

Farmington Observer

Volume 83 Number 1 Thursday, October 21, 1974 Farmington, Michigan 10 Pages Twenty-Five Cents

Trustees balk at fighting proponents of proposal C

The Farmington Board of Education backed away from joining a coalition against Proposal C because it was unsure what sort of groups would be included in the movement.

Farmington groups are lining up against the proposal to limit state spending to 8.3 percent of the combined personal incomes of Michigan residents. The proposal will appear on the Nov. 2 ballot.

The board already has passed a resolution opposing the proposal as threat to state funding of schools.

We could face a \$1 million net in state aid if Proposal C passes," said Trustee Michael Stipe during this week's board meeting. That's two mils.

Board President Anne Struble explained that the first would be levied in name to the coalition and not facing any bills. Why can't we spend public school district funds to fight this if that's not illegal," questioned Trustee Dr. Marvin Ross.

Every year we read in the newspapers about other school districts that spend public money to urge the passage of a millage," Trustee Michael Stipe said.

Both the Michigan Association of School Administrators (MASA) and the Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB) disavowed it, he said.

Although Ross agreed with the intent of the proposal, he had doubts about some of the groups which would join the coalition. He suggested the board add the phrase "other legitimate, recognized groups" to

the board's resolution to guard against being allied with some groups.

It may be tricky if we find out that the John Birch Society is among the other groups in this coalition," Ross said.

We should just say we're against Proposal C and let the individuals decide for themselves what to do," said Trustee Gary Lurtzman.

The city could find it impossible to raise the millage to pay the money accorded to city employees by the arbitrator.

"WE'D HAVE TO cut back services, then," said City Mgr. Robert Deadman. Farmington has held its millage below the 20 mill limit, commented Tupper.

The millage is based on the best knowledge of the spending needed for Farmington and on nothing higher," he said. The city's present tax is 11 mills, according to Deadman.

The limit could mean the state's financial situation would fluctuate with that of its taxpayers, he said. "I'm not sure that any arbitrary limit is a good one," he said.

During a time of unemployment, when the state has to supplement local programs, the money is just not going to be there," he said.

The spending limitation could affect the city's ability to raise its millage and provide services, according to council members.

If members of the board chose to band with other groups at a later date, fine. I don't suggest we become part of a coalition with groups we have named. That is not the place as a member of a board, that I chose to be," he said.

After listening to the discussion, Trustee Helen Protow interjected that the resolution by the board to join the coalition

wouldn't be effective if all members weren't behind it.

Her suggestion to withdraw the motion was acted upon.

The Farmington Democratic Club, the League of Women Voters of Farmington and West Bloomfield and Parent-Teacher Organizations have joined the coalition.

... council joins battle

Farmington City Council has joined the fight against Proposal C, even though some members hesitate to wholeheartedly condemn or praise the plan.

All council members who were present at this week's meeting voted to join the Michigan Municipal League's stand against the proposal. Councilman William Hartwick was absent.

The plan to limit state spending to 8.3 percent of the combined personal incomes of Michigan residents already has been attacked by some Farmington area groups as a threat to state funding of schools.

This week Farmington Council members reacted to the proposal, which they saw as a threat to the city.

The spending limitation could affect the city's ability to raise its millage and provide services, according to council members.

The limit could affect state highway funds to local governments, stated Deadman.

Farmington has reached the end of its ability to sell highway bonds until 1980. Councilman Alton Bennett and Mayor John Richardson were hesitant about rendering a judgment of the proposal.

"I don't know what to think," said Bennett. "I've read the League of Women Voters rationale against the proposal and State Rep. Sandy Brotherton's rationale in support of it."

"But the council must take a position on this. It affects us as a council," he added. "Even during the League of Women Voters meeting, one said yes to it and another member was against it," said Richardson.

"It scares you when there's so much confusion," said Deadman.



Point blank

Annette Popa makes a touch on the lens of Harry Mauths, Farmington Observer photographer.

Library technology aids in opening books for blind

By HOWARD RONTAL

Instead of opening a book, the blind and learning disabled in Oakland County and Sterling Heights can push the play-button on a cassette tape machine or record player and listen to the books of their fancy.

The recorded books are part of a 500 title library of records and Braille books in the Farmington library on Twelve Mile.

The Hills branch library is a subregional library, part of a national Braille service administered by the Library of Congress and funded by the federal government. It is one of nine such libraries scattered throughout the state.

Like librarians for sighted persons, the library for the blind is free.

"The program started in March 1973 with 350 subscribers," said Mrs. Beverly Papan, program director. "It now has 700 persons listening or feeling the pages of their favorite books."

"The library can handle a readership of as many as 25,000 people," said Mrs. Papan.

Those who listen have a particular joy in store for them. The sighted reader isn't aware of how much he misses whole reading. Aliteration, the flow of words, the melodiousness of the human voice very often fails to make any impression on the normal reader.

