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Were averaged so that every community was fairly represented.

Barber wasn't thinking about a score when he filled out the survey.

"The real benefit of this could be to establish some guidelines for schools and to share with other schools what we can do to help children through music," he said. "That's what I was hoping was going to happen."

According to Michael Faulhaber, President of AMC, survey sponsors had pretty much the same thing in mind.

"For the first time, we have a 'snapshot' of music education in America," said Faulhaber. "With resources at a premium, and with the mounting scientific evidence that shows how vital music education is, it's important for us to learn who's doing it right and why."

Barber believes the keys to

SCHOOLS

Farmington's success have been an equal effort across the grade levels, as well as a top-notch staff of 38 music educators who teach vocal and instrumental music from kindergarten through 12th grade.

"We've tried very hard to develop a balanced program, and we've paid special attention to the elementary schools, where we reach every child," Barber said.

At that level, children are encouraged to explore all kinds of music, and they even compose at the second and third grade level, said Superintendent Dr. Bob Maxfield.

"We have an elementary music program that's just outstanding," he said, adding the individual lessons and groups available at the middle and high school levels

build on that base. "By the time you get to the top performing groups, you've got kids who are really world class."

Maxfield said the commitment to excellence spreads throughout all Farmington schools, with programs like the Day for Strings that pairs all instrumental students with adult musicians from universities and the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

In Farmington schools, Maxfield said, music is considered an integral part of the curriculum, rather than an "add on" or extra program. Music education is offered throughout the year, with a summer fine arts program for kids who want to explore areas other than what they study during the school year.

"It's depth. It's breadth. It's an iron-clad mission to excellence," he commented. "It's nice to have that recognized."

Pets from page A1

dent, but he worked as a principal and teacher in Farmington Public Schools for more than 30 years. He's seen kids track in dog feces from the school yard and said, in some cases, dog owners have waited until he left the building to let their pets relieve themselves on public property.

"I walk every day, and there's tons of it on the sidewalk and streets, not to mention my own front yard," he said.

Delowsky believes most pet owners don't clean up after their pets and urged officials to create a separate "dog run."

Dog owners also seemed to favor the idea of a larger, fenced-in area where dogs could run. Several talked about "dog parks" in larger cities such as Chicago and New York and said they were amazed something similar wasn't available in Farmington Hills.

"I have a friend in New York City who can take her dog to a dog park," said Doris McCarthy. "We sneak around Farmington North (High School)."

Linda Jacobs lives near Pioneer Park. Like many who spoke, she said she was shocked when a park ranger told her she couldn't walk her dog there.

'The parks are not designed for that purpose. The other is enforcement: If you're going to enforce the ordinance, you have to have police out there.'

Paul Jacobs
—Parks and recreation

"My dog needs to exercise," Jacobs said. "It's important to his health. He's a big dog."

Karen Harbron said a park ranger told her the only place she could walk her dog, on a leash, was Shiawassee Park, which is in the city of Farmington.

"I don't live in Farmington," she said. "I live in Farmington Hills."

City naturalist Joe Derek said staff people who work in city parks see problems with dogs every day. While dogs might be social animals, he said, they chase their own packs and may not necessarily get along with other dogs in a park setting.

In addition, he said in a letter to city officials, even leashed dogs pose a danger to

wildlife because wild animals often come near park paths to find food. Despite the existing ordinance, Derek said he has seen dogs in city parks every day he's been out.

"Dogs are dogs," he said. "They may be your pet, but you're never sure what they're going to do."

Parks and Recreation Commission Chairman Paul Jacobs recounted the reasons the commission recommended against allowing dogs in existing parks, after council members asked them to reconsider the issue.

"I think there are two basic problems," he said. "The parks are not designed for that purpose. The other is enforcement: If you're going to enforce the ordinance, you have to have police out there."

Residents raised the issue of forming a task force to consider the feasibility of a dog park. Council members directed members of the city staff to take a closer look at the costs and liabilities of creating a fenced-in dog park, as well as financing alternatives. City officials would have a more in-depth discussion at a future study session, Mayor Nancy Bates said.

Rouge Rescue set for June 3

Join your neighbors on Saturday, June 3 for Rouge Rescue 2000 and help improve one of our important local waterways.

This year's clean-up will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Bateman Continuing Health Center, located at the corner of Tuck and Folsom roads,

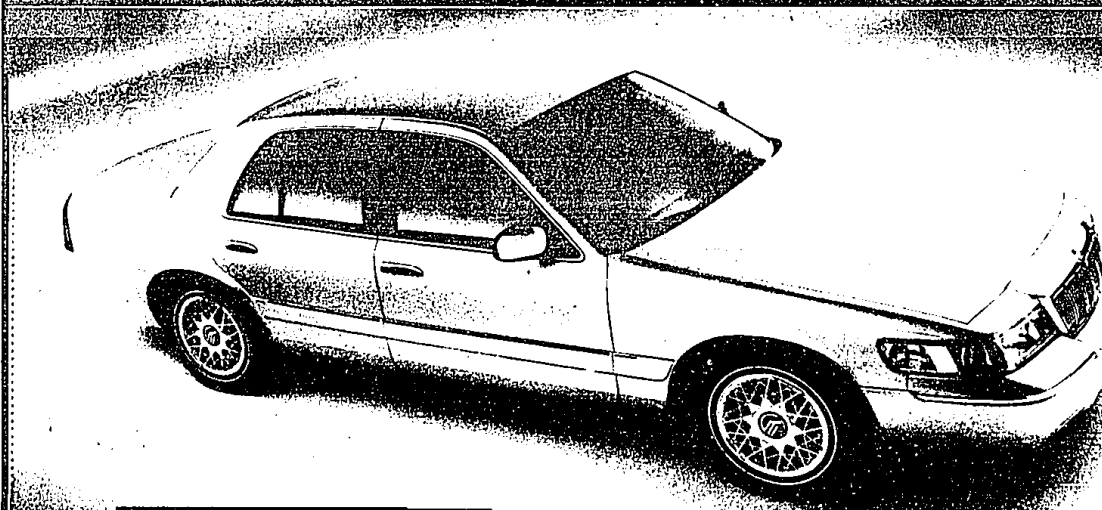
north of Eight Mile and east of Orchard Lake.

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. with coffee, donuts and juice. Lunch will also be provided for the volunteers. Suggested dress includes long-sleeved shirts, long pants (not shorts), and hard-soled boots. Dress for a

morning in the mud and help remove the debris and log jams that have accumulated.

Rouge Rescue 2000 is sponsored by the city of Farmington Hills. For more information, call the Department of Public Services at 478-9521.

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