

Help is at hand after
a death, divorce, 1B



Hawks in
Dome, 1D

Downtown draws
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Overcrowding fuels debate

By Casey Hens
staff writer

There are too many kids, and not enough classrooms to house them, in Farmington's elementary schools.

Not considering additional growth, Farmington will be short six elementary classrooms at the start of the 1988-89 school year next fall, school officials say. Even the prospect of building a new school won't

solve the immediate problem facing the district this fall.

"We have to look at that very hard," said Al Lanigan, principal at Larkshire Elementary and head of a parent committee studying boundaries and school building use.

The panel held the last of three community town meetings Thursday, where a nearly full gymnasium of parents attended and more than 30 gave their opinions about handling the upcoming shortage.

"We have not even begun to think about (changing) boundaries," Lanigan added. "If other options are feasible, we don't even look at boundaries."

The panel must compile its information and make a recommendation to a seven-member community committee, which will, in turn, make a recommendation to the school board about school boundaries, at all levels, by mid-January. Town meetings were also held for middle school and high school concerns.

CONSTRUCTING ONE or two new schools, using current school buildings including Shiawassee Center or High Meadow Community School, purchasing more portable classrooms, putting additions on current schools, and combinations of these were all discussed during the two-hour meeting.

The lack of classroom space in Farmington is not a new concept. Educators have been talking about it for more than a year.

Portables were added this year to house the already burgeoning walls at some elementary schools. School board trustees recently appointed the aforementioned study panels at all grade levels to recommend the best

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Farmington FOCUS

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IT was a memorable hole in one.

Henry Parent scored the last hole in one at Godwin Glen before the Lyon Township country club became the new home of the Farmington Hills Country Club.

Parent aceed the seventh hole Sept. 28. Farmington Hills Country Club member Al Jeans helped arrange for the flag to be given to Parent.

At their regular Saturday morning breakfast get-together Nov. 14, Parent received the seventh hole flag from buddies Carl Hunt, Frank Barber and Glenn Griffin. All are Farmington Hills residents.

COMING on board: Farmington Historical Commission member and registered Democrat Reta Mossamer was appointed to serve on the city's board of canvassers.

The Moore Drive resident will serve a four-year term, expiring in 1991. Mossamer replaces Charles Wissinger who declined reappointment.

Reappointed was Republican canvasser Thomas Carr.

FOOTNOTES: One year ago this week — 1970 North Farmington High School graduate Martha Smith, a savvy, sharp-witted intelligence agent on the CBS spy-comedy series, "Scarecrow and Mrs. King," visited her family in Farmington Hills while back in the area to co-host the 60th annual Thanksgiving Day Parade in downtown Detroit.

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SPECIAL SECTION
IN TODAY'S ISSUE



JOHN STORMZANO

Natan Sharansky, at the podium in the sanctuary at Adat Shalom Synagogue Sunday.

Freed Soviet dissident sees Gorbachev polishing image

By Bob Sklar
staff writer

HE LOOKED weary, but he delivered a mighty message:

Don't be fooled by the number of Jews who have emigrated from the Soviet Union. They represent only a fraction of those who have applied for exit visas to Israel or the United States.

"The main reason why our movement could exist in the Soviet Union, could survive, is because from the very first day, it was supported by Israel and by American Jews," said Natan Sharansky, 39, the freed Soviet dissident and former prisoner of conscience who now lives in Israel.

"From the very first day, it was

'He (Mikhail Gorbachev) understands he must urgently change his image.'

— Natan Sharansky
human rights activist

one struggle of all Jewish people of the world against the Soviet policy of anti-Semitism."

The struggle, he says, is far from over.

Last year, 1,000 Soviet Jews were allowed to emigrate. This year, the gates to freedom will swing open for another 8,000.

"But in 1979, it was 51,000. Leonid Brezhnev could never dream to get even a little part of those compliments for 51,000, which Mikhail Gorbachev gets for 8,000," Sharansky told 1,200 Jews and non-Jews during a major Detroit-area address Sunday at Adat Shalom Synagogue, Farmington Hills.

