

Equity

Farmington Observer

Volume 96 Number 42

Monday, March 4, 1985

Farmington, Michigan

32 Pages

Twenty-five cents

Debate surrounds special ed changes

By Joanne Mataszewski
staff writer

Farmington educators have joined other local Oakland County school districts in opposing some of the proposed changes in state regulations governing special education programs in Michigan school districts.

The proposed rule changes, 66 in all, are included in a package developed by the Michigan Department of Education.

Educators consider some of the proposed changes to be positive, said Mary Lou Ankele, Farmington special education supervisor. But others, such as those that concern the districts' resource rooms and the addition of educational consultants and aides, overshadow the positive, she said.

"Unfortunately most of us are more familiar with the negatives," Ankele said.

In testimony provided during one of six statewide hearings scheduled by the

state Department of Education in February, approximately 125 parents and educators from Oakland County school districts, including Farmington, voiced opposition to the state department's proposed rule changes, said Helen Prutow, Farmington school trustee and member of the Oakland Intermediate Schools board.

"As a board we haven't taken a position on the changes," Prutow said, about both the intermediate and Farmington school boards.

OPPOSITION TO the proposed rules stems from anticipated additional costs (estimated in excess of \$200,000 for the Farmington district) the changes would bring to districts. In addition it is the view of some educators that the proposed changes won't necessarily benefit special education students.

"It would be prohibitively expensive and the taxpayer would have to bear the burden," Ankele said, adding the state does not provide funding for some

of the proposed changes that will cost the district money.

But state education officials have another point of view.

"Our position is that it is not going to be a costly package," said Dr. Richard Baldwin, special education consultant with the Michigan Department of Education's policy development office.

The rules, originally implemented in 1972, include administrative and financial regulations. They also include such items as the criteria children must

meet to be enrolled in special education classes, parents' rights and policies for protecting records.

One of the major concerns of opponents is the special education resource rooms, Ankele said.

RESOURCE ROOMS are classrooms where some special education students, those who are mildly handicapped, go for specific help. These students

Please turn to Page 4

Job hunt season opens

By Julie Brown
staff writer

It's not too soon for local high school and college students to begin their summer job search.

"It seems early to some people," said Judy Wisman, job placement professional for the Farmington Public Schools. Many summer jobs, however, are filled well ahead of time.

The skills that teen-agers and young adults need to find jobs aren't all that different from those used by their older brothers and sisters. Teen-agers, however, frequently face the problem of having minimal work experience.

The experience that teen-agers do have — baby-sitting, doing yard work, delivering newspapers or doing volunteer work — can help in looking for summer jobs.

"You have to be reliable to be a baby-sitter, you have to be a quick thinker," Wisman said. "What we try to do is help them identify those skills that they've learned, and then transfer them. There are certain skills in all jobs you can transfer."

The benefits of a summer job — besides the paycheck — are many, Wisman said.

"I THINK high school students need exposure to the working world." Exposure to various kinds of work can help teen-agers decide what they'd like to do as adults.

When starting a summer job search, students should think about what they like to do and what they do best. The school placement office has materials designed to help students in their decisions. Libraries also have similar materials.

"They have to have some idea of what they want to do," Wisman said. "What's really important is that they know what their skills and abilities are before they start looking."

Contacts for potential jobs are varied. Registering with the school system's placement office is a good idea, Wisman said.

"We do have a lot of jobs that come through here," Newspaper ads and signs placed in store and restaurant windows are other job-lead sources.

Friends and family can also help teen-agers track down job leads.

"I would say probably the majority of jobs are found that way," Wisman said.

In looking for summer jobs, students should pay attention to their appearance.

"We tell the girls to wear a nice skirt and blouse, or a dress, and not party

Please turn to Page 4



RANDY BONGST/staff photographer

Judy Wisman advises students to start searching during the winter months for summer jobs.

School place to start summer work search

By Julie Brown
staff writer

Patti Massey and Scott Geyer have a good lead on summer jobs.

Massey, a 16-year-old junior at Farmington High School, just got a kitchen job at the Detroit Baptist Manor in Farmington Hills.

