

the farmington enterprise & observer

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YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

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Township Trustee Hopefuls Debate Before Full House



DAVID STADER, Republican candidate, and secretary of the Planning Commission. (Evert photo)

By LYNNE LUTHER
Republican and Democratic candidates for Farmington Township trustee matched wits on four issues—roads, zoning, drug abuse and preservation of natural resources—before a gymnasium full of voters at Middlebelt School.

The four candidates, incumbent Earl Oppertausser, and David Slader, Republicans, and William Hatton and Dr. Burton Levy, Democrats, stuck to previously determined issues against boos and jeers from the crowd, which demanded and was denied consideration of what's going on in our police department."

Paul Dietz, a three-year resident and father of one child, insisted the four discuss the Township police department as "the most important issue in this whole damned campaign." A half-dozen spectators walked out of the debate, sponsored by the Future Farmington Association, group president and emcee for the evening, refused to allow candidates to speak out on any but the four issues previously agreed upon.

DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES won the toss for opening statements. Each was given 10 minutes for speech making and five for rebuttal.

ON ROADS: HATTON—"The Township should be responsible for roads since between 15-20 per cent of the Township budget is supplied to roads. As president of the Road committee, I helped study road priorities, road policies and ways and means of financing improvements. "The Township matches funds with the county, property owners and the school district and contributes only to the paving of roads, not for ditches. The Township should lobby for better distribution of state tax and licensing fees; the Master Drainage Plan should be expedited and a committee appointed to recognize priorities and cooperate with neighboring communities on improving drainage."

DR. LEVY—"Roads in this Township must be bad when the Motor Road and Civic Association publishes a newsletter called the 'Chuckhole News.'"

STADER—"There's no question about a problem with roads in the Township. The law says the county has the final word on roads."

OPPERTHAUSER—"Road policy is made by the county. Construction on primary roads is not programed unless final funds are paid by the Township, a policy the Township must

follow. There's a different proposition on the mile roads where the county pays half, than on local roads, where the county pays \$1.75-\$2 for every dollar paid by property owners. For new paving, the county pays 10 per cent the Township pays 10 per cent, and people pay 80 per cent."

ON DRUGS: HATTON—"Rap Line had been in existence a year before Oppertausser tried to get a Blue Ribbon Drug Committee formed, which, by the way, the city didn't buy."

DR. LEVY—"A major part of stopping drug abuse is having a good police department—you cannot ignore the police part of it. For 40 years dope pushers were making money in the inner city. Now they're coming to the suburbs where the money is. This administration has let our police department crumble—we need a police department trained to deal with the drug problem and not with whose mustache is longest."

"I spent an entire year studying the problem with the County Crime Prevention Control Board with then Sheriff Roman Gribbe, Undersheriff William Lucas and James Brickley. We all agreed the Rap Line was an important step in stopping drug abuse."

STADER—"Drug are a social problem that should be dealt with at home. What we need is the leadership of parents and the rebirth of religion and morals through churches and schools. The township should respond too, but I think the problem is basically meant to be handled by parents and churches as a social thing."

OPPERTHAUSER—"What I've heard from Dr. Levy is a lot of poppycock. The Township and the municipal government were the first to establish a drug program in the county. On Jan. 28 I called the problem to the attention of the Township Board who in turn formed a committee. The county came out with matching funds when Rev. Bidout and the Rap Line came in."

"It's now a going program with the Township providing \$12,000 and the city \$4,000."

Psychiatrists and psychologists are on hand for the rap groups—you'll hear more about the program as it progresses. I believe in the old fashioned idea of prevention more than Dr. Levy's liberal philosophy of enforcing the law with police officers."

ON ZONING: HATTON—"Our incumbent appointee trustee is not as liberal as he should be. The Township took \$140,000 out of

Continued on Page 7A



DR. BURTON LEVY, Democratic Candidate, and associate professor of political science at Wayne State University. (Evert photo)



WILLIAM HATTON, Democratic candidate and research chemist. (Evert photo)



EARL OPPERTHAUSER, incumbent Township trustee. (Evert photo)



AVID FAN — One of the most enthusiastic Raider boosters for Saturday's NFHS homecoming game was the two-year-old son of Mrs. Mary Ellegood, gym teacher and cheerleading coach at North.

