

# District's student population up, count shows

**By Casey Hans staff writer**

There are 703 more general education students in the Farmington Public Schools than there were last fall, representing about a 7.3 percent increase.

The new numbers bring the district's 12 elementary schools and two center kindergarten programs to full capacity, or above, in some cases.

According to an unaudited Fourth Friday head count done last week, the increases include 359 students at the elementary level, 288 at the four middle schools and 76 at the three high schools. The increases were expected, said school officials, they planned staffing needs last summer using similar projected numbers.

"This verifies we really need that new (elementary) school," said Mary Lou Ankele, assistant superintendent for special services, who handled the verbal head count required by the state on the fourth Friday of every school year.

"It will come none too soon. I think it should help make a difference."

**THE NEW school**, which will house some 600 kindergarten and elementary students, is slated to open next fall. A boundary committee is studying how elementary students will be affected.

Including special education students, the district shows an increase of only 125 students. These total numbers are tempered by a 50 percent, or a 578-student, decline in special

education services this year, Ankele said. Some Oakland County center programs have been relocated to other districts; others have declining numbers this year.

**Fourth Friday head counts** are as follows:

- Total — 10,825 total student count, compared with 10,700 in 1988. This number includes special education students within individual schools and in center programs. Not counting special education students, there are 10,292 students compared with 9,589 in 1988.
- High school — 3,030 general education students and 89 special education students in grades nine to 12.
- Middle Schools — 3,200 general education students and 53 special education students in grades six to eight.

- Elementary schools — 4,962 general education students and 140 special education students in grades kindergarten through five.
- Special services — 251 students in programs at Boys Republic, Farmington Training Center, Cloverdale Developmental Center and classrooms at Sarah Fisher.

**IN SOME districts**, the Fourth Friday head count determines how much state aid they will receive for the year. Since Farmington falls out-of-formula and receives little state aid, the numbers serve primarily as an administrative monitor for staff and building needs.

Increases were seen from kindergarten through the eighth grades, except for first graders. Kindergarten enrollments alone in-

creased from 996 students to 1,002. In high school, increases were seen at the 10th grade level.

Ankele said she is not concerned with the large increases in the elementary schools moving into middle and high schools in future years. "I think the space is there — it's how we utilize the space," she said.

The district offers an open enrollment option at all three high schools, and at Warner Middle School.

Ankele said most of the enrollment changes come in the fall, after families have moved into the district. Other increases come throughout the year, but are fewer in number. She receives monthly printouts on each building, allowing her to monitor activities and staffing regularly.

# Civic leader Allen left his mark on Farmington

**Continued from Page 1**

sign and supervision of industrial, commercial, institutional and residential buildings. His second company, Monal, Inc. specializes in construction management and operates from the same location.

A FEW landmarks of the 30 to 40 buildings he designed in the Farmington area include the Farmington City Hall on Liberty, the 47th District Court on 10 Mile and the Farm-

ington Hunting and Fishing Club on Farmington Road.

"John was concerned about his community," said Allen's son-in-law and 14-year business partner, Tim Mooney. "He was concerned about doing good buildings. He was not into fat architecture. I cannot drive down a street in Farmington without seeing a building he designed."

Mooney recalled that Allen always treated him as a son.

"I guess he was an artist in a

sense," he added. "You could never categorize him in a word."

A Farmington resident since 1954, Allen served on the city council from 1966 to 1976, the planning commission from 1958 to 1968 and the construction board of appeals from 1980 until his death, his wife said.

**WHILE ON the council**, he was instrumental in focusing attention on an effort to consolidate the city of Farmington and what was then

Farmington Township, a move he opposed. Local veterinarian John Richardson sat on the city council with Allen, and took the opposite view on the issue.

"John Allen led a rather vigorous fight to turn down consolidation," Richardson said. "And it was a successful one. He felt it wasn't good for the city."

"John and I were political adversaries on that thing, but after that, we put the gloves down and served together side by side. I considered him a real friend."

In addition to city politics, Allen was involved in many community groups. He was past president of the Farmington District Library board, the Farmington Arts Council, the Farmington-Farmington Hills Com-

munity Center and the Farmington Exchange Club.

The Detroit native earned a bachelor of architectural engineering degree from the University of Detroit. His professional affiliations included the American Institute of Architects and the Michigan Society of Architects.

He was a member of the Huron River Hunting & Fishing Club and the Farmington Elks Lodge. He served in the Army during World War II.

**IN ADDITION to his wife**, Allen survived by two daughters, Nichelle Mooney and Celeste Novak; four sons, John, Louis, Thomas and Robert; five grandchildren; and one sister, Marie Sweney Martus.

His firm will be continued by two

of his children, who are architects, and his son-in-law.

A funeral Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. today at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church, Farmington. Burial will follow in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield.

A rosary was recited Wednesday at McCabe Funeral Home, Farmington Hills.

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## Banks, civic offices closed for holiday

Trash will be picked up as usual next week but mail service will be curtailed Monday, Oct. 9 — when Columbus Day will be observed.

Farmington postmaster Kenneth Harris said there will be no regular residential or business mail delivery. Special delivery, Express mail and post office box service will be provided.

Limited caller service will be available only for customers who regularly pick up their mail at either the Farmington Office, 32200 Slocum, or the Farmington Hills Office, 32455 W. 12 Mile, 8-10 a.m.

Mail will be picked up from all residential collection boxes as late in the day as possible to meet first-class mail service standards. All business collection boxes, with the large 5 p.m. decal, will be picked up after 5 p.m.

Farmington Hills City Hall and 47th District Court in Farmington will be closed Monday.

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