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Twenty-Five Cents

5-lane blacktop is Orchard Lake goal

By MARY GNIEWEK

pleted by July 1981.

The Federal Highway Administration will fund 76 percent of the \$7,958,000 bill, with the road commission, the city of Farmington Hills and West Bloomfield Township splitting the remaining 24 percent. Farmington Hills' share is \$546,000.

A \$5.4 million contract was awarded to the Tony Angelo Cement Construction Company of Southfield. The rest of the cost of the project is absorbed in engineering, right of way acquisition and utility modifications.

Traffic will be allowed during the entire project, with motorists traveling

the existing two lanes through early August while construction of temporary roads alongside the existing road takes place.

From August through December, traffic will be diverted to the temporary roads. The new five-lane road should be completed by December, when construction work will halt for the winter.

NEXT SPRING, the temporary roads will be converted into bicycle paths and landscaping work will complete the project.

"The biggest problem will be in the first three months of the project," said Ralph Collyer, construction engineer for the road commission.

Representatives of the road commission held a public meeting at the Farmington Hills City Hall Tuesday to discuss the plan.

"The crew will be moving materials and equipment in and out. There will be a lot of congestion before the temporary roads are in," Collyer said.

He cited the success of temporary roads in other road commission projects such as 12 Mile between Lahser

and Evergreen in Southfield and 14 Mile between John R and Rochester in Troy.

"The speed is reduced but the flow is constant," Collyer said.

Traffic volume along Orchard Lake has been measured at 30,000 vehicles a day, according to the road commission's planning department who began paving the way for the project seven years ago.

Also in the planning stage is the widening of Orchard Lake from Grand River north to 12 Mile.

"We can see that three years down

the road, but it depends on the availability of federal funds," said Dennis Pajot, a road commission spokesman.

Funding is committed for the three-mile stretch between 12 Mile and Maple, but any future funding is up in the air according to Pajot.

The road commission operates on funds from the state gas and weight tax, a source which was down 6 percent on the latest returns.

Complaints during any stage of the project should be directed to the road commission's citizens service department at 2420 Pontiac Lake Rd. in Pontiac or by calling 658-4804.

A win for Tisch is loss for city

By STEVE BARNABY

Farmington editor

"We could cut out the library, social programs and senior citizen programs and we still would be \$130,000 short," said Deadman.

"VITAL SERVICES would be affected," he said, referring to police and fire protection which is a majority of the budget.

Presently, there are some 20 tax proposals floating around the state. Six of them are petition proposals. The rest are being considered by the state Legislature — all of which have yet to be reported out of committees.

Councilman Alton Bennett spoke out against the plethora of tax proposals, referring to many of them as absurd.

"There must be some kind of detailed study. There has to be some kind of overall, meaningful approach," he said.

"We wouldn't be doing our duty if we don't urge the legislature to get something going," he said. "For us to do nothing is a bad position to be in."

Mayor William Hartsock noted that while many persons complained about their taxes, few showed up at that night's budget hearing to comment on their tax dollars being spent.

The Tisch tax proposal would be "either a disaster" to the city of Farmington, according to City Manager Robert Deadman.

In a report at this week's council session, Deadman said that Farmington's budget would be cut by 28 percent if the tax amendment was adopted.

Robert Tisch, a perennial tax cut crusader, presently is circulating petitions for his amendment to be placed on the November ballot.

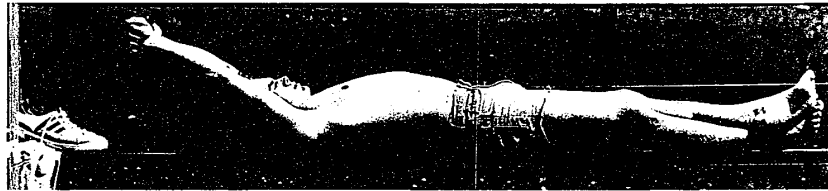
He was in town last week to seek support.

