Labor peace settles in C'ville

BY LARRY O'CONNOR STAFF WRITER locomor@oc.homecomm.net

A year later, there is labor peace in Clarenceville School District.

At a meeting Thursday, the school board approved a new three-year contract with district support personnel, which includes 47 custodial, maintenance, transportation and cafeteria employees.

Support staff will see at least an 8.8 percent pay increase over the length of the pact, which employees ratified by a 3-to-1 margin on Thursday.

Clarenceville Michigan Educational Support Personnel Association ropresents support staff. The district has contracts with all of its employee unions.

Unlike contentious contracts talks a year ago, both sides said negotiations went smoothly.

"I think this is the earliest time in the year we've ever settled a support staff contract,"

said Ken Pfile, CMESPA executive director, who also worked on teacher negotiations that resulted in a three-year contract. 'It think this has been the most cordial and collegial bargaining we have ever been involved with.' Clarenceyille district includes parts of Livonia, Redford and Farmington Hills.

Under the new contract, support staff receives 3.4 percent pay increased suring the first two years. In the third year, there is a guaranteed 2-percent base raise.

Under a "me too" clause, though, support staff would receive the same increase as teachers if the Clarenceville Education Association negotiates anything above 2 percent. The teacher's contract ends in 2003.

Due to uncertainty over state funding, wage-reopening provisions are becoming necessary inlabor deals.

"Both sides wanted a three-

year deal." Pfile said. "That seemed the best way to get it done, given what we had to work with."

with.

Both sides can live with the contract torms, Superintendent Tom Tattan said.

"I felt the negotiations were the most cooperative wove had with this union," Tattan said. "We had some very positive dialogue that went on."

Aside from labor peace, the contract features a provision that support staff wear uniforms.

that support stall wear enforms.

The district will provide Tshirts, polo shirts, sweatshirts
and nylon jackets for support
staff. Uniforms will match the
district's colors of red and gray.
In addition to instilling a
sense of security, District employees already sport
laminated photo identification
badges. Evoryone will know
who school employees are, "Tattan said.



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From Farmington, with hope: Goods collected from Farmington area residents in a truck parked in the Dountown Farmington Business Center last week made it to New York over the weekend. Boxes of batteries, dog food and other goods were delivered by (left to right) Beverly Frederick, Lester Woodward and George Frederick, pictured above with an American Red Cross delivery coordinator (second from right). They encountered some interesting people, including actress Loretta Swit (pictured below, far left) and a police officer originally from Farmington. The Fredericks also found a set of keys during the collection; the owner may claim them at the Farmington Public Safety Department.



Local resident joins the Peace Corps

Matthew Niskanen of Farmington Hills has accepted a position with the Pence Corps to serve as a water/sanitation engineer in the Dominican Republic. He graduated from Michigan Technological University with a B.S. in civil and construction

engineering.
As a water/sanitation engineer, his work will include the construction and/or repair of aquaducts and water filtration systems. He will also be doing repair, maintenance and digging of pit latrines.

Previously, Niskanen worked on an \$80 million bond issue project in the Farmington Public School District.

He left for his new duties on Sept. 10.

Public Notice of Nonrenewal

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