Board Drops Proposed Separate Tax Millage

Farmington's Board of Education failed to endorse a proposal Monday night that would provide for separation and freezing of the county's tax limitation millage.

The Oakland County Tax Allocation Board petitioned the County Board of Commissioners to include the millage question on the November ballot. IN EFFECT, the county is asking residents to raise their own property taxes by three mills (\$3 per \$1,000 assessed valuation) from 15 to 18 mills. Supt. Roderick Smith said that prior to this time state law assigned authority for the County Allocation Board to levy a tax of 15 mills to be split among four government agencies—schools, townships and Oakland County.

DR. SMITH said schools in the area receive 8.43 mills except for West Bloomfield and Farmington which receive 8.23 mills or the minimum rate.

He said the township figure varied from zero to 1.4 mills in most places but the rate of 21 mills for Oakland schools remained constant.

If voters approve the new millage rate Nov. 3, the OC Tax Allocation Board will set and freeze the rate at 18 mills, Dr. Smith said. "This would place they'll get funds from its eliminate erosion of our funds and fear of erosion every year."

Some discussion on the pros and cons of the separate tax limitation question ensued when Aldo Vagnozzi, board member, submitted that "most

educators agree there must be studies made to find means of funding schools other than through property tax."

He said, "The county welfare organization is already \$2.5 million in the red and if the GM strike continues for any length of time, the only place they'll get funds from is school millage."

"The Tax Allocation Board will trim our budget to make up for theirs."

KENNETH PERRIN, board member, warned that "we might be preserving the funds we already have" by endorsing

the proposal. Board members failed to second Perrin's motion that the board support the separate tax limitation proposal and the subject was dropped.

OAKLAND COUNTY'S general tax levy for 1970 amounted to \$24.4 million. Of that figure, Farmington receives \$251,700 based on the city's 1970 equalized valuation of \$56 million.

Farmington Township's share is \$12 million based on its 1970 equalized valuation of \$236.7 million.

Oakland County's Tax Allocation Board is spreading taxes at \$1.16 mills on the equalized valuation of \$4,733 million. That figure represents \$24.4 million in the 1971 county budget to be raised by taxation.

The county allocated 8.43 mills to Farmington schools, and total college, intermediate schools, city and county millage is \$3.15 or \$51.15 per \$1,000 of equalized valuation.

	Present (15)		Proposed (18)	
	1970	1971	1970	1971
Schools	8.23-9.63 mills	10.75 mills	10.75 mills	10.75 mills
Townships	0-1.40 mills	1.00 mills	1.00 mills	1.00 mills
Oak. County	5.16 mills	6.00 mills	6.00 mills	6.00 mills
Oak. Schools	21 mills	25 mills	25 mills	25 mills

today's hot line

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bulletin

Factfinder Reports

A settlement may be near in the dispute between Farmington teachers and the Farmington Board of Education.

A factfinder called in by the board and teachers' union submitted his report Friday. Monday night, the Farmington school board met in "executive" session and decided to accept the recommendations of the factfinder. Teachers held a meeting last night (Tuesday) to take a vote on accepting the report.

If teachers vote to accept the factfinders' recommendations, ratification of a contract could follow the board's formal acceptance at Monday night's regularly scheduled board meeting. Teachers have been working without a contract since school opened.

what's inside

Annexation Update

The Farmington City Council pledged an election would be held to expand the council from five to seven members if annexation passes Nov. 3. The action was taken Monday night to encourage residents in the southeast of Farmington Township to vote "YES" Nov. 3. But the second in a series of articles written by Future Farmington Association takes exception with the city. The FFA argument urging a "NO" vote also appears inside.

Pages 3-A, 4-A

Arrest Rock Promoter

Richard Songer, Farmington businessman and promoter of the Goose Lake rock festival, has been arrested on a charge of aiding the illegal sale of narcotics. Details on the arrest in Farmington Township are given inside.

Page 6A

How They Rate

How conservative — or liberal — is your man in Congress? A political group analyzed congressional voting records, and you can make up your mind for yourself.

Page 8A

Amu sements	8-9C
Classified Want Ads	Sec. D
Cooking by Ely	11C
Deaths and Funerals	11B
Editorial Viewpoints	10B
Home and Garden	6-8B
Readers' Forum	11B
Regional Affairs	10C
Ski Hell	3B
Sports—Prep and Pro	1-5B
Spotlight on Women	1-5C

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