



## Fun and treats

Preschoolers from 2½ to 5 years old enjoyed lunch with the Great Pumpkin Oct. 25 at the Farmington Area YMCA annual Halloween party. Pictured in costume above are Erika Cole (left), 3, of Walled Lake, and Zach Silvis, 5, of Farmington Hills. At right is Mary Johnson, 4, of Farmington Hills, nibbling on Halloween goodies which were part of the event. Games, crafts stories and songs were also part of the day.



Staff photos by Bob Sklar

## Mid-decade head count considered

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3.1-3.4 — reside in single-family houses and 1.5-1.8 live in apartments. Yet when Rochester Hills —

another community with apparent growth — conducted a census, 2.8 people per house and apartment was considered the average population per household, Costick said.

The census, conducted under the direction of the Michigan Secretary of State, must be in progress by March 31, 1987, and census figures must be verified by May 1.

# School officials set goals

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FOLLOWING IS a summary of proposed goals, objectives and strategies being considered by the school board.

• Providing a curriculum to meet the needs of all students.

Farmington officials are looking at curriculum from kindergarten through grade 12, instead of viewing it traditionally between elementary and secondary systems. They are considering a five-year curriculum plan, establishment of a curriculum council and discussing a five-point grading scale.

Further curriculum development in language arts, early childhood, science and social studies are also recommended in the report. A feasibility study of placing preschool and kindergarten students in one building is another objective.

• Implementing programs that foster academic excellence, social development and personal achievement.

Increasing the number of class periods in middle school and high school levels, programs for non-achieving students, a review of counseling services and a districtwide substance abuse program are all objectives in this goal.

Efforts will be continued in the areas of foreign language, programs for non-English-speaking students and the needs of gifted and talented students, according to the report.

• Enhancing communication and involvement with the community. In this area, objectives to build partnerships between the school district and the business community and to encourage the community to attend various school functions are

included.

• Providing enrichment opportunities through adult and community education programs.

A survey to determine community interests is included in this district goal. An expanded high school completion program and a support group for single parents are also noted.

• Providing a safe and attractive environment through regular maintenance and renovation of buildings.

Buildings in the Farmington school district are estimated to need more than \$10 million in repairs. A major building renovation program, budgeted by the school board last June, recently moved into its second phase to correct the situation.

Specific objectives include landscape improvements, uniformly upgrading sports facilities, improving the media center at Farmington High School and developing a safety education program.

• Planning and directing money effectively.

Officials are aiming for a 10 percent surplus in the district's budget to insure proper funding in the district. Officials fear the threat of state equalization, which would reduce their funding.

Another objective calls for officials to analyze long-term costs when introducing new programs.

• Providing opportunity for employees to insure the quality of education remains at a high level.

This is an area of heavy concentration this year, as the district created a staff development department, hired a professional to head it, and began orienting employees with various training programs.

An additional objective is for the district to establish a staff develop-

ment center with space at the District Media Center including training rooms, a professional library and teacher resource room.

• Hiring the most qualified staff in all areas.

The emphasis will be on recruitment for both certified and non-certified jobs, according to the report. Another objective suggests the district work toward recognizing contributions and achievements of its employees.

• Developing and maintaining goals and policies, which support excellence in student performance and operations.

A new handbook describing how the school board operates and updating course description booklets are both noted as objectives in this area. As part of this goal, the board will consider the need for revising — and possibly increasing — parent conferences. The district tuition policy, currently under review, was also listed.

• Establishing long-range planning.

The boundary and facilities committee, recently appointed by assistant superintendent Lynn Nutter, will begin this process as the needs of the district continue to grow and change.

Another objective is the study for "center programs," including the fine arts, gifted and vocational education, the report said.

In addition to setting district goals, the school board is revising its philosophy statements, which will be rewritten with additional information given at the meetings.

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