

# Farmington Observer

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## Fix-up plan draws eye of council

By Joanne Mallazewski  
staff writer

Taxpayers would pay an additional 1.75 mills over the next 20 years if Farmington Hills officials choose to finance an estimated \$12.8-million six-year capital-improvements program.

The plans are highlighted by a new police building and major drain projects.

"All alternatives and options are open at this time," said Charles Rosch, finance director. "No decision has been made."

The additional 1.75 mills needed to finance the entire six-year plan would mean that a homeowner with a \$90,000 house assessed at \$45,000, would pay an increase of \$70.

The 1984-89 capital improvements program was formally presented to council and residents with the help of photographs and graphics Monday. The more than one-hour-long presentation by City Manager Lawrence Savage was followed by a public hearing.

Prepared and adopted by the planning commission, the state-required six-year plan is broken down into areas such as drains, sanitary sewers, public facilities, sidewalks, equipment purchases and parks and recreation facilities.

Council has yet to adopt the plan. "The city's finance department has analyzed the entire program and total costs and has indicated that 1.75 mills would be necessary to complete all of the projects that we have represented this evening," Savage said.

"THIS WOULD be necessary for the life of the bonds that would be issued to pay for some of the major improvements such as the drains and a police station."

Currently, the council levies 7.8 mills (including .4046 mill for debt retirement). According to city charter, the council has the authority to levy up to 10 mills.

If the council decides to levy the additional 1.75 mills, taxpayers would pay a city tax rate of 9.6 mills. The total 49.9 mills (excluding the suggested 1.75 mills) includes taxes for the Farmington School District, Intermediate schools, Oakland Community College, Oakland County and Farmington Hills.

Meanwhile, school-district officials are considering raising taxes by 1.3 mills, from 33.7 mills to 34.9 mills. School officials have voter authorization to go as high as \$7.29 mills.

Please turn to Page 4

## Residents view plan

By Joanne Mallazewski  
staff writer

"Go for it." That was the advice offered to the Farmington Hills City Council when the proposed six-year capital-improvements program was unveiled on Monday.

The words of encouragement came from several residents at a public hearing called by council members to determine which projects residents consider necessary and would be willing to pay for. Council has yet to adopt the plan.

The positive comments were a turnaround from last year when residents hurled insults and threats at council members who proposed a tax increase

Please turn to Page 8



Nurse Betty Fritsch and grandmother Freida Rush welcome 16-month-old Angela Guimmo to Farmington's Oak Hill Nursing Home, where she'll receive therapy.

Handy Borst/Staff Photographer

## Mercy mission from the skies brings hope and unites family

By Tom Beer  
staff writer

Police blocked off the street. A fire engine stood at the ready. Residents came out of their houses and loed Gill Road.

The big event wasn't a parade or a visit by a presidential candidate, but the arrival of a blue-eyed little girl, who last Thursday literally dropped in on Farmington's Oak Hill Nursing Home.

Angela Guimmo, a 16-month-old quadriplegic, was the VIP passenger in the big French Twin Dauphin helicopter which flew up from a Toledo hospital and swooped down on Oak Hill's parking lot.

"Angela, who depends on a ventilator life-support system for survival, will join about 140 mostly-elderly patients at the nursing home under a new program which attempts to treat the old and young in the same setting."

Oak Hill has nine young patients, most on life-support systems, in its new Ventilator Unit.

"We're trying to bring in patients who are ventilator dependent, but medically stable," said Betty Fritsch, a registered nurse who directs Oak Hill's

Ventilator Unit. "They really don't require hospital care. What they need is long-term care. They're chronic patients. We maintain

them here at a reduced rate." When she was three weeks old, Angela was involved in an automobile accident.

Please turn to Page 8



A Life Flight helicopter delivers Angela Guimmo to Oak Hill Nursing Home from St. Vincent Hospital in Toledo.

## Sewers, cop shop are at top of list

Although still unsure whether to adopt the entire proposed six-year capital improvements plan or only portions of it such as a new police building, city officials Monday unveiled the estimated \$12.8 million worth of projects.

With the help of photographs and graphics, City Manager Lawrence Savage presented an hour-long description of each suggested project targeted for 1984-1989.

The state-required plan was prepared and adopted by the planning commission with the help of studies such as the master storm-drainage plan, police building feasibility study,

traffic studies and the master parks and recreation plan, Savage said.

Following is a list of the projects included in the proposed capital improvements plan.

### PUBLIC FACILITIES

1984

- Purchase of data-processing equipment for city hall. The city has a consultant investigating data-processing needs.

1985

- The first bond project proposed

Please turn to Page 4

## oral quarrel

### How do you feel about pay boosts for execs?

Recently some of America's major corporations announced bonuses for their top executives which were in the millions of dollars. Especially of note is the Detroit area where the multimillion-dollar bonuses received by auto executives.

With union negotiations coming up many auto analysts feel that worker backlash to the bonuses could cause strikes in the industry. Today's Oral Question:

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE BONUSES AND RAISES RECENTLY RECEIVED BY AUTO EXECUTIVES? WHAT TYPE OF COMPENSATION DO YOU THINK AUTO WORKERS SHOULD GET IN LINE OF MULTIMILLION-DOLLAR BONUSES? To answer this question, call 477-8488. You have until 1 p.m. on Friday to answer. To see how your neighbor's feel about this issue, look in Monday's Farmington Observer.

## Schools to decide on millage boost

By Tom Beer  
staff writer

Not if, but when and how much. That's the situation with the proposed tax increase in the Farmington Public Schools.

"A public hearing attended by 12 people last Tuesday evening, board and administration members attempted to explain why they're considering upping the millage."

"We try to be very fiscally responsible," said Board President Helen Purlow, "but now an increase is needed." One plan calls for an increase of 1.2 mills, which would provide \$1.38 million for operating expenses during the 1984-85 school year. Also discussed was a 1-mill increase.

Approval could be gained by a majority vote of the seven-member board — perhaps at its next regular meeting on Tuesday, May 15.

No district-wide vote would be required for approval of the hike because it would bring the total mills levied to within the voter-authorized limit of 87.90 mills. The district currently levies 83.7 mills, including 1.9 for debt retirement.

"The District's proposed budget for 1984-85 provides for expenditures of \$46,358,033," said a notice posted by the district officials. "Anticipated revenues will be less than this amount, creating a shortfall of approximately \$2,805,181."

The notice concluded, "The Board of Education has proposed this millage in recognition of the responsibility to maintain and sustain an effective educational program for the community."

A SPECIAL concern to district officials is the so-called Caesar Amendment to the State Aid Act, a plan which, if approved by the state Legislature, would limit state funding of special-education programs in wealthy districts like Farmington.

"They're negotiating this," said Farmington Superintendent Lew Schulman, "but right now it would cost us \$144,000. If the plan would definitely cut existing funding."

"Our bond equity is going to be chipping and we don't want to be chipping. The last few years we've been able to buy our bond equity."

added, "It would behoove us to provide for the worst situation."

A Farmington Hills resident, Tom DeWard, suggested several times during the meeting that the board should

attempt to cut operating costs before it increases taxes.

"I think the board has to look at

Please turn to Page 8

### what's inside

Amusements	2-4B
Business	7-9C
Classifieds	Sections D-E
Community Calendar	2F
Crossword Puzzle	12E
Engagements	5F
Memory Lane	11C
Obituaries	2A
Recreation News	10A
Sports	7-9C
Suburban Life	Section F
Travel	8B
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