BUT WHAT the eye misses, the ear appreciates. That writer discovered how lively "Ladies and Gentlemen, Letny Bruce" sounds, gaining a fuller appreciation of Bruce, who was a stand-up comic.

The 700 subscribers range in age from school children to the seniorst of senior citizens.

Titles are as varied as the readership. A subscriber can order anything from "The Happy Hooker" to works by Franz Kafka.

What the readers have in common, besides a thirst for the knowledge and pleasure one gets from books, is a learning disability that prevents them from using printed materials in the ordinary way.

The visually impaired, those with severe

auditory language dysfunctions, people who've lost arms or had a stroke or polio, and severe arthritis patients that not limited to these people are all encouraged to sign up.

Once signed up for the program the client receives three recorded books and if the books are recorded on tape discs, a small record player.

AS THE USER returns the material, he is sent new books, either at his request or by a selection of the librarian who consults his application form to see what kinds of literature he is interested in.

Federal law requires that a competent authority—doctor, social worker, physical therapist, librarian) certify that the applicant can not use normal printed matter.

Mrs. Papan estimated that the blind libraries will circulate 20,000 books this year. Her blind readers, she believes, read more than the general public.

"In a children's reading club last this summer, for instance, 90 kids borrowed 270 books."

Materials are often returned with hand written expressions of appreciation. The woman returned her Braille books left inside.

Others inform the librarians as to what they want to read in the same manner. "I am 66 years old. I don't want fiction or war novels. I've had too much."

Another young man had exactly the opposite tastes. "Please, no more westerns. Send me spy, detective or sex stuff."



WILLIAM BRODHEAD

JAMES BURDICK

Brodhead, Burdick to face journalists

Come on out and see what the 17th Congressional candidates have to say. U.S. Rep. William Brodhead (D-Detroit) will square off against Republican opponent James Burdick at 8 p.m. Oct. 26, in the North Congregational Church, 2675 Northwestern Highway, Southfield.

The debate is co-sponsored by the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers and the League of Women Voters.

The 17th district includes Farmington, Farmington Hills, Bedford Township, Southfield and a portion of Detroit.

The candidates will be questioned by a panel of journalists from the press, television and radio. Panelists will be Tim Richard, editorial page director of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers; Beverly Payne, of WJBK-TV Channel 2; and Jim Martin, WJR radio newscaster.

Moderator will be Fay O'Hare, of the Detroit League of Women Voters. Brodhead, 34, is running for reelection to

his second term. Prior to becoming a U.S. Representative, he served in the Michigan House.

He is a graduate of Wayne State University and the University of Michigan Law School. After graduation, he worked briefly in private practice and then joined the legal staff of the Detroit Department of Streets and Railways (DSR). He was first elected to the state house in 1970.

Burdick, 32, is a Southfield resident. This is his first attempt at elective public office. He also is a graduate of the Wayne State University and the University of Michigan Law School.

He served as an assistant Wayne County prosecuting attorney and special assistant attorney general. Presently, he is a self-employed lawyer.

Candidates from all parties in the 17th Congressional district have been invited to the debate.



Fingers trace coded dots. Knowledge is literally at the finger tips of the blind. (Staff photo by Harry Mauths)

False news representative reported inside Staffers have identification

The City of Farmington police report that a woman in her 20s approached a home in the Alta Loma subdivision (falsely representing herself as an employee of the Farmington Observer newspaper.

She reportedly told the resident that she was taking a subscription survey for the newspaper, according to Director of Public Safety Daniel Byrnes.

"Anytime a person is conducting a survey in the city, they notify the police," says Byrnes. "If residents are suspicious, they should contact the police. We will know if the person is legitimately running a survey."

Farmington Editor Steve Barnaby urges residents approached by persons representing themselves as employees of the Farmington Observer to ask for identification.

"All of our employees have identification from the Observer," said Barnaby. "Rep-

lar employees will have a blue ID card with a picture attached. They also may be carrying a yellow green press card from the Observer, also with a photo attached.

New employees or persons writing on a freelance basis will have a letter of identification with the Observer & Eccentric letterhead at the top. It is signed by Barnaby.

Residents who think they have been approached by a person falsely representing the Observer should call the police department and me," said Barnaby.

The Farmington Observer office phone number is 332-5400.

Presently, those persons on the Farmington staff are Barnaby, Tom Baer, sports editor; Harry Mauths, photographer; Loraine McClain, suburban life editor; Louise Okrusky and Howard Rantal, reporters.

News	Section A
Editorials	10
Observation Post	10
Eccentricities	10
Suburban Life	Section B
Club circuit	2
Community calendar	2
Sports	Section C
Classifieds	Section C, D

FAR REACHING

Mr. William Tindall is an other satisfied user of our classified ads. He was surprised and pleased at the number of calls he received: "I got calls from all over!"

NINE FIVE DASH PERK is open at Electric store

No need to be surprised, Mr. Tindall, our classifieds are fast and far-reaching. Call today.

DIAL DIRECT
644-1070