

Farmington Observer

Volume 92 Number 65

Thursday, May 28, 1981

Farmington, Michigan

68 Pages

Twenty-five cents

School budget sails

By Mary Rodrigue
staff writer

With Proposal A's defeat a fond and increasingly distant memory, Farmington's Board of Education adopted a preliminary \$39 million budget Tuesday for the 1981-82 school year.

That represents a \$4 million hike over the current education budget in the three-city district.

The school board also set the new tax rate at 35.25 mills, a one-mill reduction from last year.

Only minor adjustments were made in a preliminary budget drafted March 24 by William Prisk, assistant superintendent of finance.

The budget breaks down like this:
\$21,407,014 from property taxes,
\$11,777,184 from the state,
\$3,522,751 from other government sources, and \$1,290,554 from federal revenues.

The board's adoption gives District Superintendent Lewis Schulman a green light for spending that was in limbo before voters defeated Proposal A May 19.

Had Proposal A passed, the district's anticipated revenue from property taxes would have been cut in half to be reimbursed by the state at a later unspecified time.

With its defeat, the district can collect its \$21,407,000 from homeowners on schedule.

THE REST of the proposed budget breaks down like this: \$11,777,184 from state, \$1,290,554 from federal, and \$3,522,751 from other government units.

The \$4 million increase over last year's budget allows for built-in improvements, Schulman said.

They include \$1 million for capital improvements such as repair of school buildings, \$65,000 for computer education, new textbooks, improvement in teacher-pupil ratio and music service to students, and eight new school buses.

A public hearing on the preliminary budget netted the usual minuscule attendance by district taxpayers.

Schulman doesn't think poor attendance at budget hearings belies a lack of interest by taxpayers.

"Unless we do something horrendous, they feel comfortable," he said.

The school board will adopt the final budget on Tuesday, June 9.



Saluting America

Kim Norman of the Plymouth Fife and Drum Corps Memorial Day Parade on Monday. For more pictures of the parade, turn to Page 3A.

RANDY BORSI/staff photographer

Nuke shipment halt is sought

By Craig Picchura
staff writer

Before highly radioactive spent nuclear reactor rods are shipped south through Michigan from a reactor in eastern Ontario, state Sen. Doug Ross wants some safety questions answered in Lansing.

The Democrat from the 15th district — which includes Southfield, Lathrup Village, Farmington and Farmington Hills — says he's "not being alarmist" by asking Gov. William Milliken to halt shipments until proper precautions are taken.

"We have experience in Michigan dealing with toxic substances," Ross says. "We have enough experience already with contaminants like PBB and PCB. When there is an accident, it's not like something mechanical that you can fix. It puts something in the ecosystem you can't extract."

In a letter to the governor, Ross demanded to know why Michigan was selected as the state where the nuclear waste is scheduled to enter this country when the director of the Ogdensburg Bridge officials in New York last year denied Tri-State Motor Transit of Joplin, Mo., subcontractor haulers, the right to enter that state carrying a "hot load."

TRUCKING radioactive substances from the Atomic Energy Commission of Canada Ltd.'s Chalk River Nuclear Laboratory through New York state would be a more direct route for trucks en route to waste storage and recycling facilities at the Savannah River Plant in Dunbarton, S.C.

However, James McGuinness, director of the Ogdensburg Bridge Port Authority, has stated he will not permit the trucks to pass over the bridge. McGuinness said one reason access was denied was because the bridge authority's liability insurance doesn't cover claims caused by nuclear accidents. Other reasons for denial cited by

McGuinness were lack of emergency preparedness by local police, fire and civil defense units in the event of a nuclear waste spill.

As chairman of a joint legislative committee on nuclear energy, Ross said he became concerned when he found few state officials were aware that the shipment New York rejected could legally pass through Michigan anytime after May 15. No shipment has been made yet, says Chalk River Nuclear Laboratory spokesman Hal Tracey.

Ross said he has heard no answers from Milliken or his aides in response to questions he says why Michigan was selected as the waste route.

"THE GOVERNOR has many of the same questions Sen. Ross had," says Milliken's assistant press secretary, Bev Farrar. She said the governor has been unable to officially address the issue because recent prison disturbances are his top priority.

Ross also asks: When were the governor's office and other departments such as the Michigan Department of Public Health radiological unit informed that shipments could be made? Will shipment containers be inspected by state or federal inspectors? Is the proposed route through the least-populated area of the state? Does the hauler have a good safety record? And what are the procedures for overseeing shipments and dealing with any nuclear waste emergency?

