

# Farmington Observer

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## Incumbents squeak by in close school race

By Mary Rodrigue  
staff writer

Incumbents Dick Wallace and Emma Makinen squeaked by in a close three-way race on Monday to win four-year terms on the Farmington Board of Education.

Challenger Helen Ditzhazy, a Novi school administrator making her first bid for office, lost by just 35 votes.

Just 5.1 percent or 2,730 of the district's 53,000 registered voters cast ballots.

Voters also resoundingly defeated a two-mill increase for special education proposed by the Oakland County Intermediate Schools. Only 775 voters supported the measure; 1,898 were opposed. Countywide, the millage was defeated by almost 30,000 votes.

Dick Wallace, a vice president at National Bank of Detroit, got 1,451 votes to win his second four-year term.

"It was almost a three-way tie," Wallace said on Tuesday.

There was only a 100-vote spread among the three contenders.

"I was extremely close. I was surprised by the closeness of the race," Wallace said.

The new terms will begin on July 1. Emma Makinen, who didn't carry any of the four precincts, kept a steady vote in each and slipped into second place with 1,376 votes, just 35 votes ahead of Mrs. Ditzhazy.

Mrs. Makinen, a former school teacher and a veteran of eight years on the school board, was not available for comment on Tuesday.

MRS. DITZHAZY, an administrative assistant for curriculum and instruction for Novi Community Schools, carried two precincts but not by a wide enough margin to win.

"My naivete was my downfall," she said.

The two precincts she and her husband canvassed on Monday, at Warner and East middle schools, were the two she carried. She had no campaign workers at the other two precincts.

"I do intend to be involved with the school district, and I do intend to run again," Mrs. Ditzhazy said. "Next time, we intend to win."

Here's the breakdown by precinct: No. 1 (Farmington Training Center) Ditzhazy 409, Makinen 402, Wallace 419; No. 2 (Dunckel Middle School) Ditzhazy 428, Makinen 499, Wallace 559; No. 3 (Warner Middle School) Ditzhazy 133, Makinen 110, Wallace 103; No. 4 (East Middle School) Ditzhazy 358, Makinen 333, Wallace 336.

Thirty-four absentee votes went to Wallace, 32 to Makinen and 13 to Ditzhazy.

The special education millage lost by wide margins in every precinct and among the absentee ballots.

"In the present anti-property tax

Dick Wallace . . . . . 1,451  
Emma Makinen . . . . . 1,376  
Helen Ditzhazy . . . . . 1,341

Special Education  
Yes . . . . . 775  
No . . . . . 1,898

mood of voters, I doubt the county will come back with another proposal," said Lewis Schulman, superintendent.

The district would've been able to reduce the millage rate if the two-mill county levy had passed, Schulman said. The '81-82 budget includes funding for special education, so the millage defeat won't affect programming.

"I DON'T KNOW if the school board race or the millage question brought out the voters, but I found the turnout very encouraging," Schulman said.

Last year's Farmington school race hit an all-time low when just 805 voters turned up at the polls to re-elect trustees Michael Shpiece and James McGlinchey, who ran unopposed.

Schulman was also surprised by Ditzhazy's performance.

"With a new person coming in, the race was very close," he said. "We had three good candidates."

IN THE CLARENCEVILLE School District, which includes parts of Farmington Hills, Livonia and Redford Township, voters approved both millage renewals: one mill for five years and nine mills for five years.

The first proposal garnered 337 votes of support, 179 against; the second proposal got 339 yes votes and 171 no votes.

Pleased with the millage renewals, Clarenceville Superintendent David McDowell said, "Clarenceville is a community generally concerned with the education of children."

The 10 mills represent about 24 percent of the district's budget and will allow officials to maintain the current programs.

Like voters throughout Oakland County, Clarenceville voters defeated the special education millage for Oakland Intermediate Schools: 283 to 198.

Elected to the Clarenceville School Board for a four-year term was Lee McDowell of Livonia, who got 305 votes. His opponent, Earl Gilbert of Farmington Hills, received 143 votes.

Elected to a three-year term was Richard Wood, who ran unopposed.



RANDY BOST/Staff photographer

### Voting mom

Pam Finkel registers to vote Monday morning at O.E. Dunckel Middle School in the company of her children Brandon, 5 weeks, and Amy, 2.

## In Walled Lake

### 2 ousted; millage approved

Walled Lake School District voters approved renewal of a 4-mill tax levy by a 2-1 margin and elected two new board members in the annual school election Monday.

