

SCHOOL
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people at the conference." The board was recognized at the state level two years ago, Barber added.

Since 1989, this prestigious award has nationally recognized 33 school boards in 23 states in their support of arts education, according to a district press release.

Derek Gordon, senior vice president of the Kennedy Center, said, "This year's winners reflect an extraordinary commitment on the part of school board, superintendents, principals, faculty, and community leaders to providing opportunities for their students to study the arts as part of a comprehensive education. We are proud to acknowledge their outstanding work in partnership with the National School Boards Association."

A national review panel is convened to select the school district that receives the honor each year. Honorees must demonstrate support for all four artistic disciplines in their arts education program including visual arts, music, theater and dance.

Instruction and programming must also be available for all students throughout the district.

The ways in which the school district develops collaborative partnerships with the cultural resources available in the community are also an important consideration in reviewing nominations.

The board identified significant resources for its arts education program, which serves more than 12,000 students in the district's 27 schools. Officials allocate 5.25 percent of the total annual budget and 9.45 percent of the total instructional budget to its arts education programs.

More than 70 full-time arts teachers are employed within the district, in addition to a full-time director of fine arts. Curriculum offerings began at the elementary level, with weekly instruction in general music and art required through the fifth grade.

VARIED OFFERINGS

Choir and instrumental music are initially offered at the fourth and fifth grade levels, respectively, with 90 percent of all fifth-grade students electing instrumental music.

Art and general music are required for all sixth-grade students.

Band, choir, orchestra and theater classes round out the middle school offerings.

More than half of all middle school students play in the band or orchestra in addition to singing in the choir, and more than 20 percent of high school students are in a performing ensemble.

The district's two full-time dance faculty teach 11 sections of four high school-level dance classes.

Additional opportunities for studying dance include residencies and performances presented by such renowned companies as the Martha Graham Dance Company, the Dance Theater of Harlem and Garth Fagan Dance.

Both acting and technical aspects of theater are offered at the high school level, including an annual school/community musical production.

The arts are also integrated into the core curriculum at every grade level. All high school students complete a minimum of one fine arts class as part of the district's graduation requirements.

The district's community partnerships include guest clinics with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra for middle and high school students, ongoing partnerships with more than 60 local businesses where framed student artwork is displayed on a rotating basis, collaborations with the Farmington Community Arts Council in conjunction with the district's Fine Arts Council, and funding support from GMAC.

The Farmington Public Schools music education program was named the best in America in the nationwide survey, "The Best 100 Communities for Music Education in 2000."

PARKING
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officials prior to construction. Pastue said concerns have been expressed regarding short-term parking for customers, employee parking, signage and traffic circulation.

Recommendations may include a traffic control order that can only be approved by the Farmington City Council, Pastue said.

The city retains a traffic engineer to assist city staff and the traffic and safety board in analyzing parking and traffic issues.

"A traffic control order is the

legal basis for enforcing traffic signals, signs, speed limits and parking designations," Pastue said. "Furthermore, they follow guidelines established by the city's Uniform Traffic Code. Prior to adopting a traffic control order, a systematic review of the specific problem in relation to applicable traffic engineering principals must take place."

Pastue said he realized this is not the immediate response sought by some of the property owners in this area.

"However, it is a process that the city must follow, especially if it involves a traffic control order," he said.

Nowak said the Coalition of Partners for Parking Efficiencies

and Remedies (COPPER) presented a power-point presentation to downtown development authority members at their meeting last week.

Coalition membership includes, he said, "every business from the barbershop to Dmitri's and every resident on Oakland Street."

He stressed the overall impact of Cowley's opening is positive for the downtown, in that it's bringing in traffic. The coalition wants to keep the situation positive and based in solutions, he said.

Staff writer Joni Hubed also contributed to this story

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MOVERS AND SHAKERS

Manager appointed

Broder & Sachse Real Estate Services, Inc., a commercial, residential and industrial real estate property management and development company, has appointed Larry Shnevsky as a property manager for the company's apartment and commercial properties throughout southeast Michigan.

Shnevsky had been general manager of Village Green's Regents Park luxury apartment community in Troy. A West Bloomfield resident, Shnevsky holds a bachelor's degree from Western Michigan University.

He also successfully completed Lawrence Technical University's Resident Apartment Management program.

Farmington Hills-based Broder & Sachse Real Estate Services, Inc. (www.brodersachse.com) currently manages more than 52 properties consisting of approximately 4.5 million square feet.

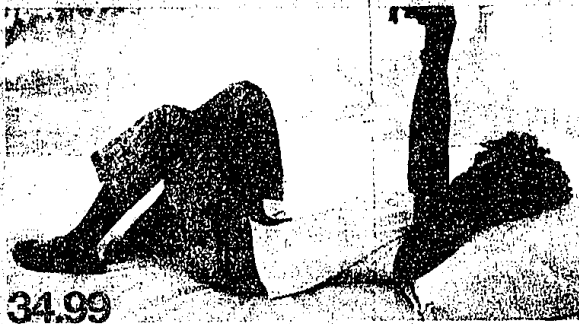
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