

Today's hot line

Vol. 83, No. 71 20 Pages, 2 Sections

What's Hot

Best Athlete

North Farmington's Drew Mahalic, who earlier was named prep footballer of the year, received additional honors when he was selected outstanding school boy athlete in Observer-land.

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Ballot Coverage

Election is Monday and Farmington voters will decide the fate of the 4.5 mills requested and elect one person to the Farmington Board of Education. Our editorial endorsement on the school board can be found inside plus background material on each candidate, details on the millage, and letters from our readers about the election.

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Hearing On Mall

The planning commission has approved site plans to convert the old NBD building in the City of Farmington into a mini-mall. Other approvals needed will be considered at a public hearing for the next city council meeting.

Page 3A

Appointments

Four new associate ministers are coming to Methodist churches in this area. You'll find their names in our church section.

Page 6A

Fatherhood

Our Ecumenical Reflections column returns this week with a study of one of the most famous fathers of all time. It's in our church section.

Page 7A

Sandlot Time

No sooner does the regular high school baseball season close than its time for summer sandlot games. The season starts Sunday, and here are the prospects.

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you can dig it!

If you are a junior or senior high school student, your hometown newspaper would like to help you find a summer job. Check today's Observer Want Ad section for details.



BOY KILLED — Vernon W. Vaughn, seven-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Vaughn of 21706 Ruth, Farmington, was killed Wednesday when hit by a car at 5:15 p.m. on Orchard Lake Rd. south of Folsom. Witnesses report the boy ran into the path of a car driven by Nancy M. Sundbert, 19, of Southfield. Funeral services for the boy, who died on arrival at Botsford General Hospital, will begin 10 a.m. Saturday (June 12) in Thayer Funeral Home in

Farmington with burial Monday in Pinesville, Ky. The boy, a second grader at Cloverdale Elementary, is survived by his parents and seven sisters. The case is still under investigation but the driver is not being held. The body was thrown 142 feet in the air from point of impact to the point where the officer is standing in the above picture. This is the eighth fatality in 1971 in Farmington Township. (Ralph Evert photo)

Young Ecologist Studies Rouge

Keith Verner spent 8½ hours trudging 15 miles through the middle of the Rouge River the day of his prom. It wasn't to drown girl troubles. KEITH IS A 17-year-old Farmington High School senior who spent his entire senior year in science research projects, with his teacher's permission, instead of in regular class sessions. The Rouge River jaunt was his final project of the year, culminating countless hours of prior research and experimental lab work done on his own time. "Some people are surprised to find out there are still fish in the creek," he said. Keith found what "looked like" 10-12 inch perch all along his route. "I went for three reasons: First, to bring back water samples to study; second, to find which houses along the Rouge had pipes leaking over several houses that he sewage from septic tanks into the river; and third, to ob- taining waste from septic tanks serve the different types of fish, plant and animal life there." THE SLIGHT, sandy-haired high school ecologist said the whole trip sprung from a conversation with Hartley Thornton, a naturalist for the State of Michigan who met Keith at an ecology club meeting. "I talked with him about my idea and he was all research projects, with his teacher's permission, instead of in regular class sessions. The Rouge River jaunt was his final project of the year, culminating countless hours of prior research and experimental lab work done on his own time. "Some people are surprised to find out there are still fish in the creek," he said. Keith found what "looked like" 10-12 inch perch all along his route. "I went for three reasons: First, to bring back water samples to study; second, to find which houses along the Rouge had pipes leaking over several houses that he sewage from septic tanks into the river; and third, to ob- taining waste from septic tanks serve the different types of



DOWN THE RIVER — Keith Verner, Farmington High senior, spent eight hours recently trudging down 15 miles of the Rouge River for a special science research project. (Evert photo)

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School Tax Support Is Expanding

The millage being requested by Farmington School District on Monday's ballot received endorsements from two other groups this past week. The Farmington branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) and the Farmington Democratic Club have both endorsed a "yes" vote for the requested 4.5 mills (\$4.50 per \$1,000 equalized valuation).

