

Repeat offenders damage system

The following information is provided by the Farmington Department of Public Safety, which incorporates both fire and police protection for residents of the city of Farmington. This column was written by Commander Chuck Lee. Residents or business people with questions, concerns or additional information should contact the department at 473-7262.

We've all taken a car in for repairs, paid the bill and a week later, the same thing goes wrong again.

Well, ask yourself, "Is our system making good repairs?" Of course, we can't guarantee the system won't have repeat offenders, and there are three recent cases which are a small fraction of the hundreds of cases which happen each year.

The recent tragedy of the Darnell family in a nearby section of

Northwest Detroit has touched each of us over this past month. A man on parole after only one week is being charged in that case with the murder of four people.

• Kenneth Roby, 29, was convicted of burglary in 1979 and sentenced to two years' probation. Since then, Roby has been convicted of three other felonies, including two counts of residential burglary and one count of criminal sexual conduct in the third degree.

In 1981, he was sentenced to prison and was paroled in less than three years. In January 1988, Roby was observed breaking into a home in Farmington while under police surveillance. He was arrested for the burglaries of five homes in Farmington, and convicted of at least one count of residential burglary through the Oakland County court system.

At the time of his arrest, he was found to be living out of his car,



which contained some \$10,000 in currency and a quantity of marijuana. • Robert Avey, 20, of Farmington

was convicted of breaking into a home in Farmington in August 1985. He was sentenced to 1 1/2 to 15 years at the Riverside Correctional Facility and was released on parole in June 1987 after serving 10 months. Little more than one year later, he was charged and convicted of another residential burglary in Farmington and yet another in Farmington Hills.

There are many things we can do to help these repeat situations, including writing to our representatives in Lansing to let them know how we feel. Residents can join Neighborhood Watch programs to beef up the message to all bad guys; "We're organized and willing to combat crime."

Let's all keep informed about what's going on around us. Let's continue to talk with our children and with each other at all levels.

WL Schools dipping into savings

Emergency state called as overcrowding grows

By Jeff Counts
staff writer

With a \$47.8 million bond issue election aimed at raising money for school construction set for March 20, the Walled Lake School District Monday declared a state of emergency to point up the overcrowding problem in the district.

"The designation has no legal significance, said Lois Lange, school district communications officer, adding: "It's just a way for them to use the fund equity to add classrooms."

The fund equity is the district's savings account.

"The state of emergency just means that the board may have to take extraordinary measures to solve the problem," said Lange.

The school district serves Walled Lake and the western portions of West Bloomfield Township and Farmington Hills. Students from West Bloomfield attend Maple, Keith and Twin Beach elementary schools.

APPROVAL OF the bond issue would not eliminate crowding of schools next year because the new construction wouldn't be done in time, said Lange. The bond issue would pay for the building of two elementary schools, a junior high school and a bus garage/maintenance building. A report was released last Mon-

day, outlining the actions the district would have to take to remedy overcrowding. It was prepared by Hugh Davies, assistant superintendent for elementary instruction.

The school board will make the final decisions on the recommendations.

"We have solutions, but some are more appealing than others," Davies said.

He said one solution that may not be appealing to parents, but which may be the cheapest is busing.

Another option is portable classrooms, but he said that they usually require too much administrative personnel to oversee their use.

DAVIES' RECOMMENDATIONS by school are:

• Maple: Enrollment would increase by 120, from 608 to 728. Closing the art and music rooms and moving the facility for learning disabled students to a converted storage room would create space, but the school would still need three rooms.

The proposed solutions are: bus kindergarten students to Loon Lake School; bus the sixth-grade students

to Walled Lake Junior High School; bus the fifth- and sixth-grade students to Walled Lake Junior High School; bus kindergarten and sixth-grade students.

• Oakley Park: Enrollment would increase from 535 to 633, and four classrooms are needed to handle the increase. The proposed solutions are the construction of four classrooms, keep the library and move a special education room to Keith school; convert the library to classrooms, move the special ed students, and use the music/art room as a library; use the library for classrooms, move the sixth grade to another school and convert the music/art room to a library.

• Twin Beach: Enrollment is expected to increase from 395 to 430. The proposed solution is to move the special ed room to Loon Lake School.

• Commerce: Enrollment is expected to increase from 421 to 439. To handle the increase, the school would move the Head Start program to the Commerce portable. The preschool program would be displaced, but that activity would be split and

located in kindergarten rooms.

• Deer: The enrollment is expected to increase from 428 to 430, and to handle it the district would eliminate the art or music room.

• Dublin: Enrollment would increase from 643 to 618, and the district would move the special ed room to Commerce School.

• Glengary: Enrollment would increase to 399 from 389 and because of the slight increase, and low class size the district would use the building to house the district PPI room.

• Kelth: Enrollment would increase from 480 to 530. However, the school has enough room and could be used to accommodate a special education room from Oakley Park.

• Loon Lake: Enrollment is expected to stay the same at 403 students. However, the school could easily handle the addition of four classrooms, which could accommodate students from Maple and Oakley Park elementary schools as well as special service room transfers.

• Walled Lake: Enrollment is expected to increase from 490 to 497. To handle the increase, the district would move the Head Start program from the portable to Commerce and turn the portable into a classroom.

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