"Hopefully, I'll last through the summer," she said. "It's a perfect job for me." She likes the pay and the hours.

"I have weekends off, and nights off."

Working afternoons also doesn't interfere with school hours. In addition to the Detroit Baptist Manor job, Massey does stock work and cleaning at the Grand Q Party Store, where her sister is a cashier.

Geyer, a 17-year-old Farmington High School senior, works at the Computer Connection in Farmington Hills. His responsibilities include working in shipping, receiving, the stock room, and occasional delivery. He also does some light cleaning up on Saturdays.

BOTH OF the students got their jobs through the school system's placement office. Massey's sister helped her get the party store job. They advise other teen-agers to be persistent in looking for jobs.

"Be really interested, and assert yourself," Massey said.

Newspaper ads and the school placement office are sources of job leads,

within 8 percent of the total hours. The average response time was 4.3 minutes.

"As the community gets bigger, we need more people," Fire Chief Richard Mariniucci said. In addition to community growth, increased traffic during the afternoon made for some problems in responding to calls.

"It was slowing down our response time a little bit," Mariniucci said.

The department decided to extend the hours of full-time firefighters to 10½ hours a day, four days a week.

"Paid-callback," or volunteer, firefighters were then used to cover the remaining hours.

The department has 12 full-time employees, in addition to clerical personnel, and approximately 60 "paid-callback" firefighters.

"Most of them do it because they enjoy it," Mariniucci said of the volunteers. "They could make more money somewhere else."

THE VOLUNTEERS are paid \$9.80 an hour, and receive no benefits other than worker's compensation. Salaries for the full-time firefighters range



Scott Geyer

Patti Massey

Geyer said. He advises students to dress up for interviews and to be courteous in their dealings with potential employers.

"You have to talk nice to them," Both students also advise others to work hard once they've tracked down a job.

"You can't lose that drive to work hard," Geyer said. Being on time for a job is also important, he has found.

"It's important 'not to slack off,'" Massey said, and "not to be too demanding, either."

Massey and Geyer both had previous work experience, which was a help in getting their current jobs.

In addition to baby-sitting and cleaning house, Massey had worked three summers in an ice cream shop. Geyer

had worked at Jenna's Wine Shop, in addition to working as a busboy at a local restaurant and as a caddy.

"I've been working since age 14," he said. "I still do lawns."

THE STUDENTS enjoy their work.

"It takes up a lot of my excess time," Massey said. "I get bored if I don't have a lot to do. I like working with a lot of people, too."

"I don't like sitting at home. I don't like being bored," Geyer said. "I like working to keep my own personal belongings up."

Geyer hasn't found getting his schoolwork done to be a tremendous problem.

"If you schedule your time, you can work out school time."

from \$18,059 to \$27,083, in addition to benefits.

Improving the relationship between the paid firefighters and the volunteers was one goal of the shift change, Mariniucci said.

"It's given the paid-callbacks a new perspective on what the firefighters do."

Full-time firefighters and volunteers have similar training and responsibilities, the fire chief said. The full-time firefighters, however, are required to

Please turn to Page 7

Council splits over dollars for fix-up plan

By Julie Brown
staff writer

To spend or not to spend. Farmington Hills city council members didn't have much trouble last week deciding to allocate federal community development dollars. The debate was over just how to cut up the pie.

A total of \$365,596 was allocated for 1985-86 Community Development Block Grant projects. Council members voted 4-2 to allocate \$50,000 for administrative costs, \$130,896 for housing rehabilitation, and \$182,700 for capital improvement projects.

Council members Joan Dudley and Ben Marks cast the dissenting votes, arguing that the housing rehabilitation portion should be larger. City staff had recommended allocating \$150,396 for housing rehabilitation.

The staff had also recommended spending \$50,000 on administrative costs and \$163,200 for capital improvements. Allocations for 1984-85 were \$50,000 for administration, \$114,633 for housing, and \$156,000 for capital improvements.

COUNCIL MEMBER Charles Wil-

liams said he was opposed to increasing the amount for housing rehabilitation. Capital improvement projects benefit greater numbers of residents, he said. "As I see it, this is the best way we could use it."

