

State bills would slash city motor carrier program

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Farmington Hills Assistant Police Chief Martin Bledsoe knows what can happen when a trucking company doesn't pay heed to safety issues and the rules of the road.

A close friend, the mother of three children, was paralyzed in an accident that occurred after a piece of equipment flew off a semi-trailer at his home. That's why he thinks new legislation that would slash funding for the city's motor carrier program needs a closer look.

Bledsoe's not alone. Hills City Council members and 42nd District Court Administrator Dave Walsh have serious concerns about House Bills 4927-4932, six tie-barred proposals that would change the distribution of fines assessed when commercial vehicles violate local ordinances.

"We bought a vehicle, we trained officers, we bought equipment, and now the game has changed," said Hills Mayor Nancy Bates.

Instead of keeping all of the revenues generated when local laws are broken, the city would keep 30 percent in its general fund and 30 percent for road repairs and send 40 percent to the county for its library fund. Now, whatever isn't used to cover enforcement costs goes toward fixing bad roads, to which overweight trucks are a big contributor, officials said.

According to Walsh, the program isn't a big money maker for the city.

"At best, we hope we're breaking even," he said.

He and other administrators throughout the state are concerned that, without the ability to recover costs, cities will scrap their enforcement programs. In that case, Walsh pointed out, how the state divides up revenues won't matter.

"The libraries aren't going to get anything, because 40 percent of nothing is still nothing," Walsh said.

For Bledsoe and Lt. Dennis Green, who oversee the department's traffic division, monitoring commercial vehicles isn't



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRIDLER

Walghmaster: Farmington Hills police Officer Larry Luttrell removes portable scales from the back of his vehicle. The fines generated by overweight trucks are a source of revenue for many suburban municipalities.

really a money issue. Both men hope the city decides to keep the program, no matter what happens at the state level.

"I feel the cost is important, but the safety issues are extremely important," Green said.

Officer Larry Luttrell does more than just weigh trucks that appear overweight, although that in itself is quite a challenging proposition. Green said the law allows a weight limit for each axle, so axles have to be weighed separately.

Luttrell's vehicle has been equipped with precision scales, tools and a "creeper" to help him

inspect the truck's underside, as well as the radios, video camera and other equipment found in a regular squad car. A caged back seat allows him to transport a prisoner, if necessary.

In addition, Luttrell looks for safety violations and checks to make sure drivers are qualified. Green has a box full of photos used as evidence on ticketed trucks, which show everything from cracked frames to tires stripped of their tread.

"The bottom line is what you're trying to do is make it safer," Green said.

Please see MOTOR, A5

FARMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS-PUBLIC NOTIFICATION TECHNICAL EDUCATION CURRICULUM 2000-2001

Each year the Farmington Public Schools offer Technical programs at Farmington (FHS), Harrison (HHS), North Farmington (NFHS) High School and at the Oakland Technical Center Southwest Campus (OTC-SW) in Walling Lake. Within the District a shuttle bus transports students from their high school to another building. No class time is lost.

These programs are designed to prepare youth for a broad range of employment and continuing education opportunities. They are offered under the guidance of certified instructors, counselors and cooperative education coordinators. The curriculum is technologically up to date, the equipment is representative of the "state of the art" in business and industry and the laboratories are of optimum size appropriately designed.

If a program is offered at OTC-SW and at the home high school, students are asked to enroll in the home high school for the first year and then transfer to OTC-SW for the advanced program during the second year. Transportation is provided to OTC-SW.

Listed below are the programs being offered this year, their location and their prerequisites. Please refer to your course description book for a complete listing of courses.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION CURRICULUM

PROGRAM	LOCATION	PREREQUISITE
Marketing I	FHS-HHS-NFHS	NONE
Marketing & Store Operations	FHS-HHS-NFHS	NONE
Medical Skills (Science Credit)**	FHS-NFHS-HHS	NONE
Word Processing	FHS-HHS-NFHS	Keyboarding/Word Processing
Computer Applications	FHS-HHS-NFHS	Word Processing
Desktop Publishing	FHS-HHS-NFHS	Word Processing or Computer App.
Automotive Technology**	FHS-HHS-NFHS-OTC-SW	Auto Mechanics or Auto Care
Material Engineering	FHS-NFHS	NONE
Construction Systems	FHS	NONE
(CAD) Architectural**	FHS-HHS-NFHS	Technical Drafting or TECH Draft & Design
(CAD) Engineering**	OTC-SW	TECH Draft & Design
	FHS-HHS-NFHS	Publications/Proc. or Communications Technology I
Visual Imaging Technology (Printing)*	FHS	NONE
Graphic Design & Desktop Publishing (CAD) Drafting Engineering	OTC-SW	NONE
Electronics Technology	OTC-SW	NONE
Visual Merchandising, Advertising and Promotion	OTC-SW	NONE
Auto Body Repair	OTC-SW	NONE
Business Services Technology	OTC-SW	NONE
Health Sciences/Medical	OTC-SW	NONE
Health Sciences/Dental	OTC-SW	NONE
Heavy Equipment and Trucking Technology	OTC-SW	NONE
Agriculture/Feral	OTC-SW	NONE
Culinary Arts/Hospitality	OTC-SW	NONE
Agriculture Greenhouse/Landscape	OTC-SW	NONE
Welding and Fabrication Technology	OTC-SW	NONE
Machine/Plastics Technology	OTC-SW	NONE

*First year of course must be taken at home high school, if offered.

**Prerequisites may differ depending on course offerings at each building.

LIFE MANAGEMENT CURRICULUM

The life management curriculum (formerly home economics) includes courses designed to help students more effectively cope with and manage their lives in a technological society. The curriculum, the facilities are well equipped and the instructional staff is certified and well qualified. The following semester courses are offered at each of the high-schools unless otherwise noted:

COURSE	PREREQUISITE	GRADE
Child Development/Parenting	NONE	10-12
Childhood Education Seminar (NFHS)	Child Development	10-12
Fashion Design	NONE	9-12
Teen Issues	NONE	9-10
Family Sociology (Social Studies Credit)	NONE	11-12
Nutrition	NONE	9-12
Housing/Interior Design	NONE	10-12
Personal Finance (Math Credit)	NONE	11-12
On Your Own	NONE	12

For Specific Information about the above programs, you may call the Guidance Offices at the respective building: Farmington High School (489-3447), Harrison High School (489-3504) and North Farmington High School (489-3651). In keeping with the Farmington Board of Education policy on non-discrimination, students have equal access to all technical and life management programs regardless of race, religion, handicap, color, sex, or national origin. In addition the lack of English language shall not be a barrier to admission or participation. For general information about these programs, contact Terry Kleczar, Director, Applied Technology & Career Development, 32789 W. Ten Mile Rd., Farmington (489-3363). Inquiries concerning equal opportunities on the basis of sex should be directed to Susan Zurvalce, Title IX Coordinator, 32500 Shawwassee, Farmington (489-3366). Questions concerning equal opportunities for the challenged should be directed to Janice Richards, Section 504 Coordinator at 32789 W. Ten Mile, Farmington (489-3389). Inquiries concerning discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin may be directed to Larry Lobert, Title VI Coordinator, 32500 Shawwassee, Farmington, MI (489-3387).

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