporting events are sold at the junior high building.

There are no plans to expand the seating capacity at the field, where junior and senior high varsity games are played. In addition, Catholic Central High in Redford Township plays its home games there. Kinsella said

the capacity is "adequate" even during the Central games.

"THE (school) board wants to do something appropriate and worthwhile," Salisz added. "They want it to look nice. He was here for 18 years (as superintendent) and has been a strong advocate of the athletic program."

No official date has been set yet for the formal dedication. At this point, Salisz is still checking into the costs of the renovation.

About the honor, McDowell said he felt "humbled and honored" when the school board first discussed the topic a few months ago.

"It was a total surprise and I was honored. Sort of overwhelmed," he said.

"He was in tears when they made the motion," Salisz recalled. "It's a big thing to have a monument in your name."

## Economist lauds Reagan for brighter '84

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

More than 30 years ago, author George Orwell spelled doom for 1984 in his classic novel by the same title.

But financial economist Martha Seger sees a brighter picture ahead in 1984 as the country successfully emerges from the stranglehold of recession.

"The year ahead will be the best for the United States since 1964," said Seger, Michigan's former banking commissioner, speaking last Friday before approximately 75 people at the Farmington Chamber of Commerce's first membership meeting of the year.

Patting President Ronald Reagan on the back for sweetening the nation's economy, Seger said, "Recovery has been very strong."

Seger said that industrial production has been rising since late 1982; housing

has made a comeback with 1.7 million building starts in 1983, 70 percent above the 1982 rate.

In 1983, 103 million people were employed, Seger said, with three million of that total gained in the last months of the year.

"BECAUSE OF the strong employment gains we've made, we have been able to cut unemployment from 10.7 percent down to 8.3 percent," she said.

If those serving in the armed forces are considered part of the nation's work force, she added, the unemployment rate drops further to 8.1 percent.

Inflation is not nearly as high as in the late 1970s when it hovered at 13 percent, Seger said. Although statistics are still unavailable, she guessed the 1983 inflation rate would end at about 3.3 percent compared to 3.9 percent in 1982.

In 1983, wholesale prices saw an in-

crease of six-tenths of one percent, the best since 1964, said Seger, selected by Business Week magazine in 1976 as one of the top 100 corporate women in America.

"With these good inflation numbers, the typical person doesn't realize the importance of getting inflation under control," she said.

An immediate benefit of the dropping inflation rate, Seger said, is "in the financial market" where interest rates are significantly below "what they had been in the eye of the recession."

For example, the prime interest rate now is 11 percent compared to 21.5 percent in 1981. Interest rates for three-month treasury notes now stand

at almost nine percent compared to 16 percent in 1981.

BUT SEGER traced the inflationary spiral the nation is attempting to recover from back to 1984.

"What occurred to me is that we should consider 1984 as a watershed year because it was good. But it did some things that paid off disastrously."

Things happened in 1984 "that are very relevant to the problems we now have," said Seger, currently a professor of finance at Central Michigan University.

Then-President Lyndon Johnson's "ambitious legislative ideas" such as launching his Great Society program of social welfare while cutting taxes and

increasing defense spending for Vietnam "kicked off an inflationary spiral we are still trying to deal with," Seger said.

Quoting statistics from 1984, Seger pointed to mortgage rates at 5.5-6 percent, the prime rate at 4.5 percent and inflation, based on the U.S. Consumer Price Index, increased only by 1.2 percent.

In 1984, Johnson agonized over submitting a \$100 billion budget to Congress, Seger said. The current federal budget, she said, is almost \$900 billion.

While "we have seen the economy put down a good base for 1984," Seger cautioned that "there are some possible problems that could hit us in 1984."

First and foremost, she said, is "the tremendous indebtedness of the LDC's"



Martha Seger

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## oral quarrel

Super Bowl XVIII may be history, but football fans need not worry about finding a game to watch — not as long as the United States Football League continues to function, that is.

The USFL, about to begin its second season of challenge to the long-established National Football League, will present plenty of action from the end of February to the middle of July. A local team, the Michigan Panthers, won the USFL title last July, clinching

the league's inaugural season. Today's Oral Quarrel question is:

**WILL THE USFL GAMES HOLD YOUR INTEREST THROUGH THE COMING MONTHS?**

To answer this question, call us at 477-9819 anytime before 1 p.m. Friday. To see how your neighbors feel about this issue, please see Monday's Farmington Observer.

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## Man suffers burns in mobile home fire

A Farmington Hills man suffered third-degree burns when his mobile home in the Farmington Trailer Park was gutted by fire early last Saturday morning. Investigators blame the fire on careless cigarette smoking.

Martin Stiner, 55, 2360 Middlebelt, is listed in stable condition at Botsford General Hospital.

When firefighters from stations 2 and 3 arrived at the scene at 8:30 a.m., Stiner's mobile home and van were "fully involved in flames," said Lt. Richard Marinucci.

"The temperature at the time of the fire was 20 degrees below zero," he said. "In this case our trucks were nearly frozen by the time they were on the scene. Fortunately it did not cause us a problem as far as supplying adequate water to extinguish the fire."

Both the van and mobile home fires were extinguished in less than 20 minutes, Marinucci said. Damage to Stiner's mobile home and van, as well to an adjacent mobile home which su-

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