

# Farmington Observer & Eccentric

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## 'No room to move'

# District slashes budget

In an attempt to balance the Farmington School District's 1975-76 operating budget in wake of the governor's executive order cutting state school aid, the school board voted Tuesday night to reduce expenditures by \$286,000.

In a 6-1 vote, the board approved a budget-reduction schedule prepared by district business manager William Prisk, but made two changes in his recommendations before approving it. Trustee Michael Shpiece voted against the motion.

Trustee Dr. Mervyn Ross said the board's finance committee reviewed Prisk's proposed budget reductions and recommended they be approved with the exception of \$15,000 in accounts for books and supplies for the academically able programs. The original recommendation called for \$13,500 to be cut from the budget.

According to Prisk, the present budget provides for an estimated fund equity of \$55,660 as of June 30, 1976. The equity at the end of the last school year was \$64,809. Since expenditures exceeded revenues, the district is faced with a \$39,511 deficit.

BUT BY REDUCING the budget and subtracting the \$39,511 deficit from the equity fund at the end of the last school year, the amount left over in the district's account June will total \$25,688.

"The administrative staff has sat down and gone over every possible

**"Regularly, services for students suffer the greatest brunt of budget reductions. We have taken funds out of so-called 'non-instructional' areas and sooner or later it's going to catch up with us."**

— William Prisk

area where we thought the budget could be cut. We have reduced the budget in areas where we believe it will not hurt the students educationally," said Prisk.

"Regularly, services for students suffer the greatest brunt of budget reductions. We have taken funds out of so-called non-instructional areas, and sooner or later it's going to catch up with us."

"But we are forced to cut the budget in these areas. When we received word that our aid will be cut six months after we have signed contracts and are well into the school year, than there is no other place except non-contractual areas where we can make cuts," Prisk continued.

"And if we received word again that aid will be cut even more, then all I can say is that we probably will end the year in deficit. We have no

more room to move and we have made every effort to balance our budget," he said.

"None of us likes these budget cuts, but it looks logical and is about the only thing we can do," said board president William Cortis. "So we must adopt budget modifications in order to bring our books into balance as required by law."

The board approved the budget reductions but deferred action on a \$15,000 cut for the academically able programs until a report is presented to the board by a committee representing those programs.

The reductions as proposed by Prisk were \$20,000 in accounts for books and supplies. Ross said that these cuts would affect new books or replacement of old books because that is already taken care of in other areas.

**SALARIES WERE** cut by \$37,000. The cuts in this area are in the application of add-on costs funds through attrition and reduction of extra study hours earned by teachers but not claimed during the year.

Another account for books and supplies would have been cut by \$18,500, but the committee deferred action on \$5,000 of that amount.

The board also voted to delay the purchase of two new vans costing \$18,800. A bookkeeping adjustment allows the board to cut \$10,000 from an operating-supplies account. Contracted services totaling \$125,000 will be postponed except for emergencies.

The board also postponed previously planned projects in capital site improvements, building improvements, new furniture and equipment, and maintenance supplies. These four accounts were slashed by \$65,000 in an effort to eliminate the district's deficit.

"Nobody likes to start the new year with a zero budget, so we must do something now to balance our budget," said Trustee Gary Lichtman.

"These reductions are in areas that have increased over the last several years but reflect the least withdrawal from present costs. When you look at the equity we plan to have at the end of this year, it is only one tenth of one per cent of our total budget. And that is not the best way to start a new school year."



## Exultation

Denise Weatherford, a Harrison High School basketball fan, screams with glee as her team comes within one point of catching Highland Park in Tuesday's contest. For the complete story turn to the sport section. (Photo by Jim Hug)



Leslie McDonald is a dispatcher for the City of Farmington's Public Safety division. To see how the combined fire-police unit operates, turn to page 3A. (Staff photo)

# City braces for impact of increased water rates

By STEVE BARNABY

City of Farmington residents are facing a 30 per cent increase in their water rates beginning May 1.

Although it could be stopped through legal maneuvers by protesting communities, the rate increase looks like a sure thing, according to City Manager Robert Deadman.

Before becoming effective, the increase will come under the scrutiny of municipal users at two public hearings yet to be scheduled.

"In evaluating the effect of this rate increase on the City of Farmington, we find that the increase will cost the city approximately \$58,000 in additional charges," he told councilmembers at this week's meeting.

WHILE THE increase must have the final approval of the Detroit City Council, Farmington officials aren't waiting around and are preparing a rate schedule to provide the neces-

sary funding to pay the additional charges.

The \$55,000 increase will be footed entirely by local users, says Deadman.

An average homeowner, who uses 21,000 gallons a quarter, now pays \$10.89 for water. That bill would be increased by \$4.25. Adding transportation costs charged by Detroit, the bill would be \$19.05, according to Deadman.

This is the second time the City of Detroit has proposed a water rate increase in the past twelve months. After a heated debate between suburban users and Detroit's Mayor Coleman Young, the first proposal went unimplemented.

The opposition was led by Livonia's Mayor Edward McNamara, who, at that time, was a Water Board Commissioner. During the dispute McNamara's membership was taken away by Young, who makes the appointments.

