

the farmington

enterprise & observer

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

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today's
hot line

what's inside

May Sue City

Alta Loma residents in the City of Farmington may be filing a lawsuit appealing the decision of the city council to approve rezoning for apartments. The homeowners have engaged an attorney but not before a quick shuffle in meeting places.

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Town For Lovers

City planners have overlooked an important element of our community--The Lovers! But there still may be time left to rebuild for the tender at heart, with a little imagination, says Daniels Den.

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Star Athlete

"A standout in football and an above-average basketball player"--that's how Sports Editor George Maskin describes a versatile young athlete from North Farmington High School. See the Sports Section.

Page 3B

Where's The Gap?

Put together four quite different Farmington church sects and two generations at a discussion table. Where would you expect the greatest differences to develop?

Page 6B

Achievers

Junior Achievement groups descended on a shopping center recently to sell their products and gain business experience. We tell the story in pictures.

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Prep Politics

Once again, the issue of high school political clubs has popped up--this time in Clareneville. The school board backed the superintendent's veto, but Marie McGee writes that the matter still isn't settled.

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Jail Fight

Wayne County needs more jail space, but the Detroit House of Correction says it can't help out the county. W. W. Edgar's story clarifies the problem of "convicts" versus "prisoners."

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Library District Is Another Benefactor Of Higher Taxes

The school district, city and township governments are not the only beneficiaries of rising property assessments in the Farmington area.

The Farmington District Library is a fourth benefactor and is getting big boosts in tax receipts because of increase in the state equalized valuation (SEV) factor being applied by the Oakland County Equalization Board.

The SEV factor is multiplied by the county against local assessments to bring local property values to a level equal to 50%.

THE BONUS received by the library district

was seen by examining the City of Farmington's 1970-71 budget which shows what effect rising SEV has had on library revenue.

In May 1967, Farmington Township voters approved a one-mill levy to supplement the half-mill already being levied for operational expenses.

The one-mill increase was to finance the library's expansion program, a new library to be located at 12 Mile and Dunckel in the township.

By joint agreement between city and township, the city does not levy the millage but takes the money the levy would raise from its general fund.

IN THE PAST THREE years, property values have increased by 43% in the City of Farmington because of higher SEV factors set by the Oakland County Equalization Board.

The city has increased its contribution to the District Library from \$14,900 in 1964 (when a half-mill was levied) to \$84,000 for fiscal year (FY) 1970-71 (1.5 mill levy), or a 600% increase for the past six years.

City Manager John Dinan reports the \$84,000 the city will give the library district in FY 70-71 is an increase of \$11,500 over last year.

Dinan explains the county has hiked the city's assessed valuation by 13% for the 1970 taxing year by applying an SEV factor of 1.28. Last year's factor was 1.15.

The extra revenue paid to the library because of the new SEV factor, says Dinan, "in effect cost the City of Farmington that additional revenue unless the library district reduces its millage which is not likely."

SINCE JULY 1, 1968, the city has contributed over \$130,000 to the library district.

The \$84,000 gift after 1970-71 tax bills are paid will raise the total contributions to \$215,000 in three years.

Between 1961-67, the period before the one-mill levy was approved, the city contributed a total of \$76,000 to the library district or an average of \$14,000 a year. The 1961 contribution was \$8,800 and climbed to \$15,200 in 1966-67.

In FY 1967-68, the first year the one-mill was collected, the city contributed \$33,500. The next year the city's share jumped to \$50,270 and was \$73,500 for the current fiscal year which ends June 31.

Between 1968-70, the city contributed a total of \$166,400 or an average of \$55,200 a year.

The effect of rising SEV can be seen by the fact that the city's contribution for the present budget year is twice as much as the year the one-mill was levied.

IN 1966, BEFORE the one-mill was added, Farmington Township contributed \$49,900 to the library district.

The first year the 1.5 mills were levied, the township share rose to \$169,000. In 1968, the township contributed \$232,700 which was a 38% increase from the previous year.

This year the township's share will be about \$272,000, a 17% increase over 1968. In the past three years, the township's contributions to the library have increased by about 70%.

In 1967, the district had \$200,000 in its expansion fund and estimated the new library would cost \$907,000.

Inability to obtain federal funds has delayed construction, and cost of the expansion is now set at about \$1.2 million.

North High On TV Bowl

Four contestants and an alternate will represent North Farmington High School on the "High School Bowl" panel show. It will be televised on Channel 4 TV Saturdays, April 25.