"Farmington would lose \$425,000 which wouldn't be made up by anyone," said Deadman.

"The question is, could the city provide services with that kind of cut? I doubt it," he said.

The Tisch proposal would roll back assessed valuation of property to 1978 levels, then cut taxes by 50 percent.

All licenses, fees, special rates and taxes would be rolled back and only the support of at least 60 percent of the voters in the state could increase those costs.



Unemployment isn't all that bad, especially on a sunny day in the park. That's what David Mannila found recently, although he admits the job market does look bleak for the present. (Staff photo by Randy Horst)

Coping with unemployment

Anxiety rises as jobs decrease

By MARY GNIEWEK

David Mannila spent Monday afternoon basking in the sun in Farmington City Park.

Under normal circumstances, Mannila, 20, would've spent Monday working at Associated Parts and Service in Farmington, a construction and industrial equipment making shop where he was a manager.

A week ago, Mannila joined the swelling ranks of the unemployed. According to the Michigan Employment Security Commission, 42,725 persons in Oakland County were unemployed as of March 30. The next report will be issued at the end of May and MESC spokesmen estimate the number will be even greater.

"I'm surviving. I'm trying to keep my optimism but it doesn't look good," said Mannila, who lives in the Bel Aire Subdivision in Farmington.

Since the layoffs, he consulted a community employment service office in Novi, but Monday he just worked on a sun tan and maintaining peace of mind. "I come out here to meditate," he said. "I'm going to have to live a little less, a little less going out."

"I hope to get back to work before my finances are gone."

MANNILA'S STORY is echoed again and again. He's a small part of the 9.4 percent jobless rate in the county. And he doesn't have the financial burden of a mortgage or kids.

"Layoffs are just starting to affect white collar workers. We expect a tremendous influx shortly," said Jim Patton, clinical supervisor of the Farmington Area Advisory Council, a counseling service funded by local government.

"The biggest problem is self-worth decreases. The laid off worker is terminated for financial reasons, but feels it could be for job performance.

"Feelings tend to be internalized a great deal."

Layoffs can also cause a strained family situation, Patton said.

"The person who was gone all day is now home 24 hours a day. Anxiety levels are higher. People get angry with less provocation. It can become a family powder keg."

FAAC, at 23450 Middlebelt, can help residents get in touch with resources for supplemental income. It also offers confidential counseling whether or not clients can afford to pay.

To help the growing number of persons without jobs, United Community Services of Metropolitan Detroit has published three mini-directories which list a variety of services available to the unemployed.

How to Survive Unemployment and Personal Crisis gives information about the financial support systems available in the tri-county area.

The second publication, How to Deal with the Emotional Impact of Unemployment, suggests ways to cope with the stressful aspects of being unemployed. The third, Skills Wanted — Job Retraining and Job Hunting, offers guidance on how to regain employment.

To secure copies, call the community information service in Detroit at 833-8430.

He hopes Kennedy campaign can influence convention

Aldo Vagnozzi, known for his long-time involvement behind the scenes in Farmington Hills politics, carefully pinned a "Kennedy '80" button to the

brown lapel of his suit. "It isn't easy to always carry this button around," he quipped. Vagnozzi has been carrying the Ken-

neddy banner in the 17th District since before the Massachusetts senator officially challenged President Jimmy Carter's continuing Democratic Party support late last year. Now, he's the area chairman for the campaign.

In Vagnozzi's mind, disenchantment with the Administration's economic and foreign policies should have turned support toward Kennedy.

As Kennedy continues to take a back seat to Carter in the polls and in the number of delegates committed to him, Vagnozzi remains loyal. He admits that visions of a second Kennedy in the White House are fading.

"There's always a chance," he said. "But realistically, there's not much."

A flicker of hope still shines through the shadow of impending defeat, though.

"Still, it's a volatile campaign. Anything can happen."

