

# Girl Scouts honor district's assistant superintendent

BY TRACEY BIRKENHAUER  
STAFF WRITER

In 1972, Cheryl Cannon became Michigan's first female urban planner. In 1987, she became the first female assistant school superintendent in Macomb County.

Since 1995, she's been Farmington public schools' assistant superintendent for business and operational services, responsible for budgets, accounting, construction, facilities planning, purchasing, technology and many additional areas.

Recognized for her work in a non-traditional field or position, she'll receive Girl Scouts of Macomb County's 2000 Woman of Distinction Award. Cannon lives in Macomb County. She was recognized at an awards dinner on June 13 at the Fern Hill Country Club in Clinton Township. Six women were honored, including state Attorney General Jennifer Granholm.

"I think a lot of women would qualify," Cannon said. "Today, my role isn't as non-traditional as it was when I first became an assistant superintendent in 1987. I'm flattered and humbled by the award."

Cannon, 46, attended Michigan State University from 1969-

1973, earning a bachelor of science degree in urban planning. Later in life, she decided to take her career in a different direction, by obtaining a master of business administration degree from Oakland University in 1988.

Handing Cannon a certificate of commendation at Tuesday's school board meeting, board president Priscilla Brouillette joked, "The community of Farmington can thank you from our pocket books."

She was nominated by her husband, Robert Cannon, a Clinton Township trustee and teacher in Utica schools, and by Farmington superintendent Robert Maxfield and school board trustee Cathy Webb.

It was all her husband's idea. "I really don't like to draw a lot of attention to myself," Cannon said. "I didn't know I was nominated. I wouldn't have let my husband do it if I had known."

Webb's nomination letter said, in part, "From my perspective as a board member, I have the highest regard for Mrs. Cannon over anyone I have witnessed work for my district in my eleven years of service. I love to watch her in action. She has a straightforward approach to problem



Cheryl Cannon

solving. She has common sense and a sense of humor."

At the board meeting, it was clear Cannon didn't want to boast herself, so others did it for her.

"She's extraordinary," Maxfield said. He referred to Webb's nomination, saying the board agreed with her words.

"This is not unexpected," said board vice-president Frank Reid. "She does a job without a lot of fanfare."

In a later interview, Cannon said, "I was just so touched by what the board had to say. I'm really blessed to work here."

Her advice for women entering male-dominated careers: "Don't second-guess yourself. Believe and know you can be every bit as good as a man. Don't be intimidated by men. They're people, too."

## Block scheduling prompts hirings

BY TIM SMITH  
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The Farmington Board of Education June 13 adopted a \$13.9 million budget for the 2000-2001 school year.

According to Cheryl Cannon, assistant superintendent for business and operations, there are no real surprises in the document - which the board adopted well in advance of the state-imposed June 30 deadline.

The fund balance needed to be tapped into by \$8.6 million (leaving a balance of \$20.1 million), but Cannon explained that dollars were required to take care of some "major initiatives." All but \$347,000 of excess expenditures were required to handle "one-time-only" capital projects, the budget summary stated.

Cannon said those include

### BUDGET

projects such as "the restructured day at Harrison High School, which adds teaching staff. As well as the closed campuses at all three high schools."

Total staffing was increased by a net of 5.5 positions, because of Harrison block scheduling, middle and elementary school Spanish teachers and additional custodians to work expanded school building space. The latter is made possible by continuing bond issue school renovation and expansion projects.

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Those renovations, expected

■ One of the big expenses is to renovate cafeterias at Farmington, Harrison and North high schools, to accommodate the move to closed-lunch campuses.

to cost a total of \$2 million, involve adding lines to serve more students, Cannon said.

Meanwhile, the school board also approved a reduction in the operating millage by .65 mills. Cannon said the owner of a home valued at \$150,000 is expected to see their 2000-2001 school tax bill shaved by about \$48.

## Vandals from page A1

There are differences in the cases, according to FTD District Chairwoman Leigh Pistolesi, whose shop at Five Mile and Farmington roads in Livonia was vandalized.

In one case, a sledgehammer was thrown through a window. Doors were keyed and lots of glass was broken, Pistolesi said. Words scrawled in spray paint included "Mother" and "Sorry." In one case, someone left a note that read, "I need a friend."

Nebus said incidents of vandalism usually increase as the weather grows warmer and stu-

■ As in the other communities where the incidents occurred, Farmington Hills officers will pay special attention to florist shops on their routine patrols this weekend.

dents get out of school for the summer. A local Harley Davidson dealership also experienced a spray painting incident recently.

Crime prevention officers visit any business that has been vandalized with graffiti to encourage the owners to remove it as soon as possible. If a business is struggling or unable to afford a clean-up, the department will offer the services of people who have been ordered to do community service work as part of a criminal sentencing.

"If it's left as it is," Nebus explained, "it encourages other acts of vandalism." This case is a bit special, he said. As in the other communi-

ties where the incidents occurred, Farmington Hills officers will pay special attention to florist shops on their routine patrols this weekend.

In the meantime, Pistolesi said Friday, area florists were afraid of what they'd find when they opened their shops Saturday morning.

"We're hoping that they're done," Pistolesi said. "And here we are on a Friday night, wondering if it's going to happen again."

Anyone with information about the floral shop vandalism or other incidents is asked to contact the Hills Police Department, 473-9600.

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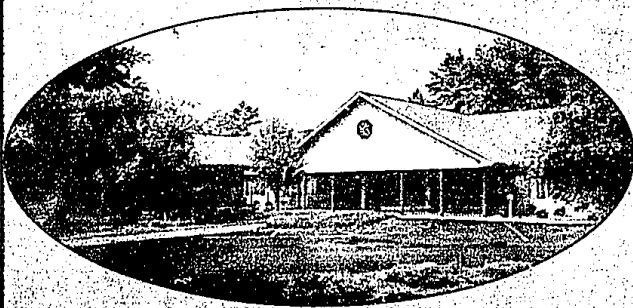
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