McNamara is leading another effort to stop an increase and plans a meeting of the 97 suburban users at the Livonia Senior Citizen Center, 15218 Farmington Rd., on Feb. 9.

Although reluctant to say the increase is unnecessary, Deadman says some body should be established to review the operations of the Detroit Water Board and the increases which it proposes.

"I'm not saying that we are being treated unfairly. I just don't think we should be entirely at the mercy of Detroit," he says.

Deadman estimates that 60 per cent of the system is sold to suburban com-

munities. The board, he says, is operating a general utility and should be equitably regulated.

Presently, the board is controlled by Young, who appoints all seven members. Four members are from the City of Detroit. The remaining members are from Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties.

COUNCILMAN DICK Tupper expressed concern that suburban users might over-react to the increase.

"We might end up in a real hassle because we become uptight over the increase," he said. "Without the Detroit service, our communities couldn't exist as we do today. It is up to the suburban communities to help the economy of Detroit."

Detroit, says Deadman, has supplied data supporting its claim that an increase is needed.

The board said the inflationary spiral has increased operating expenditures by 136 per cent since June 30, 1972. Further, the department plans to invest \$130.9 million over the next five and a half years toward capital improvements. Of this amount, \$28.7 million will go towards the construction of metro-area transmission and re-pumping facilities.

Another \$10 million will be used to increase the output of the Lake Huron Water Treatment facility. Improvements will be made to the obsolete distribution, transmission and water-treatment facilities, costing \$25.6 million.

A separate charge will be made to Detroit users for outside-reading devices. This will cost \$13 million.

# Police searching for suspected slayer

By CRAIG PIECHURA

The manhunt for Gary W. Pervinkler, a 18-year-old youth sought in connection with the New Year's Day strangulation murder of Judy Lynn Ferro, has yet to uncover a hint of where Pervinkler has been, let alone where he is.

The car he is believed to be driving, a 1972 green Plymouth Satellite owned by his father, with license plates, NGV-726, has not been spotted.

The father's missing 22-caliber Colt Sportsman handgun has not turned up. And Pervinkler himself, described by neighbors as "polite and respectful," has been missing since the early morning murder of the 18-year-old Mercy High School student.

THE SUSPECT'S parents, of 17822 Wakenend Redford Township, believe their son was the victim of a kidnapping rather than the perpetrator of a kidnapping-murder.

The mother told police that when they left the house Wednesday evening to go to a New Year's Eve party, Gary was home sick with a stomach flu.

She points to the fact that Pervinkler's favorite shoes, wallet, and money were left home. The wallet, contained Pervinkler's driver's license and other identification. Township police say they haven't uncovered evidence that would support



Gary W. Pervinkler

a theory that Pervinkler was kidnapped.

Sgt. Gerald Schornack says no signs of forced entry or abduction were found in the Pervinkler house, "nor evidence that he was taken against his will."

Schornack and Sgt. James Fleming are heading the department's investigation of the murder and both say they are baffled by the case and frustrated by the lack of good leads.

"WE'RE CHECKING with everyone

he's ever known, places he's known to have been in the township, the state, and out-of-state," said Fleming. "This takes in relatives and friends and it all comes up a big nothing."

Pervinkler's relatives in Florida and Alaska, Both states have been checked out and, so far, the checks have been fruitless.

"Right about now I'm open to about anything, any theory," said Fleming. "While police are reluctant to specify evidence gathered in the case, one of the items which makes Pervinkler a suspect is the .22-caliber handgun which is missing from the Pervinkler home."

MISS FERRO was not shot, but police found a spent .22-caliber cartridge in the ceiling of the David Lauts home where Miss Ferro was baby-sitting while abducted.

The Pervinkler's have a bullet trap in their basement for target practice. Another item which is being held by police is a pair of binoculars found outside the Pervinkler property.

Township police say the Pervinkler family owned several pairs of binoculars. The Pervinkler house is three houses southeast of the Lauts home and offers a vantage point into the Lauts' living room.

Sgt. Fleming says he looked for evidence that might suggest that Judy Ferro was sleeping on a couch while waiting for the Lauts to return home. If she was asleep, that could explain

why there were no signs of forced entry.

THE LAUTS' children, ages nine and four, were not bothered by the intruder. Policewoman Sandy Retz says neither child heard the .22-caliber gun go off and neither remembered any other person being in the house.

The day of the murder, Redford Township used tracking dogs to help establish a trail followed. Right now police say they don't know if Miss Ferro was driven to the Lauts home to Lola Valley Park where she was strangled and strangled. The police do know she was not wearing her coat when abducted. They also know someone cut the telephone wires in the Lauts' backyard.

"We're not much farther along than we were last Friday," Fleming admitted. "We're looking for a kid with no money, no credit cards and a tank full of gas. But as far as we know that car could be in somebody's garage right here in Redford Township."

FLEMING SAID after Pervinkler's picture appeared in all the newspapers and on television "everyone thinks they've seen the guy." "We checked out a couple of leads in Ohio that didn't pan out," said Fleming. "The other night Waterford Township police were out ransacking the fields in snowmelted after we got a tip that he might be there. But that was a freak thing; nothing substantial has turned up in the hunt."

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