THE AAUW said its board strongly feels reform is necessary in financing public education.

"However, we support the Farmington millage proposal in order to have quality education until an effective means to fund public education can be instituted."

The Democratic Club's endorsement also included a plea for "a complete reform of our present system of funding education..."

Financial reform is the club's long-range goal, but members support the short-range request for the 4.5 mills, says President Mrs. Joan Smith.

"We feel this increase is needed to preserve the quality program which we have in Farmington schools. At the same time, we urge support of the request by the Clarendonville School District to use bond money for remodeling and repair of existing buildings."

In a resolution, the club said educational reform "must be based on substitution of an equitable state tax geared to ability to pay for the present heavy reliance on the local property tax."

"The local property tax which now finances the operating budgets of our school systems must be drastically reduced as a means of granting a measure of relief to the homeowner."

ALTHOUGH urging financial reform, the club supports Farmington's millage request because the district "faces short range problems which cannot wait for the long range solutions..."

"At the same time, we call on school boards, school officials and other citizens to urge their state legislators to increase the amount of the senior citizens homestead tax exemption to at least \$3,500 so that these retirees on fixed pensions are granted some relief from paying higher property taxes."

Vote Monday

Farmington voters Monday will decide the fate of the Farmington School District's request for 4.5 mills (\$4.50 per \$1,000 equalized valuation) and elect one trustee for a four-year term. The polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Before voting, turn inside today's edition for complete election coverage. "then be sure to vote."

The millage request has previously been endorsed by the Farmington Area PTA Council, West Bloomfield-Farmington Area League of Women Voters, the Farmington Schools Citizens Advisory Council and the Farmington Education Association.

If the 4.5 mills are approved by voters, the homeowner with a \$20,000 residence would pay an additional \$45 a year and the \$40,000 home would generate an extra \$90 a year in school revenue.

Our Endorsement Support Your Local Schools

Farmington School District is asking Monday for a tax hike of 4.5 mills or \$4.50 for each \$1,000 of equalized valuation.

For the taxpayer with a home valued at \$20,000, the 4.5 mills would cost \$45 a year and, for the taxpayer with a \$40,000 home, an extra \$90 a year in taxes for education.

For parents, the tax hike does not really mean more money will be paid out during the next year for education. The family with two or more children in school paid at least \$90 for textbooks and supplies which are now provided free by the district by instance of the State Supreme Court.

The \$90 saved in texts should be reinvested in millage to continue the quality education Farmington students receive. For taxpayers without school age children, the \$90 reduces to \$7.50 per month to protect the total investments all taxpayers have previously made.

is relatively small, this newspaper recognizes clearly that the added tax will be an unfair burden on local taxpayers.

Homeowners contribute an unfair share of educational expenses and the property tax is inequitable, inefficient and outmoded. While it is true Farmington homeowners should not have to pay any more outdated taxes for education, no one else will, and programs will be reduced by \$1.5 million.



The Michigan Legislature has ignored financial reform for the past five years and has allowed the money crisis facing schools to reach today's proportions. The Farmington Enterprise & Observer endorses

a "YES" vote and supports the 4.5 mills for four years because if the Lansing politicians do not support quality education, Farmington residents must.

WE MUST support the hike because a \$1.5 million loss would be felt by the child in the classroom. Items were trimmed from the budget during this past year, and there remains precious little "fat" to be pared.

If the millage is defeated, the \$1.5 million can only result in reductions in such areas as art, music, drama, athletics, physical education and library services as outlined by the district.

We urge residents to vote "YES" Monday on the millage proposal because the \$1.5 million needed will only come from Farmington residents. Lansing is reducing state aid to Farmington schools, but Farmington taxpayers must take more sensible action.

Farmington can and will support quality education and that's why the millage will pass. Farmington Enterprise & Observer