

Farmington Observer

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Holland gets nod as new athletic chief

By Tom Baer
staff writer

The Farmington School Board no longer needs an athletic director, but North Farmington High School is in the market for a football coach.

Farmington's Board of Education, needing a "Director of Activities and Physical/Health Education," looked no farther than North Farmington High, where Ron Holland has been a physical education teacher and head football coach for the past two decades.

The 47-year-old Holland, one of the state's most successful high school coaches, replaces Jack Cotton, who is retiring after 25 years as athletic director of the Farmington public schools.

The board approved Holland's appointment, 7-0, at its regular meeting last Tuesday.

"One thing in his favor was that he's so well known throughout the state and the nation," said assistant superintendent Lynn Nutter, who chaired a committee which screened the 25 applicants for the job.

"He's had so much experience in the field of athletics and physical education," Nutter complimented. "And he's been very active in girls' sports."

Holland, who has compiled a 153-53-3 football record in his 21 years as North's head coach, said he looks forward to the challenge of the new job.

"Here it was in front of me," said Holland Tuesday night. "I had to make a decision. Do I continue coaching and let somebody else get the job, or do I apply for the job?"

"I took it upon myself to make an application. Guess maybe I was looking down the road at my future."

HOLLAND, A NATIVE of Ionia, has undergraduate and master's degrees from Western Michigan University where he played football and baseball.

Holland, who reportedly turned down several coaching offers from small colleges, guided the 1970 Raiders to a 9-0 record and a mythical state championship.

His 1978 squad went 11-1, losing to

Traverse City in the state Class A final, and the 1965 crew was 9-0 and rated seventh in the state.

"I'm definitely going to miss the coaching," he said. "It's been my life for the past 24 years. I'll miss the preparation for the encounters and I'll miss the unity I've had with my staff."

"I'll also miss the excitement and the fun I've had with the kids. Of course, I'll remember the positive things more than the negative ones."

"And I'll miss teaching the physical education classes. I like the classroom

situation and the learning process with the kids, and it's a new group every 10 weeks."

Physical education and health are important parts of a high school curriculum, Holland said.

"All the learning in the world isn't going to do you any good if you're dead," he said.

Nutter said his committee pared the 25 applicants down to 10, including eight from the school district. One requirement was that the applicant hold a degree in physical education, he said.

New hope is spawned for park acquisition

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Farmington Hills has a renewed chance of receiving state land acquisition money to help purchase the \$2-million, 211-acre Spicer property.

More than two weeks ago, state legislators seemed headed for using Michigan Land Trust Fund (MLTF) money to help pay for Gov. James Blanchard's summer youth jobs program. But in recently approving the short-term job corps, legislators promised that the

land trust money would be used only as a last resort to pay for the new program.

"We were surprised. But we were relieved," said Edward Hagen, staff assistant for the MLTF, which awards money to purchase land for public use.

Instead of enacting original plans to partially pay for the recently approved jobs programs by depleting the MLTF's current estimated \$16.5 million, legislators under the weight of public and special interest groups' pressure, compromised in paying for the program



Farmington Hills has renewed hope of gaining state funding to help purchase the Spicer property as a city park on Farmington Road, between 10 and 11 mile roads.



Todd Bates, Michael Barnard, Susan Rennels, Leonard Stein, Clarence Gabel, Elizabeth Mihelich

Trustee pick slated for Monday

Voters in the Farmington school district will pick a board member from among six candidates in the annual school election on Monday, June 13.

Polls at the district's four precincts will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Voters who wish to cast absentee ballots may do so from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday at the board of education offices, 32500 Silwassee, Farmington.

The candidates are Todd S. Bates, Michael J. Barnard, Clarence M. Gabel, Elizabeth A. Mihelich, Susan C. Rennels and Leonard M. Stein.

The top vote getter in the election will serve a four-year term as a trustee on the board.

Barnard, a 23-year-old account executive for American Bell, is active in the

Farmington Community Band as a musician and as vice president of finances of the board of directors. He lives on Mingletown in Farmington Hills.

Bates, a 22-year-old student at the University of Michigan-Dearborn with majors in political science and psychology, hopes to go on to law school after graduation. He lives on Durans Court in Farmington Hills.

Gabel, 51, is an attorney with his own practice in Farmington Hills. Gabel and his wife Ruth have three children and reside on Gloucester Circle in Farmington Hills.

