

# Schools employee dies in car-bike accident

By Casey Hane  
staff writer

The sudden death of a lifelong Farmington-area resident has left his family and co-workers at Farmington Public Schools grief-stricken.

George Walters, 52, a resident of New Hudson and a 26-year employee with the Farmington schools maintenance department, was struck and killed by a car Sunday night as he rode his 10-speed bicycle west-bound along Grand River, east of Milford Road, in Lyon Township.

The Oakland County Sheriff's Department is investigating the incident in which a 24-year-old Milford man was driving west-bound on Grand River in a 1978 Chevrolet and struck Walters from behind at 8:08 p.m. "Alcohol is believed to be a factor in this accident," said an Oakland County Sheriff's Department spokeswoman Tuesday. The driver of the car was not hurt.

No further information about the incident was available.

Walters was taken to Huron Valley Hospital by ambulance. He died a short time later.

"HE ENJOYED the out-of-doors," said Lois Walters, his wife of 25 years. "He had just gotten his 10-speed out and cleaned it up. He was really getting in good health and wanted to live."

"He was very much loved by his family. He was a good father and a good husband."

George Walters was born and raised in the Farmington area. He graduated from Farmington High School, and had lived on Orchard Lake Road, said friends. He began working for the Farmington school district in January 1964, where he worked as a glazier, installing and repairing windows throughout the district.

A funeral service is scheduled for today at 11 a.m. at the New Hudson Methodist Church, where he was a member. He will be buried in North Farmington Cemetery, Farmington Hills, next to his father.

DEWEY NICHOLS, a maintenance supervisor for Farmington schools, grew up with Walters and has worked with him for years. "You never asked him to do a thing he wouldn't do," Nichols said. "He was just a fantastic person."

Supervisor Pat Fletcher said the maintenance department would work with a skeleton crew Thursday, allowing employees who wish to attend the funeral service.

The family asks that in lieu of flowers donations be made to an education fund for Walters' three children, two of whom are in college and a third who is a student at South Lyon High School. "He was very proud he had two in college and a third on the way," Lois Walters said.

George Walters also is survived by his first grandchild, born Tuesday morning, less than two days after his death.

## WL district chief Geisler to get \$11,000 raise

By Darrell Clem  
staff writer

Walled Lake Schools Superintendent James R. Geisler will receive an \$11,000 raise this year to bring his salary more in line with those of school chiefs in nearby districts.

Geisler will be paid \$99,000 for the year beginning July 1.

"We wanted to make his salary competitive so he doesn't leave us,"

Sammy Rucenik, school board president, said Tuesday. "We definitely want him to remain."

Geisler's current salary of \$88,000 ranks last in a comparison of six area school districts, including Walled Lake, West Bloomfield, Farmington Hills, Waterford, Bloomfield Hills and Birmingham.

Each of those districts cuts into West Bloomfield Township.

GEISLER EARNS \$33,815 less than W. Robert Docking, Bloomfield Hills superintendent, who is the highest paid in the six school districts.

Geisler's salary is closest to that of Farmington Hills Schools Superin-

### Walled Lake School District

The Walled Lake district serves students in part of the north-west corner of Farmington Hills.

tendent Michael Flanagan, whose salary is \$93,720.

Here's a top-to-bottom ranking of the six superintendents by current salary, followed by their districts and their district enrollments:

- Docking, \$121,815, Bloomfield Hills, 5,821 students.
- Roger Garvelink, \$108,062, Birmingham, 7,400 students.

- Seymour Grotchko, \$100,700, West Bloomfield, 4,759 students.
- Alton Cowan, \$95,661, Waterford, 10,369 students.
- Flanagan, \$93,720, Farmington Hills, 10,809 students.
- Geisler, \$88,300, Walled Lake, 9,215 students.

Salary information for the six districts was provided by the district offices.

Geisler, a former Royal Oak School District administrator, is completing his second year in Walled Lake and will begin his new three-year contract on July 1. His salary will be negotiated each year of the contract, said school district spokeswoman Lois Lange.

RUCENIK DESCRIBED Geisler as "somebody who has a vision for educational leadership."

Geisler's immediate goal is to

seek voter approval of a Headlee Amendment override that would allow school district taxes to increase faster than inflation.

"I'm optimistic about that," he said Tuesday, though he conceded it's an "uphill battle."

Other priorities in the next three years will include completing several new building projects, fostering school-business partnerships and establishing a strategic plan for the school district.

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## No decision in Schultz case

The Michigan Supreme Court has not yet reached a decision regarding a Farmington Hills resident and former Bloomfield Hills teacher, who is attempting to get his 20- to 30-year sentence for cocaine delivery reduced.

No decision has been reached in the case of David Michael Schultz, a spokeswoman for the state's highest court said Monday.

Schultz is a 1980 graduate of Farmington High and a former mathematics teacher and coach at Bloomfield Hills Middle School.

The case has been in front of the Supreme Court for some 16 months. Attorneys presented oral arguments March 7.

The court can sometimes take months to render a decision, attorneys said.

SCHULTZ WAS convicted of delivery of a controlled substance between 225 and 650 grams, which, at the time, carried a mandatory 20 years in prison.

His case surrounded a November 1986 drug bust in which undercover agents bought cocaine at a downtown Farmington house.

He was sentenced in 1987 under the old Controlled Substance Act.

In a statute amendment that took effect March 1, 1988, state legislators lowered the penalty from a

mandatory 20 years to a 10-year minimum and gave judges leeway in sentencing.

Schultz's appeal is based on the change in the law.

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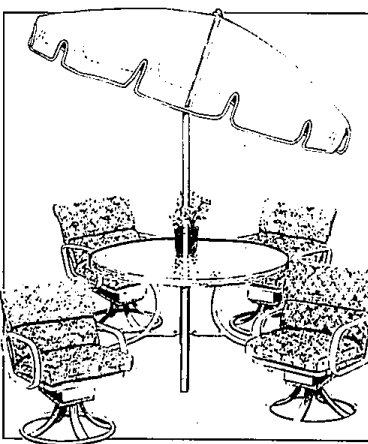
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