Students must be prepared to answer questions on a wide variety of topics. North's alternates will be students from St. Mary's of Royal Oak. Faculty sponsor Kenneth Haycock reports that he has a difficult decision ahead selecting just five panelists from 25 excellent possibilities who are competing.

Taxpayers, Educators Exchange Tax Ideas

The middle concerning Farmington School District finances and local taxes again was apparent Wednesday night when members of the Board of Education met with members of a subdivision association and two administrators appeared at the annual meeting of the Franklin Valley Homeowners Association.

THE DISTRICT representatives provided background on how the district got into its present precarious financial position.

The representatives received in return verbal blows about spending.

"I don't want anyone to leave the meeting thinking there is going to be an overall reduction in taxes," said school board Secretary Aldo Vagnozzi.

He said the problem is to shift the school tax burden from local property taxes to other sources.

However, it was apparent that many in the audience felt a tax cut is needed.

RAY MAYNARD, president of the homeowners' association, demonstrated what he felt are alarming trends in spending.

"In business, we look at things, but when things get tough we look at them again," he said.

Maynard said overhead expenses in the district are increasing faster than teachers' salaries. To show his point, he rearranged categories of expenditures given in the budget.

He said only the salaries of persons actually having contact with students should be considered under instructional expense.

The salaries of principals, assistant principals, directors, and consultants should be considered overhead, he said. For the 68-69 school year.

expenditures for principals and assistants increased 19.5% for directors and consultants 30% and for aids and special assignment employees, 11%.

He said the district has hired "assistants to assistants" and "assistants to assistants."

"This is the type of thinking which is getting us into trouble," Maynard said.

GARY LICHTMAN, vice president of the school board, attempted to explain the expenditures.

Lichtman abruptly left the meeting in the middle of his explanation.

Continued on Page 5A



SHIPSHAPE--Gilbert Maxwell, elementary art consultant, helps to ready Farmington contributions for the Oakland Art Education Association show now on view at Northland Center. He is tagging a wooden ship constructed by Cloverdale third grader Joe Riedel. (Evert photo)

Profile Of A Union

Are Teachers Growing Militant?

analysis

by WYLIE GERDES

News about the Farmington Education Association (FEA) generally disappears from public view by the first of September and doesn't reappear until contract negotiations begin again the next spring.

The approximately 800 teachers in the Farmington School District don't disappear, but their image seems to change. When they aren't asking for money, they become gallant educators of grasping unionists.

ROGER ALLEN, FEA president this year, hopes his group will become more visible. He sees trends toward more activism on the part of teachers and more negotiations on issues other than salary.

In an interview, Allen said the salary issue has "come into focus" to the point that the Farmington School District knows it must offer competitive salaries.

Although the financial issue is not resolved by any stretch of the imagination, Allen said, the trend in negotiations will be towards such issues as class size, teacher evaluation and departmental organization.

Allen said eventually the point of diminishing return will be reached in negotiations for benefits.

On one questionnaire sent out by the FEA, Allen said a teacher replied, "If it comes down to a choice between extra benefits and adequate supplies, I'll take the supplies."

problems of class size, teacher evaluation and departmental organization. Allen commented, "The FEA negotiated class size last year, but made little progress, he added. The other two issues have yet to be discussed in depth."

THE FEA OFFICER commented it is much easier to induce the public to pay than to change convictions.

"If \$2 billion would solve the civil rights issue, the check would be written so fast your head would whirl," Allen said relating the stance to a national issue.

However, Allen does not think the issues will overshadow financial matters this year. He said negotiating will be harder this year than in previous years because of the fund squeeze in the Farmington district.

with educational decisions but also in politics, he feels.

Allen said that the FEA has made much progress in political activity. The FEA endorsed school board candidates in the last school election and should endorse candidates for other local offices, its president said.

The group might even make statements on such issues as incorporation of the Farmington Township into a city.

"This would be ideal," Allen commented concerning the FEA taking stands on local issues.

He noted teachers have shed the image of little gray-haired ladies who wear hor-rimmed glasses and don't speak out.

TEACHERS SHOULD not only become more involved

plus 10" club which donates \$10 and 10 hours of work to a candidate.

NOT ONLY IS the FEA president promoting teacher activism, but also recent public questioning of the school board concerning finances.

Allen said the public has a right to know where its money is going.

"They should be concerned about getting the most educational value for their dollar," Allen commented.

The slim young teacher said he doesn't object to the union label sometimes applied to the FEA. He added that administrators are sometimes self-righteous in using the label because none of them has turned down a raise recently.