Questions about safety procedures should be answered by the subcontracting firm that ships the material, said a spokesman for the Chalk River Nuclear Laboratory, a Canadian research and development plant.

"Our position is we leave it entirely up to the shipper," said Tracey. "Most of our shipments go through the U.S. and the shipper is a U.S. shipper. He makes the decisions which bring roads

Please turn to Page 4A

Paul R. Schreiber Historian dies

What Paul R. Schreiber knew about the history of the city of Farmington could fill a book.

Mr. Schreiber, past chairman of the Farmington Historical Commission, died on May 21 at Botsford General Hospital.

He was 81.

"He took a great deal of knowledge about the city with him," said Howard Alfrich, historical commission member.

"He was an aggressive, enlightening individual and helped the commission recently with placing historical markers and Indian trail markers."

Mr. Schreiber had a master's degree in education and taught history at MacKenzie High School in Detroit for 40 years. He retired from the school while history department chairman in 1970.

Until recently, he was an active member of the historical commission and sang with the church choir at the First United Presbyterian Church of Farmington Hills, where he was a member.

Born in Walla Walla, Wash., Mr. Schreiber lived in Farmington for 47 years.

He was a member of various organizations, including the Detroit School

mans Chorus, Algonquin Club, Historical Society, Lewis-Clark Society and past member of the Farmington School Board.

Services were held Tuesday from the Thayer-Rock Funeral Home and the First United Presbyterian Church, with the Rev. George W. Ramsey officiating.

Mr. Schreiber is survived by a son, Richard, of Richland, Wash., a daughter, Margaret, of Farmington, and four grandchildren.



Paul R. Schreiber Farmington historian

Ann Dempsey

She's on target with troubled kids

By Carol Carpenter
staff writer

Policewoman Ann Dempsey is a crack shot with kids in trouble.

Although she packs a .38-caliber revolver in her purse, she's only used it on the firing range.

This sharp-shooter relies on her experience rather than firepower.

A police officer since 1958, she is now the only woman assigned to the detective bureau. She handles 25-60 cases each month involving girls under 17 and boys under 10.

Before coming to Livonia, Office Dempsey, a Farmington resident, was a policewoman in Detroit for 10 years, taught sixth grade in Harper Woods for one year, and worked six months for the Department of Social Services. For three years, she was a social worker with the Guardian Angel Home.

"I try not to get emotionally involved because I couldn't do a good job if I did," Officer Dempsey said, smiling.

But her empathy is evident as she leans across the table and talks about the runaways, the sexual abuse victims, the incorrigibles that she has worked with the past 13 years in Livonia.

"Sometimes the child won't talk at first. She'll only look down at the table," Officer Dempsey said, taking a sip of her coffee.

BUT AFTER working with the child for awhile, she sometimes "opens up," the policewoman explained. And to Officer Dempsey, that makes it all worthwhile.

But there are as many failures as successes, she added.

It's difficult to pinpoint the causes of problems, she explained. Sometimes the parents may be very good parents and already have successfully raised four or five children. Sometimes the children may be associating with the "wrong" group of kids.

If parents have difficulty with a child, the parents may need to "steer" the child away from current friends, according to Officer Dempsey.

Parents should get to know their child's friends, know if they have the same kinds of values and goals that their child has learned, she said.

Speaking of Officer Dempsey's ability to work with parents and children, Lt. William Collins said, "She's able to put things in perspective. She has a stabilizing influence." But, Officer Dempsey said, "One thing I've learned is that it's so easy to give advice. But there are no absolutes."

As a parent herself, she said, she found it hard to keep the objectivity she used with the troubled kids. She had to constantly remind herself of priorities.



ART EMANUELE/staff photographer

Please turn to Page 4A

Ann Dempsey knows how to talk to troubled kids and their parents.

what's inside

Club Circuit 7C
 Community Calendar 3C
 Editorials 12A
 Inside Angles 8A
 Obituaries 8A
 Sports Section B
 Suburban Life Section C

It's a fact ...

Observer & Eccentric readers are people near you who are ready to buy. So, if you have something to sell for quick cash, it makes sense to call the Observer & Eccentric classifieds.

And that's a fact.

644-1070

and use your MasterCard or Visa.