

# Clarke

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this fall, Maxfield said the next principal at NFHS will have a second "major challenge," that of overseeing effective use of new technology equipment and classroom space.

Screening and interview committees, including administrators, teachers, parents and students, will soon be formed.

According to Maxfield, about 40 to 70 people generally apply for such a position, "and we'd like to whittle that down to 10 or 12" for formal interviews.

Maxfield said he's "confident that we'll do well" as far as finding a qualified successor to Clarke before the next year begins.

"If we're able to meet that second week of July deadline, ... we'll be doing interviews during the month and maybe have an appointment by the end" of July.

Clarke, who grew up in Pontiac, is finishing her doctorate degree at Eastern Michigan University and "was interested in this kind of position," Maxfield

■ 'I just wish her the best.'

**Bob Maxfield**  
—Farmington Hills  
superintendent

said.

She was recruited for her new job by Pontiac schools Superintendent Walter Burt, who recently took over that district. "I just wish her the best,"

Maxfield said. "She's a passionate educator who cares a great deal (about) meeting the needs of every student."

Clarke became the first female high school principal in the Farmington district when she was appointed to North in December 1989.

She came over from Ypsilanti High School, where she was assistant principal, following Don Cowan's promotion to Farmington's central administrative team.

Veteran school board Trustee Jack Inch called Clarke's resignation surprising news. But he said the North principalship is "a job that will encourage the very best people" to apply.

"This is an opportunity to be principal of a national exemplary school," Inch said. "To be put in (charge of) an educational program that's new and innovative is an exciting challenge."



Deborah Clarke

## Council passes budget

Money for sidewalk planned, residents told

BY HEATHER NEEDHAM  
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills City Council unanimously passed its \$39.8 million 1999-2000 general fund budget Monday with little discussion.

A group of residents who had wondered whether or not money for sidewalk work attended the meeting, and were told the money was there.

"You won," Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi said to the residents, who have been vocal about getting a sidewalk installed along Gill Road, north of Eight Mile.

Chuck Rosch, finance director/treasurer, said "it's a good solid budget," adding that it has a strong emphasis on public safety and public services.

Highlights of the budget:

■ 10.165 operating mills, including 7.22 for operations, .67 for capital improvements and drains, .78 for debt service, .99 for public safety and .49 for parks and recreation.

■ Increased taxable value for the city — from 3.074 billion to 3.217 billion, meaning decreased taxes for residents.

■ The largest general fund expenditure is police, at \$12.7 million, or 32.7 percent, with general government ranking second at \$7.4 million, or 19.1 percent.

■ Public services accounts for \$3.1 million, or 8 percent of the budget, with fire close behind at \$3 million, or 7.9 percent.

■ Several new positions, including one firefighter, five dispatchers, two police officers, two parks maintenance employees, a cultural arts coordinator, a community services coordinator for the senior program and a production specialist.

The eight police and fire positions will be paid for by the public safety millage passed in 1995, and the three parks positions will be paid for through a parks millage passed in 1997.

## Corvette raffle revs up

The annual Farmington-Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce Fantasy Cruisin' Raffle is back.

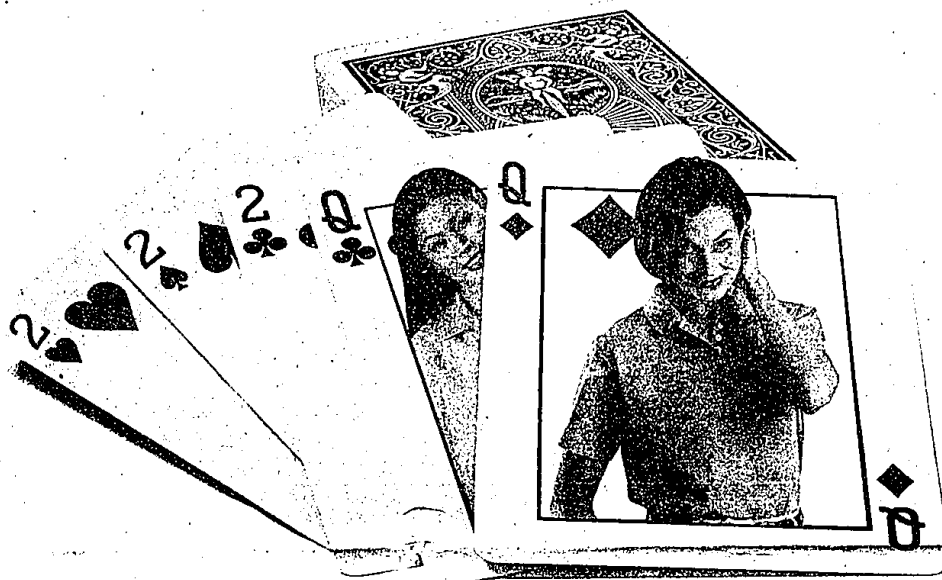
Tickets are \$100 each and only 1,000 will be sold.

For the first time in 13 years, the grand prize winner of the 1999 Fantasy Cruisin' Raffle will have their choice of a 2000 Corvette Coupe, a 1999 Mercedes ML430, two (his and hers) Harley-Davidson Motorcycles, a luxury 10-day cruise for two to the Mediterranean, or \$30,000 cash.

In addition to the grand prize, nine other cash prizes totaling \$3,350 will be awarded.

The raffle will take place at the conclusion of the Farmington Founders Day Festival, 8:30 a.m. July 11, at Farmington Hills Manor. To purchase tickets call the chamber office at 474-3440.

(Don't wait, we're expecting a full house!)



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