The talk was co-hosted by the Jewish Community Council of Metropolitan Detroit, United Hebrew Schools and Adat Shalom Synagogue.

Both Sharansky and his wife, Avital, became honorary Adat Shalom members in 1978, the year he was imprisoned in the Soviet Union. Avital visited the syna-

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Responding Zoning chief hopes to improve service

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Lee Blizman wants the public to have a better grasp of Farmington Hills codes and zoning ordinances.

"Sometimes, zoning ordinances are violated because people just don't know," said Blizman, the new chief officer of the city's zoning and code enforcement section. "Who knows you are not supposed to put larger structures in a corner lot?"

The eight-year city veteran and former code enforcement officer took charge of the newly organized division when her former boss, zoning supervisor Hal Rowe, retired Oct. 23.

Rowe's retirement marked the completion of a continuing reorganization effort in the city's community development division. In 1984, city officials created the community development division as an umbrella for the building, planning and zoning divisions.

'City government is a microcosm. It's a reachable level. With city government, you can watch the reforming of laws, you can watch what happens.'

— Lee Blizman
chief code
enforcement officer

With Rowe's retirement, the code enforcement office came into its own. The community development division now includes the planning, building and zoning code enforcement sections.

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Take me off life support, man asks

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

If Farmington Hills resident Clifford Culham Jr. is legally granted the right to be disconnected from his life-sustaining ventilator, a physician still must be found who will perform the task.

"If the judge grants our order, it comes down to getting a doctor to be secure enough in pulling him off the ventilator," said Culham's attorney, David McCleary of Troy.

"I think there are a lot of doctors who would be willing to do it. I don't think it's so much the doctors as it is

the medical institutions," McCleary said, referring to institutions' policies and fears of liability and criminal charges against physicians.

Culham, 57, who is suffering from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, wants the right to determine his fate. On his behalf, a petition was filed last week asking that he be removed from the ventilator he has been connected to since April 1986.

A hearing on the petition is scheduled for 9 a.m. Wednesday, before Oakland County Circuit Judge David

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Student skill test scores level or up

By Casey Hens
staff writer

Scores on state-mandated skill tests for fourth, seventh and 10th graders in Farmington have stayed nearly level, or increased, according to results from the school district.

"It's not a big jump," said Farmington testing coordinator Carolyn Mahalak. "Just a nice, steady growth and upward movement."

After dropping slightly last year, 10th-grade mathematics scores increased by more than six percentage points in the Michigan Educational Assessment Program evaluation, which measures learned skills in reading and mathematics.

Reading and mathematics scores were up by about three percentage points for the seventh grade, while fourth-grade scores in both areas decreased by less than one percentage point — considered virtually no change. Mahalak said that Farmington testing coordinator Carolyn Mahalak. "Just a nice, steady growth and upward movement."

Districtwide scores are compared with results from the past three years and with scores from 1980.

'It's not a big jump. Just a nice, steady growth and upward movement.'

— Carolyn Mahalak
testing coordinator

There are four categories of achievement; the district concentrates on the percentage of students who passed 75 percent or more of the test objectives.

RESULTS ARE also given to districts for individual schools and classrooms.

Testing coordinator Mahalak said the MEAP scores are considered important for the district, but added that they become more important for teachers looking to help individual students, or entire classrooms lacking in certain knowledge and skill.

She called the test a "thermometer" or a "checkpoint" for individual student growth.

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Farmington Public Schools MEAP scores

Grades	1980	1985	1986	1987
Mathematics				
4th	81.6	89.3	90.7	90.2
7th	74.5	76.7	79.2	81.7
10th	77.6	82.9	81.3	87.8
Reading				
4th	81.3	90.5	91.0	90.4
7th	89.3	90.2	91.8	94.4
10th	85.7	90.9	89.1	90.0

These scores represent students achieving 75% or better on tests

DAVID FRANK/graphics coordinator