"I think when people buy a house, they buy what they can afford," Williams said. "I don't really believe it's the government's responsibility to be in that area (except) perhaps in cases of extreme poverty."

"The driest road hardly compensates for a cold house because there is no insulation," Dudley said.

The funds are "designed to help those people who can't afford to upgrade their homes or their areas," she said. "I would be very much against redistributing the amount."

"I like the idea of getting some of our money back from the federal government, and spending it as we see fit," Marks said. "I'm really getting tired of taking care of the whole world, and not taking care of ourselves. I think with the money we're getting, we're getting a lot of mileage out of it."

Council member JoAnn Soronen suggested that the housing rehabilitation

Please turn to Page 7

How grant funds are distributed

Use of Community Development Block Grants must be according to certain standards set by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development. Areas in the southern portion of the city were designated eligible.

Housing assistance is available in the form of loans and grants. The city also has a Home Security Improvement Project that allows older citizens to receive dead bolt locks and eye viewers at no cost. There is also a smoke detector project, to allow qualified residents to receive smoke detectors at no cost.

Administrative costs include a full-time staff position and other costs. The program allows up to 20 percent for such costs, but Farmington Hills uses 14 percent.

Capital improvement projects recommended by the city staff were:

• Drainage improvements on Sun-

nydale Street (estimated cost, \$98,000);

• Construction of a sidewalk on Shawansee Road from Grace Elementary School to Middlebelt Road (estimated cost, \$21,200);

• Storm drainage improvements for the Meadowbrook Heights Subdivision, contingent upon receiving a paving petition representing 51 percent or more of the property owners by April 1 (estimated cost of drainage improvements, \$44,000).

IF THE PAVING were disapproved, another project would be substituted. Substitute projects recommended by city staff were drain cleanup at Gill and Eight Mile roads (estimated cost, \$19,500), and intersection paving of side streets along a section of Grand

Please turn to Page 7

what's inside

Cable Connection . . . 2A
Community Calendar . . . 4B
Editorials . . . 8A
Inside Angles . . . 3A
Obituaries . . . 5A
Oral Quarrel . . . 8A
Sports . . . Section B
Shopping Cart . . . 9-10A
Suburban Life . . . 4,5,6B
NEWSLINE . . . 477-5450
HOME DELIVERY: 591-0500
CLASSIFIED ADS: 591-0900



**RECRUITMENT
HELP WANTED**
Classified Advertising
Begins in SECTION C
of today's paper.

Firehouse schedule aids response

By Julie Brown
staff writer

A shift change at the Farmington Hills Fire Department, instituted to cover weekday afternoon hours, appears to be a success.

The change, which went into effect Dec. 1, was designed to cover the weekday hours of 3 to 6 p.m.

During December and January, the department responded to 522 incidents, 58 of which were during the peak hours, 3 to 6 p.m. That number constitutes 11.1 percent of the calls, made

within 8 percent of the total hours. The average response time was 4.3 minutes.

"As the community gets bigger, we need more people," Fire Chief Richard Mariniucci said. In addition to community growth, increased traffic during the afternoon made for some problems in responding to calls.

"It was slowing down our response time a little bit," Mariniucci said.

The department decided to extend the hours of full-time firefighters to 10½ hours a day, four days a week.

"Paid-callback," or volunteer, fire-

fighters were then used to cover the remaining hours.

The department has 12 full-time employees, in addition to clerical personnel, and approximately 60 "paid-callback" firefighters.

"Most of them do it because they enjoy it," Mariniucci said of the volunteers. "They could make more money somewhere else."

THE VOLUNTEERS are paid \$9.80 an hour, and receive no benefits other than worker's compensation. Salaries for the full-time firefighters range

from \$18,059 to \$27,083, in addition to benefits.

Improving the relationship between the paid firefighters and the volunteers was one goal of the shift change, Mariniucci said.

"It's given the paid-callbacks a new perspective on what the firefighters do."

Full-time firefighters and volunteers have similar training and responsibilities, the fire chief said. The full-time firefighters, however, are required to

Please turn to Page 7