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Twenty Five Cents

2-mill tax increase slated for Hills taxpayers in '76

By STEVE BARNABY
Farmington editor

Farmington Hills residents are going to be assessed a two-mill tax increase for the 1976-77 fiscal year.

The city council voted to increase taxes after listening to a report by City Manager George Majors in which he explained that decreased revenues combined with continuing inflation makes it mandatory to levy the mills to acquire a balanced budget.

"I regret that we will be unable to continue to fund existing programs at the same level and consequently recommend an increase in the property tax to seven mills," he reported.

The council agreed to Majors' recommendation and also concurred with his recommendation to levy an ad valorem mill for the storm sewer construction.

Councilwoman Joan Dudley dissenting on the ad valorem tax for sewers.

THE 1976-77 BUDGET will total \$6,640,000 in revenues and \$6,770,700 in expenditures. The difference will be made up from \$129,000 garnered from unappropriated surplus of the previous year, said Majors.

Under the charter, the Hills government is allowed to levy eight mills. Only the general operating mill will count towards the limit. The mill for sewers is exempt under the state law from counting as part of the charter limit, said Majors.

Each mill will garner the city about \$400,000. To a taxpayer it will mean an additional \$1 for each \$1,000 of assessed valuation per mill.

The ad valorem mill is levied on a pay-as-you-go basis and must be reconsidered every year.

"We have some urgent needs. We just couldn't wait any longer. We had to levy the ad valorem mill this year," said Majors.

Uses for the ad valorem mill are:

- *Financing a portion of the cost of the Walden storm sewer from the branch of the Rouge River just north of Grand Hurst. The major portion is being financed by a federal community development grant.

- *Financing the Marlow Pond subdistrict storm sewer on 13 Mile from Drake east about 1/2 mile to the creek.

- *Financing a portion of Southeast storm sewer in the area of Nine Mile and Farmington roads.

- *Financing the city's annual payment assessed by the Oakland County Drain Commissioner for the soon-to-be-constructed City Drain north of Northwestern Highway and 13 Mile in the northeast section of the city.

Farmington Hills, like most surrounding communities, is suffering from the effects of the recently passed single business tax, said Majors.

"A growth of more than \$20,000,000 in value of new residential development due to state and county mandated state equalization was balanced by a loss of \$19,412,900 in commercial and industrial personal property values pre-empted by the state in the levy of the new tax," he said.

Another major revenue loss was \$204,000 in federal revenue sharing funds used during 1975-76 for police department expenses and to subsidize the citywide refuse and garbage collection collection, he said in his report.

"Congress has not yet extended the federal revenue sharing program, but even so, whatever funds will be forthcoming will be needed to complete the financing of the city hall addition," he said.

LOWER INTEREST rates on short term investments is expected to cost the city another \$80,000, he said.

"On the expenditure side, the greatest increase in expenditures will come from wage increases mandated by union contracts," said Majors.

After 13 months of bargaining, the city has ratified a new agreement with the

American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), which called for a six per cent wage increase," he said.

Also included in the contract is a dental plan together with adjustments in pay of certain job classifications to bring them in line with comparable wages in the metropolitan area.

Presently, the city is entering into compulsory arbitration with the police teachers union. The city also is negotiating with the sergeants, lieutenants and captains.

"Hopefully, enough funds have been budgeted to cover whatever salary and wage award the arbitrator may grant," he said.

Women's group fights back-street abortion

By YVONNE B. DEVLIN

Abortion is a concept that has had a stigma attached to it, and Women Helping Women Inc. is assisting the Farmington area women become responsible following termination of problem pregnancies, according to Nancy Platt, one of the founders of the center.

"Abortions have been synonymous with back-street operations," she said. "We all have people asking if it is legal in Michigan and whether a doctor will perform the procedure."

There exists a lot of misinformation and lack of information when it comes to birth control and problem pregnancies, according to Jackie Steyer who helped set up the center last April.

The 24-hour telephone operation is conducted from their homes and they receive calls from all northwest Detroit suburbs, she said.

"The mother is usually an absolute wreck when she brings in a teenage daughter and the fact that we're there really seems to help."

--Nancy Platt

"It seems to attract any sort of problem a woman may have," Platt said. "We aren't always qualified, but we do have a referral list. We never turn any problem away. If it's too intense, we then act as a resource center."

"We've learned from our own experiences, and we try to pass this on," said Steyer.

Concerning after the abortion is as important as the procedure itself, believes Platt, who was employed four years as a counselor in Detroit abortion clinics.

"I disagree with the notion that any counseling isn't necessary with an abortion. Not only do the people regret more with counseling, but a second abortion is not necessary after the proper birth control techniques are taught," she said.

Most women in a problem pregnancy situation have no one to turn to and the center is trying to fill this need, said Platt.

MOST ABORTION clinics do provide counseling, but this is almost always strictly informational and done in groups, she explained. It really doesn't give the woman a chance to open up and really reveal what she's feeling.

"We try to communicate emotional support on the phone," said Steyer. "Sometimes they (the women) are crying on the

phone and we have to straighten them out."

"I've had some girls call me three or four times just to get the courage up for the pregnancy test," said Steyer.

After the initial phone call, one of the women meets the patient at the out-patient clinic and goes through the procedure and recovery with her, according to Platt.

It is important to establish support and support to relax the woman, she said.

"The mother is usually an absolute wreck when she brings in a teenage daughter and the fact that we're there really seems to calm her down," said Platt.

"We do try to involve the male for support when the woman terminates the pregnancy," she said.

"And believe me, the males need the anesthesia much more than the females," added Steyer.

