

Farmington Observer

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Twenty-Five Cents

School millage to rise

By Jean Adamczak
staff writer

It's official. Farmington Board of Education members voted 6-1 Tuesday night to adopt the proposed millage increase of 1.2 mills to raise \$1.36 million for the 1984-85 school year.

One person opposing the millage increase was Farmington Hills resident Tom DeWard, who suggested the board look into ways of cutting costs. "There are perhaps more ways to cut costs than an increase in the millage," DeWard said.

"The board is not looking at the residents in this issue. Everyone is not affluent in the Farmington-Farmington Hills area. Many are retired, living on fixed incomes or still unemployed."

"The 1.2 (mill) increase may be a small amount to the board, but to some people it's a substantial amount of money."

A districtwide vote is not required to raise the millage because voters already have authorized a limit of 37.29 mills. With the 1.2 mill increase, total mills levied would jump from 35.7 to 34.9.

District Supt. Lewis Schulman said response from the public on this issue was practically all.

"I received one letter from Mr. DeWard and one phone call from another person, but that was all," he said.

"We made the hearing public and announced it in the newspaper as required by law," the superintendent added. "Two articles about the millage increase also appeared in the Observer so the public knew about it."

The board also voted unanimously to approve the proposed budget for the 1984-85 school year, forecasting revenues of \$45.0 million, expenditures of \$46.2 million and a fund equity of \$1.0 million.

William Prisk, assistant superintendent for finances and services, called the budget estimates "conservative."

"We hope these conservative numbers in the budget will be subject to a 'windfall,'" Prisk said during the meeting.

"Budgeting is not a science," he added. "I'm not going to bet my life on the numbers, but I've been doing this for a number of years and so far it has always worked out for the best." The board meets next at 8 p.m. Tuesday, June 5, at the central office, 32500 Shilawassee.



Soccer scramble

Farmington's Lyn Dorman (3) has eyes for the soccer ball, but so do North Farmington's Kriell McMinn and Farmington's Amy Smith in a high-school match last Monday afternoon. Farmington won the match, 1-0, on a penalty kick with about two minutes left to play. For details of the game and more photographs, see Page 1C.

RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Hills ponders tax increase

By Joanne Malczewski
staff writer

Farmington Hills taxpayers will dip a little deeper into their pocketbooks to pay a less than one-half-mill increase in local taxes if city officials adopt a proposed \$15.3-million 1984-85 budget next month.

The proposed .3745-mill tax increase over the 1983-84 rate reflects the city's increased operating costs and an additional levy for implementing some capital improvement projects. The proposed increase would hike the current 7.8255 mills to 8.2 mills in 1984-85.

That means if you own a \$20,000 house assessed at \$45,000, your city taxes would run approximately \$369 in 1984-85 if the increase is approved.

The recommended 8.2 mills can be broken down into several components: 7.819 mills for operating costs, .3087-mill for debt retirement and one-half mill for capital improvements.

Because city officials expect the state equalized value (SEV) of residential property to jump 1.02 percent, the

total 7.70 mills for operating costs and debt levy, excluding the proposed one-half mill for capital improvements, appears to be a net tax reduction from the 1983-84 7.8255 mills (which did not include millage for capital improvements).

But the money each mill will generate for the city's operating costs and debt levy in 1984-85 represents an increase of 1.88 percent because of the expected increase in residential SEV, Savage said.

In 1984-85, the city's SEV is expected to rise to \$996,169,938 from \$942,892,700 in 1983-84.

THE PROPOSED \$15.3-million 1984-85 budget represents a 4.34-percent increase over the 1983-84 budget. On the revenue side of things, the most dramatic jump is due to anticipated revenues from new building permits which are expected to double in 1984-85. Also adding to the revenue in-

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Budget session set for Saturday

Farmington Hills residents interested in what's in store financially for the city in 1984-85, may attend a City Council budget study session from noon to 3 p.m. Saturday.

Council will discuss the proposed \$15.3-million 1984-85 budget which includes a recommended tax increase of .3745 mill.

The proposed tax increase would hike the current 7.8255 mills to 8.2 mills in 1984-85. The recommended tax rate includes one-half mill for capital improvements.

Although Saturday's budget session is not a public hearing, taxpayers may comment on the proposed budget and tax increase at a scheduled public hearing on June 4.

"The attempt is to go through the budget," said William Costick, assistant city manager, referring to Saturday's study session.

The study session will be conducted according to the following schedule:
• Noon-12:30 p.m.: City Manager Lawrence Savage will provide council

with a general review of the 1984-85 budget.

• 12:30-1:30 p.m.: Police Chief John Nichols will be on hand to discuss the police department's budget with council.

• 1:30-2:30 p.m.: The fire department budget will be discussed. Fire Chief Larry Farron will be available to answer questions.

• 2:30-3:30 p.m.: The Department of Public Services budget will be discussed. The engineering, zoning and building budgets also will be discussed.

• 3:30-4:30 p.m.: The Department of Special Services and administrative budgets, such as the planning commission and city clerk's department's budget, will be discussed.

A City Council will begin a review of the proposed capital-improvement budget.

Copies of the proposed 1984-85 budget are available at the two branches of the Farmington Community Library and the Farmington Hills City Clerk's office.

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RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Amy's joy? It's advertising

By Jean Adamczak
staff writer

Unlike some 20-year-old college students, Amy Alkon knows exactly what she wants — a job. Not just any job, but one in the highly competitive field of advertising.

"My eventual goals are to be a creative director, producer or director of television commercials or shows," Alkon said.

Alkon, a Farmington Hills resident, recently won a \$3,000 scholarship as first prize in a national student advertising competition.

The University of Michigan sopho-

more researched, designed and wrote a newspaper advertisement selling the Dodge Daytona Turbo-2 for the Dodge/College Media Advisors 1984 College Newspaper Creative Advertising Competition.

"It (entering contests) is a great way to add to my income," Alkon said. "Three thousand dollars for a few days work is not bad."

Her two-page resume is evidence of her independence and self-motivation. Her work experience lists jobs with local television stations, advertising agencies, public relations firms and film studios.

That comes to a total of 12 jobs Al-

kon has held in the past three years in addition to attending college full time. Not bad for a novice in the advertising business.

"I like to be going all the time. I like to keep working. I just can't seem to keep still," Alkon said, downsing the remains of a 16-ounce diet pop she poured 15 minutes earlier.

ALKON TURNS her nervous energy into motivating energy, which she finds is more useful and profitable in her line of work.

"Sitting at home while I could be out working bothers me. I really want to

get a job — I'm going everywhere (in the Detroit area) to apply for a job," she said.

Determination and confidence are obviously two major characteristics of Alkon's personality.

"No one else in my family is in this business, so I've always had to make my own contacts. If I want to get a job, I have to do it, there is no one to do it for me," she said.

But determination and a college education are not enough to make a suc-

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OPEN HOUSE GUIDE

Return TODAY

In the
Creative Living
Real Estate Section

oral quarrel

Suddenly, you're rich! Now what?

Let's suspend reality for a minute. Let's imagine that you've just won about \$3 million minus taxes, of course in a state-run lottery. Suddenly, you're rich!

Such a fantasy came true for three New York State residents — a manufacturer, a hospital nurse and a father of four — last week. They each won \$3 million in that state's Lotto jackpot. But, just for fun, let's pretend you're the one with the millions. To-

day's Oral Quarrel question is:

How would the addition of \$5 million in lottery winnings affect your life? How would you spend the money?

To answer this question, call 477-6400 anytime between 8 a.m. and 9 p.m. May 18. To see how your answers feel about this issue, please look to Monday's Farmington Observer.