

# Postal service advises: Don't say 'Gee' get 'G'

Increased postage rates — 32 cents for a first-class stamp — are effective at 12:01 a.m. on Sunday, Jan. 1, 1995. The new postage rate stamps are now on sale at the Farmington and Farmington Hills post offices.

Officer-In-Charge John Sepalak advises customers to avoid the last-minute rush and buy the new postage rate stamps early.

All post offices in the 481/483 ZIP code area will be closed for the New Year's holiday on Sunday, Jan. 1, and Monday, Jan. 2.

"We encourage our customers to purchase the new postage rate stamps prior to the new year," said Sepalak.

The nondenominated "G-Series" stamps have been issued to support the new 32-cent first-class postage rate. The "G-Series" stamps feature an American flag on a white background. The words "Old Glory" appear centered above the flag.

Also inscribed across the bottom of the design are the words "For U.S. addresses only." The nondenominated "G-Series" stamps are the seventh in a series that used letters "A" through "F," "G" for "Earth," and "H" for "Heaven" in conjunction with postage rate changes from 1977 through 1991.

A nondenominated "G" rate

## Plan sets clock for late Wednesday starts

By LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

Harrison High students will have a few more hours of sleep while teachers devise new ways to wake their minds.

Instead of 7:45 a.m., classes will start at 9:53 a.m. on one Wednesday a month, starting Jan. 4. Other dates for the later bell are: Feb. 8, March 8, April 5 and May 3.

The restructuring was approved by the Farmington Board of Education at its Dec. 20 meeting. Staff members will use the additional 10 hours to collaborate, said principal Randa Horn.

Topics for discussion could include such things as developing critical thinking skills, Harrison's North Central Accreditation process and improving teaching techniques.

"It's an opportunity to question and to deliberate with each other on these issues," Horn said, "and share with each other."

Teachers are often isolated from each other, Horn said. That makes it difficult for them to hear from other colleagues about new methods and information.

The schedule will be adjusted to make up for instructional time lost because of the later start, Horn said. First hour will start five minutes earlier at 7:40 a.m.

The restructuring is similar to a program at North Farmington High, which uses a zero hour. Harrison also added a zero hour 6:45-7:35 a.m. this fall.

The pilot program will be re-evaluated after the winter semester, Horn said.

## YMCA HIGHLIGHTS

These YMCA Highlights appear courtesy of the Farmington YMCA, 28100 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills. For information, call 553-4020.

**■ CLASS REGISTRATION**  
Walk-in registration is still going for the upcoming winter season of classes at the Farmington Y. The winter seasons begin Jan. 9.

**■ BASKETBALL SHOOTING CONTEST**  
Plans are now being made for a basketball shooting contest Sunday, Jan. 8, at the Farmington Y. The contest is for ages 7-70, male and female. Different shooting contests will take place with awards going to the top winners in each age division. Pre-register at a cost of \$5 or register the day of the event for \$8. All fees will go to the Invest in Youth campaign. For more details call Carol McMillan at 553-1935.

**■ MIDDLE SCHOOL BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT**  
Five person teams will play games between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Playoffs will begin at 2:30 p.m. and continue until the tournament winner is declared. Games will be officiated and trophies awarded to the winning team. Age divisions are as follows: 11- to 12-year-olds will play Tuesday, Dec. 27; 13- to 14-year-olds will play Thursday, Dec. 29. Call Alana Hill at 553-4020 for more information.

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## Bond from page 1A

Feb. 4 bond issue. The board had to reserve an election spot with the state no later than today to put another question to voters during the 1994-95 school year.

During and after the two-hour meeting, residents such as Michele Peller urged the board to wait on the third \$100 million-plus bond issue since October 1993 until it could take a longer, harder look at how much money needed to be spent and on what.

"We need more efficient use of our buildings, and we need to cut costs," Peller said during her comments to the board. "You cut \$19 million before, do it again."

Peller was referring to cuts made after a \$135 million bond proposal was defeated in October 1993. (Essentially, voters on Feb. 4 will be facing the same \$116 million proposal they did in September, but they won't be faced with an all-or-nothing decision.)

Both Peller and 38-year resident Louis James suggested that the district go to year-round schools to offset continuing enrollment growth and minimize the need to build additional schools and classrooms. "Things have to change," James said.

According to resident Paul Stobbe, bond issue money would be well-spent if it assured future graduates a chance to compete in the global job market.

"I think the way people measure school districts is on the MEAP tests, and not whether we have a pool or a bigger gym," Stobbe said, referring to components of Part 2 of the February split ballot.

Tuesday's meeting also included a strong show of support from members of the PTA, Walled Lake's business community and Citizens for Walled Lake Schools, the latter unveiling results of a random telephone survey (of 378 citizens) designed to gauge public opinion about holding yet another special election.

Most telling were the following survey results: 68 percent felt there was a "somewhat critical" or "very critical" need for new schools and school improvements; 81 percent would vote in favor of any proposition that would take care of space needs; 72 percent of those who didn't vote in the Sept. 27 election or who voted no concurred they would vote for basic needs (space, technology). Committee chairwoman Ran-

dee Bloom said results of the survey — coupled with the fact that 4,823 residents signed a petition indicating they would support another bond issue — indicate "yes, there is very, very strong community support" for another attempt.

Another member of the committee, Mike Woods, said a bond issue is the best way to tackle problems facing the district. "We feel the community, overall, needs to get behind the school system because it's the backbone of the community."

Several representatives for Walled Lake businesses also spoke in favor of a bond issue. Foxcroft Subdivision builder Dennis Park, Tim Lynch (Lynch & Sons Funeral Home) and Bill Winkler, owner of Mr. Bill's.

Winkler said businesses need to support the cause, as long as they have "meaningful input as to how the money is spent. . . I think it's imperative."

The Walled Lake School District includes about one square mile in northwest Farmington Hills.

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