

Mahmood from page A1

A physician at Henry Ford Hospital in West Bloomfield, Mahmood sees few ills within the district as the 21st Century nears. In fact, he thinks so highly of Farmington schools that he gives administrators an A grade. But, he'd strive to push that mark up to A plus as a board member.

One of the first areas he would tackle would be to challenge students to achieve their goals and become excited enough about learning that they'd know which direction they'd want their future career path to take.

"If you go to a senior class and ask them what they want to be, I

don't want jack-of-all-trades teachers at the elementary schools."

He likes the way the district is already implementing new programs in the elementary, such as foreign language.

"The potential is so high to learn even before kindergarten," he said. "We should expose our children to as much learning in the early stages as possible."

The candidate said enhancing the district in order to develop children into tomorrow's leaders should be a community-wide objective, decided in Farmington and Farmington Hills and not by state educators.

"I'd like to take care of our own curriculum by asking local people from all walks of life," Mahmood explained. "It should be a wide-based thing. We must involve the business community because we want to know what they need" from graduates.

Mahmood wouldn't stymie the creative juices of students. "We should let our children have ambitions and dreams and help them realize those dreams."

And that includes all students, even those who have special needs or are deemed "at-risk."

"There are some quite positive things for the high achievers," Mahmood said. "But I would also look closely at the people who

Edison worker sprayed by angry owner of dogs

A Farmington Hills man is expected to be charged after a Detroit Edison meter reader was sprayed with a substance Friday morning.

At 10:30 a.m., the Edison worker encountered two dogs running loose while trying to check meters on the 28000 block of Brookhill in the northeast side of the city. He kept the animals at bay with dog repellent, a form of pepper spray.

Later on Bellecrest, a block away, a man who identified himself as the dogs' owner pulled up in a green car and asked the worker why and what did he use to spray his pets. When the worker showed him the pepper spray, the assailant grabbed the canister and squirted the meter reader in the face, saying "How do you like it?"

The worker, a 21-year-old man, was treated for red puffy eyes and released. Farmington Hills police tracked down the dogs' owner, who is expected to be arraigned on charges of assault using pepper spray and

larceny under \$100. The assault charge is a high misdemeanor, which carries a two-year jail sentence and/or a \$2,000 fine.

"We talked to the man who lived at that address and he said he was upset about the dogs being sprayed," police Chief Bill Dwyer said. "He felt that the meter reader should have asked to come on to his property."

The Edison worker told police he bypassed the house where the dogs were running loose and went to the next home. The dogs ran towards him and one snapped at him.

When asked about the pepper spray, the man said he couldn't remember what he did with it. He then told him it was in his desk drawer after officers said they'd get a search warrant.

Police took the man, 41, into custody.


"I think these workers have to defend themselves against these dogs," Dwyer said. "I think it's better to spray them and contain them. At least this has no permanent effect."

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