

Schools

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dates school district's boundaries. The board of a community college can facilitate. It may not grant a contract for more than one public school academy and the school must operate within the boundaries of the community college district.

4. The governing board of a state public university can issue contracts statewide. The charter school can be located anywhere in the state.

If a school is chartered by a college or university, students could attend from all over the state and teachers would not have to come from that university. Teaching staff could be chosen from all

educators who wish to work for that charter school and staff would not be affiliated with a particular union or teacher's association.

If a school becomes chartered by a school district, the teachers from that district would be employed in the charter school. The union or teacher's association contract with the district would have to be followed.

Each school will receive \$5,500 per pupil. This is the same amount received by all K-12 public schools in Michigan. With the charter schools, the administration and staff would have greater input as to how the money is

spent.

Marilyn Lundy, vice chairwoman of the State Board of Education, spoke with me about the Cass Maria Charter School in southwest Detroit. They were one of the first schools to be chartered and are an outgrowth of a community center. Central Michigan University granted them a charter with the help of Dr. Gerry Mianer.

The community center has been in existence for many years. Many of the students in the school were youngsters who came to the center after school and on weekends. There is a feeling of family and the charter school was the next step in con-

tinuing this atmosphere of a "safe harbor" in this largely Hispanic community.

There are a total of 35 students with two teachers and two tutors. Students receive individual attention. A family counselor is also available for any problems the students might have. Students are checked for weapons and there is an atmosphere of everyone working together toward common goals.

Students are made to feel "special" and are picked up in a van every day and brought to school. Since both parents and children have chosen Cass Maria, there is much parental involvement.

The school hopes to expand by 1996 to be a full operating middle school, grades 6-8. Afterschool and weekend activities are continuing to be offered so that the center becomes an important place in each student's life.

Cass Maria is but one example. In the next year there will be 10 to 20 other charter schools. Their focus may be different but they will all have the same basic guidelines. The progress of all students will be assessed using at least a Michigan Education Assessment Program test (MEAP) or an assessment instrument developed for a state endorsed high school diploma, or one or more of

the following nationally normed tests: the California Achievement Test, the Stanford Achievement Test, or the Iowa Test of Basic Skills.

There has been some controversy surrounding the Noah Webster School and a court challenge is in progress. Charter schools are a new concept. However, as a public school teacher, I believe that it is an idea worth trying. We are always looking for new ways to improve education for our young people and this may be one of the best ideas yet.

Eleanor Blum is a Farmington Hills resident and a teacher with the Detroit Public Schools.

Cards

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and The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers are co-sponsoring the Holiday Card Display and Sale Day 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 8, at The Community House, 380 S. Bates, Birmingham.

The annual event is free, with holiday cards, wrapping paper, T-shirts and other gift items to be sold to raise funds for more than 60 not-for-profit agencies.

For more information about the

display and sale day, call Debbie Apel at (310) 844-8332.

If you miss that sale, head for the Longacre House (formerly The Community Center) of Farmington Hills. From 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, Nov. 11, local charities like the American Cancer Society, National Kidney Foundation of Michigan, Children's Leukemia Foundation of Michigan and the Arthritis Foundation will be displaying their holiday

cards and gift items.

"We have a beautiful selection of cards this year," said Marion Baker, events chairperson. "And all the proceeds benefit the charities directly."

As an added bonus, there will be a holiday craft boutique filled with items for gift giving and holiday decorating, making for one-stop shopping at the Longacre House. Admission is free, and refresh-

ments will be available. The Longacre House is at 24705 Farmington Road, north of 10 Mile Road, Farmington Hills. For more information, call (310) 477-8404.

Also offering holiday card displays and selected gift items are the Bloomfield Township Library, 1099 Long Pine Road; Canton Public Library, 1200 Canton Center Road; Farmington Community Library branches at 23500 Liberty St., Farmington, and

business hours at our offices at 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia; 805 E. Maple, Birmingham; 21956 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills (33411 Grand River); Farmington Hills (26000 Evergreen); and 1814 S. Rochester Road, Rochester Hills.

As in previous years, The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers have books, containing samples of participating charities' available holiday cards, in the five offices. The books can be purchased during

Workshop is slated for caregivers of diabetic children

Diabetes is the most common chronic illness of children in Michigan.

Kids with diabetes appear to be well and participate in all typical childhood activities.

But to stay well, they must follow a carefully planned diet, frequently have their blood checked for sugar, and be given one or

more insulin injections a day. Special attention is needed to prevent an insulin reaction, which could cause a seizure or loss of consciousness.

Parents of children with diabetes know that caring for a child with diabetes requires special skills, and worry about leaving their child in the care of others.

Now teachers, school nurses, grandparents, babysitters, and family members have the chance to learn these skills from experts.

A workshop, "In Your Care: A Child With Diabetes," is offered at no charge to caregivers of children with diabetes.

The format includes a lecture, followed by a Skills Fair, where participants will practice giving

an insulin shot, checking blood sugar, checking for ketones and handling diabetic emergencies.

The workshops are from 7-9 p.m. at the Rochester Hills City Hall on Wednesday, Nov. 9, and at the Ann Arbor Sheraton Inn on Wednesday, Nov. 16.

Registration is through Patient Care Services at 1-800-531-9683, Ext. 361.

The workshops have been organized by Caroline Trapp, a certified diabetes educator and Plymouth resident.

The North Farmington High School graduate has been a camp nurse for the American Diabetes Association and is the children's program coordinator for the Parents Diabetes Network.

The workshops are sponsored by Baskin Robbins, Boehringer Mannheim, Curious Child Books, Eli Lilly and Company, Novo Nordisk, and Patient Care Services.

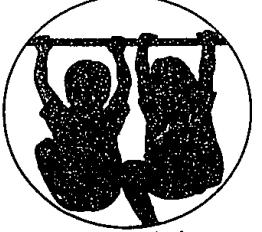
This workshop was offered for the first time last August in Livonia and 76 people attended.

Resident earns award

Beverly Cornell, a Farmington Hills resident, recently received a certificate of merit award from the Keep Michigan Beautiful program.

Cornell submitted a video on

wildlife and domestic animals seminar she held last April. The seminar was sponsored by the Women's National Farm and Garden Club at the Spencer House in Heritage Park.



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The SPRING Newspapers

Sources: 1993 CAC, analysis of 1993 ABC.

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