

**Buckaroos: Karen and the Duke**



Toothing her horn: Karen Nixon (left), conductor of the Farmington Area Philharmonic, prepares for "Buckaroo Holidays" to be presented at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 15, at the Mercy Center, 28600 11 Mile Road, Farmington Hills. Music from country hoedown to concert hall will be presented. The group was formerly known as Group du jour.

# Administrators, district reach tentative pact

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

The Farmington Board of Education approved a tentative agreement with the union representing 42 building principals and some central office administrators.

The one-year deal calls for a 3-percent raise plus an additional 1 percent to be added to a tax-deferred annuity for members of the Farmington Association of School Administrators.

Also, members will switch third party health care administrators from Blue Cross/Blue Shield to the Farmington Schools Health Plan. Blue Cross will still underwrite the new plan, which is expected to save the district money.

With the new plan, administrators have a \$100 deductible and pay \$2 for each prescription. The previous prescription copay was \$1.

A similar change in health carriers has led the teachers union, Farmington Education Association, to file a grievance. The teachers had Michigan Educational Special Services Association as a third party administrator.

The matter is going to arbitration. "We were concerned about it (the switch)," said Farmington High assistant principal Ken Dean, who was one of the FASA

negotiators. "When you look at MESSA . . . We felt we had an obligation to set the tone a little bit. We felt this was taking a minor step considering what is taking place in industry."

The contract is retroactive to July 1 and, unlike the previous agreement, only lasts one year.

"Usually we do (go for more than one year)," said Sue Zurvalec, director of Employee Relations, "but given the uncertainty of funding, the board of education decided to be conservative in that regard until they have a better idea of what the financial picture looks like."

Negotiators met in June and settled after four subsequent meetings. Assistant superintendent of finance Bruce Barrett, personal director Bob Coleman and Zurvalec represented the district. Special education director Jan Richards, Warner Middle School principal Darlene Russell and Dean represented FASA.

Both Zurvalec and Dean said negotiations were cordial.

"I think there is a good relationship between FASA and the school board and the school management," Zurvalec said. "It's always been a cooperative relationship."

The FASA also received a 3-percent raise during the last contract settlement two years ago.

## Library from page 1A

handicapped library. "From '74 to '79, that was my baby."

She said the county decided to consolidate the nationally recognized operation in 1980, despite the Farmington Community Library Board's efforts to keep it.

"We held them off for a while," said Aldo Vagnozzi, a library board member in 1986-87. "This is not the time for them to move."

Papal said once the county made its decision, the Farmington Library board wanted the move to be smooth, something it doesn't appear to be.

"There will be a crunch in the

short run," she said, adding that three of the five staff members would move into the Farmington system thanks to attrition.

Hund, a librarian in the Farmington library for 23 years including the 12 she's worked with the blind and handicapped, said the problem goes beyond just replacing staff.

"It takes special training," she said. "You just can't replace someone with untrained staff."

Only 4-5 percent of blind patrons use Braille materials that are housed in Lansing, she said. Many blind patrons use recorded books provided by the National

Library for the Blind in Washington, D.C.

A complicated computer system and a knowledge of the patrons and their reading habits are not that easy to learn for a new staff member, said Johnson, who is completely blind.

"They know I have a special interest in the Civil War," he said.

In addition, many of the handicapped patrons have special needs or require special reading materials, Hund said.

Papal said the Farmington library will increase the hours of one part-time librarian who works with blind and handicapped pa-

trons and will transfer two part-time librarians who have experience in that library for now. But how the county will handle the situation both in the near term and long term remains unclear for the time being.

"They're supposed to get in touch with me Friday," she said. "But as long as it's housed here we'll assist in whatever way we can."

Papal said County Commissioner Marilyn Gosling, R-Bloomfield Hills, had said that staffing levels would not suffer when the library moves to Pontiac.

## Mercy from page 1A

Marino Golf Course and \$525,000 for land acquisition to pay for the Mercy Center. Those funds were included in the park millage that runs through 1999.

City manager Bill Costick said about 20 acres of the site can be developed for recreational use, such as ball fields, which will cover the land acquisition. He said there did not appear to be any land available in the near future for a golf course, and if there were

or there were a need for work at Woodland Hills, the city could borrow on a short-term basis.

Some sharing of the physical plant, including the boiler, will continue. The city will use the same maintenance crew now in place because it is familiar with the operation.

The city will decide the particulars of bonding at Monday's regular meeting, and the closing is expected to take place near the first of the year.

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