"The Des Moines (Iowa) Register asked Carter to step down."

He noted that as displeasure with Richard Nixon's presidency began to culminate in Watergate, conservative newspapers began to call for his impeachment.

Vagnozzi wondered if the liberal Register's call for an end to the Carter era might be a welcoming sign for Kennedy forces.

He cites Michigan's struggle with the highest unemployment rate in the nation as holding a potential movement against Carter's re-election, which could help Kennedy.

"The decision on who the Democratic nominee is isn't made until the Democratic convention does it. Until that point, there is a chance," he said.

Besides contemplating a last-minute slew of support for the president's challenger, Vagnozzi foresees Kennedy forces exerting an influence over the Carter platform during the convention in New York.

"The Kennedy campaign could help steer the party back to its traditional, liberal policies which unfortunately are not the policies of this administration," he said.

A Kennedy challenge might prompt Carter to change some of his policies, Vagnozzi hopes.

FOR HIM the Kennedy campaign is a refuge against Carter's traditional economic policies. Carter's conservative attitude toward economics in-

cludes a planned recession, Vagnozzi said.

"The administration admitted it was

planned. They were almost gleeful when unemployment went up. It was

(Continued on Page 10A)

School tax rate reduced 3 mills

By MARY GNIEWEK

MORE THAN \$1 million will be spent on capital improvements for major maintenance projects. The district will keep a fund equity of \$400,000 due to uncertainty of state and county tax revenue in the coming year.

Even though Farmington is an "out of formula" district, the state provides funds for mandated programs like special education and transportation. The county also funds special education.

"We want to show taxpayers we are attempting prudence by recommending the 3-mill cut," Wallace said.

"It will allow continuation of present programming, capital improvements, and put more dollars into our fund equity."

Farmington, the third largest school district in Oakland County, has 12,550 students this year and expects 11,950 next year.

"We're extremely pleased to reduce the tax rate in these times of great inflation and economic stress while at the same time maintaining and sustaining programs," said Lewis Schulman, school superintendent.

Signatures of 218 residents of the Forest Park Subdivision in Farmington Hills requesting the same number of tax dollars be maintained in the next fiscal budget was presented to the school board two weeks ago. About 70 percent of every tax bill paid in the district is spent for operation of the schools.

School finance director William Frisk said for many of the districts taxpayers, the increase will remain below the 11.3 percent consumer price index rate of inflation.

The Farmington Board of Education voted Tuesday to reduce the school millage rate by 3 mills for 1980-1981.

The board set 33.53 mills for operation and 2.75 mills for debt service for a total of 36.28 mills. The current levy is 39.28 mills.

Because of increased state equalized valuation (SEV) of property, (up an average of 20 percent and as high as 40 percent) plus new homes added to the tax base, the lower millage rate will bring \$2.6 million over the current levy.

Assessed valuation of property in the district, which includes the cities of Farmington, most of Farmington Hills, and the southwest part of West Bloomfield Township, is expected to jump from \$709 million to \$857 million in 1980-1981.

A homeowner with a \$40,000 SEV paid \$1,571.20 this year for operation of schools. Next year, with the average 20 percent assessment hike, that tax bill will be \$1,741.44.

The anticipated \$33,628,430 school budget will allow continuation of current programs and provide for some increases.

Board Treasurer Dick Wallace said increases in the operating budget will pay for higher gasoline and utility costs and three additional staff members for the middle schools.

The district may also hire three additional custodians for the high schools and one administrative assistant for Harrison High School.

what's inside

Classified	Sections E-F
Entertainment	Section D
Inside Angles	3A
Sports	Section B
Suburban Life	Section C

Back the car out of the Garage and have yourself a Garage Sale. Call our Classified Department to find out about our Garage Sale kits.



Aldo Vagnozzi still hopes for some kind of miracle to turn the presidential nomination to Ted Kennedy. (Staff photo)