Sometimes the guy isn't supportive. Platt gave an example of one woman who drove 55 miles from Ohio by herself because the man had to work.

"He'd probably be there if she was delivering," said Steyer.

"The women that we counsel are emotionally conditioned and have virtually no pain during the procedure," said Platt.

Under 15 weeks the procedure only takes five minutes and this surprises the woman. (Continued on page 4A)



You're out?
Sale or out at home, Elaine Salama appears glad to participate in the ball game at Bond school. It's part of the summer program sponsored by the recreation commission. Youngsters who register have a choice of activities including visits from a skatemobile and a sportsmobile. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

Restore confidence

Group to battle election doldrums

By STEVE BARNABY
Farmington editor

Fading confidence in elected officials, declining interest and lack of knowledge about local elections are the challenges facing the election committee presently being formed by the Farmington Hills City Council.

That's the word from Farmington Area Democratic Club President Aldo Vagnozzi who originally proposed the election commission to both Farmington and Farmington Hills city councils.

While the Hills council is working to words supporting members in the committee, City of Farmington legislators haven't acted.

The committee is being formed to increase participation in the local elections. The idea was formulated by Vagnozzi after the last city council election, in which only 13 per cent of Hills residents and 20 per cent of city residents participated.

I envision this as an attempt by a variety of groups to generate interest in elections. We should be calling attention in every way we can to local elections," says Vagnozzi.

A MAJOR OBSTACLE, says Vagnozzi, is that many voters are unaware local elections are taking place.

"Many times when I'm working in an election, I call voters and they remark, 'Gee, I didn't even realize there was an election,'" says Vagnozzi.

To alleviate this, Vagnozzi would like to see the Farmington Hills campaign organizations altered. Presently, Hills candidates aren't allowed to post the traditional campaign posters.

Increased publicity also is a must, he says.

"In school elections, I think each child should be sent home with a reminder to parents that an election is taking place. I also think that local radio and television stations should say a little more about local elections."

Another major problem facing the election committee is the election precinct confusion. As presently instituted, voters must go to different polling places for school and city elections.

"There has to be a way to place polling signs so voters know where to go. I don't know if there is any way to change the precinct system. It's a matter of cost saving for the school district," he says.

and Democratic and Republican party representatives.

IN AN ATTEMPT to find out more of why voters stay home on election night, a survey should be taken on voter attitude, Vagnozzi suggests.

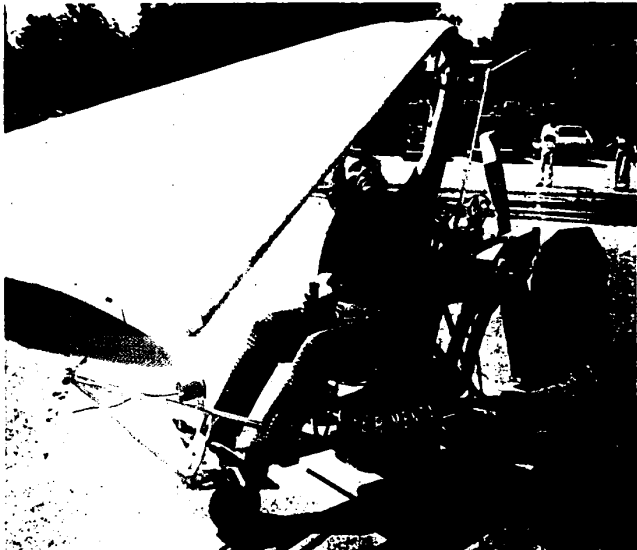
I know there is a trend away from participation. Many voters feel it doesn't mat-

ter and in part that attitude is justified. Empty promises made by politicians before being elected is one defect in getting voters to return to the polls, he says.

A good example are the school board members who said they were in favor of open meetings, and then when they were elected they became the ones the most responsible for the closed meetings," he says.

Another example Vagnozzi cites is continual talk by many school board trustees to find alternatives to property tax for financing schools.

They keep on talking about finding alternatives, but then they turn around and put millage proposals on the ballot.



WINGS FOR ONE
Terry Olesky, owner of Farmington Custom Corvette Collision inspects a one man helicopter on display and for sale at his business. Olesky explained that the experimental aircraft is powered by a 90 horsepower engine capable of speeds up to 85 miles per hour. Although he has never flown it himself, Olesky claims the vehicle to be safe as an airplane. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

Pollution fight launched in city

Farmington will spend \$88,000 in federal, state and municipal funds during the first phase of a three part plan to construct a new sewer system which will prevent the city from polluting the Rouge River.

The project, which will ultimately cost about \$2 million, will separate the sanitary and storm sewer systems in the older section of the city, City Manager Robert Deadman explained.

The city's permit from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) which allows it to dump Farmington refuse into the Rouge, expires in 1977.

"I'm hopeful that they will renew the permit when they see that we are working on the sewer system," Deadman said.

The first part of the project will determine the actual cost of the sewer's construction and the most feasible method of construction, he said.

The rest of the project consists of the designing and engineering of the sewer and its construction.

THE MICHIGAN Department of Natural Resources has given the City \$8,500 toward the study. These funds will be added to \$4,000 from the Federal Environmental Protection Agency.

The city will contribute \$7,500 from its water and sewer funds toward the study, which will be conducted by the engineering firm of Orchard, Pepler, Hills and McClament, Inc. The study will also determine the amount of pollution into the Rouge from the city.

Deadman was unable to estimate when the construction will begin.

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An Oakland Community College professor gives her assessment of the rhetorical performances of politicians from past to present. To see how your favorite candidate fits in, turn to page 1A.