Mihelich, 36, the only candidate living in Farmington, is single and resides in an apartment on Freedom Road. A former magazine writer and Detroit school teacher, she now makes her liv-

Our endorsement - See Page 14A

ing as a free-lance writer and photographer.

RENNELS, A 39-year-old mother of two, is the assistant manager of a First Federal of Michigan savings and loan branch in downtown Farmington. Rennels, who lives on Tuck Road in Farmington Hills, has been active in the League of Women Voters and Common Cause.

Stein, 34, an optometrist at the Woodland Medical Center in Novi, has been active in two Farmington Hills homeowners' groups, Kingspoint and Camelot Courts. Stein and his wife Rita

are the parents of one child, who will start kindergarten next fall. They live on Mayfair in Farmington Hills.

Incumbent Michael Splice, who served two terms on the board, is not seeking re-election.

The Farmington district includes Farmington, most of Farmington Hills and a small portion of West Bloomfield.

Precinct No. 1 is in the Farmington Training Center, 33000 Thomas; Precinct No. 2 is in Duncel Middle School, 32000 12 Mile Road; Precinct No. 3 is in Warner Middle School, 32000 14 Mile Road; and Precinct No. 4 is in East Middle School, 25000 Middlebelt.

A map of the voting precincts in the Farmington school district may be found on Page 3A of this newspaper.

What would it take to get you to vote?

The annual school board election will be held Monday, June 13, in the Farmington district. If past school elections are any indication, very few voters will bother to cast their ballots.

For example, in last September's election, with a millage renewal question on the ballot, only 1,226 voters exercised their privilege. That's a slim turnout considering that the district contains more than 54,000 eligible voters.

Today's Oral Quarrel questions, intended only for people who do not intend to vote on Monday, is:

WHY DO YOU STAY AWAY FROM THE POLLS ON ELECTION DAY AND WHAT WOULD IT TAKE TO GET YOU TO VOTE IN THESE ELECTIONS?

To answer this question, please call us at 477-4493. You will have 30 seconds to respond. Look in Monday's Farmington Observer to see how your neighbors feel about this issue.

Increased costs prompt budget boost

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Farmington residents will help support the city's new \$4.8-million budget by paying at least one-mill increase in local taxes in 1983-84.

In unanimously adopting the 1983-84 budget on Monday, City Council members also increased the overall city tax levy by .925-mill. That means the 10.785 mills levied in 1982-83 will increase to 11.710 mills this year. The new \$4.8-million budget also is up from last year's \$4.3-million budget.

There was no one there in terms of the budget," said City Manager Robert Deadman, saying residents did not appear before council to oppose either the tax increase or new budget.

This year's tax hike was recommended because the city is faced with a projected 8-percent increase in this year's operating costs as well as an approximate 2-percent drop in state equalized value (SEV) of property.

So on a \$50,000 home assessed at \$25,000, your new city taxes will total approximately \$200. This total, however, does not include the taxes you pay to the school district, Oakland County, Oakland Community College and Oakland Intermediate Schools.

THE TAX increase can be broken down into two parts: a .395-mill increase in operating millage and a .53-mill increase in the debt service millage. That means operating millage in-

creased from 10.105 to 10.50 mills and debt service jumped from .68-mill to 1.24 mills.

The debt millage increase is due to the city's two planned drain projects: the Caddell Drain Project and another in a 18-acre parcel southwest of Farmington Road and Grand River. The debt millage will be used to increase funding for bonds that will be issued to pay for the two projects, Deadman said.

Faced with the anticipated surge in expenditures this year, the city will

receive fewer dollars per mill levied because of the drop in SEV. So rather than cutting back on city services such as public safety (police and fire) and public works (garbage collection), taxes were raised to bridge the gap.

But even so, the tax increase still produces insufficient revenue to offset the city's projected financial pinch. City administrators also will use about \$147,000 in reserve funds to help balance the new budget.

City officials, however, are expect-

ing to receive \$476,000 in state shared revenues which is comparable to the amount received last year. The city also is expected to receive \$113,000 in federal shared revenues.

Take a look: Series on art begins today

Whether you've always wanted to dabble in drawing, or just think you have a good eye for art, a new series beginning in today's Creative Living section will have something for you.

Artistic, a column that will cover topics as diverse as commercial art, sculpture, and proportion, will appear weekly. Author of the column is Dave Messing, an art teacher and merchant with a bachelor's degree in fine arts.

In today's column, Messing teaches readers how to look at a subject. Be sure you look for his column, appearing today on page 3E.

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