Voters also turned down a request to levy a 5-mill tax for five years to be used specifically for building repair and maintenance. The proposal was voted 2,926 to 1,927.

The 4-mill levy won 3,482 to 1,680. A pair of newcomers campaigning as a team — Patricia Ann Jackman and David Roddy — emerged victorious in two separate races.

In the contest for a four-year term, Jackman received 2,529 votes to incumbent Steven Lasher's 2,064 votes. Lasher, a trustee since 1978, is the present board president and served as chairman of the millage renewal committee.

RODDY RECEIVED 1,701 votes in the five-person race for a one-year term. Incumbent Robert McNutt was second with 1,631 votes.

The one-year term was created by the resignation of Trustee Leo Westinger Jr. earlier this year. McNutt was appointed by the board to fill the vacancy until the end of the school year.

The other candidates and their totals were: Merlin Reeds, 705; Lorraine Haworth, 484; and Jeffrey Portko, 225.

The 5-mill maintenance proposal had been recommended by a special citizens committee in 1978 as a means of keeping the district's facilities in proper repair.

Some 5,320 of the approximately 29,800 registered electors in the Walled Lake district took part in Monday's election — a turnout of about 17 percent.

## 40 winks on I-75

A 39-year-old Farmington Hills man was found sleeping on Long Lake Road at the I-75 intersection early Sunday morning.

Police responded to a resident's call and found the man sound asleep in the westbound lane of Long Lake at the freeway intersection at 4:44 a.m.

When awakened, the man said he was tired and drunk and didn't know how he got to Long Lake Road.

He was transported to the police station, where he made arrangements for a ride home.

### A pair of newcomers campaigning as a team — Patricia Ann Jackman and David Roddy — emerged victorious in two separate races.



### A gaming we will go

Above, students from Evelyn Kaplan's 6th grade class at O.E. Dunckel Middle School begin a walking field trip 20 minutes down the road to Kenbrook Elementary School, also in Farmington Hills.

The students devised a variety of educational games and made a gift of them to the first-graders at Kenbrook.

"At the end of the school year, all the books are put away," Mrs. Kaplan said.

"They thought the little ones would enjoy the games."

That belief turned out to be true. At right, Nicole Harris of Kenbrook joins in one of the games with Marianne Akourt (seated) from Dunckel.

After the morning activities, Dunckel kids were treated to lunch at their teacher's house, which just happened to be along the route back to school.



## Socked steward probe launched

By Mary Rodrigue  
staff writer

Farmington Hills police have turned over an investigation into the beating of the state senior racing steward to Michigan State Police criminal investigators.

Fred B. Greenly Jr., who suffered facial and knee injuries in an attack outside his Independence Green apartment last Thursday morning, is in good condition at Botsford General Hospital.

He underwent surgery on Monday afternoon to repair his right knee. Greenly also suffered a broken nose and two black eyes.

Neither Greenly nor a witness got a description of his two assailants nor knew of any reason for the attack.

"It was too dark to see," said the witness, a 24-year-old neighbor who called police after hearing a commotion outside her apartment at 12:20 a.m.

Through a window, she saw two men kicking and hitting Greenly, who was attacked just 10 feet away from his black Cadillac Seville.

"I didn't know who he (Greenly) was until police clued me in the next day," the witness said.

"It's going to be tough to get a conviction," said Detective Sgt. Al Havner of Farmington Hills police.

Havner met with state police to discuss the case on Tuesday afternoon.

*'It's going to be tough to get a conviction.'*  
— Det. Sgt. Al Havner

GREENLY, WHOSE permanent residence is in Delaware, lives in Michigan most of the year. As senior racing steward, he controls day-to-day conduct, penalties and suspensions at the track.

He has been senior steward in Michigan since 1979.

Greenly, 58, was attacked after finishing his nightly duties at the Detroit Race Course in Livonia.

Michigan Racing Commissioner Frederick Van Thiem requested assistance from the state police and state attorney general's office because the attack was apparently related to Greenly's job as a state racing official.

The state Racing Commission is offering a \$5,000 reward for information leading to conviction of the assailants.

Persons with any information should contact William Bolton, deputy commissioner for licensing and enforcement, at the Office of the Racing Commissioner, 485 S. Main Street, Plymouth 48170.

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### CATastrophe!

Due to allergies, the Cousins family had to find new homes for their cats. After one day of phone calls from their O & E classified ad, they found their cats new homes.

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