

Skepticism greets Engler's plan



By SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER

What Gov. John Engler didn't say in his school finance reform speech Tuesday is what bothers Farmington area educators and parents most. Engler touched on schools of choice, charter schools, and a 2-per-

cent increased sales tax, among other things, but didn't reveal enough "how to's" according to some. Farmington Public School District Superintendent Mike Flanagan was present when the governor spoke in Lansing. Engler's references didn't fit Farm-

ington schools, Flanagan said, because this district has a drop out rate of only 1 or 2 percent and 90 percent of high school students go to college.

While Flanagan lauded Engler for "painting a vision of where we want to be," he said the plan has "extreme flaws."

"We have a large problem in this state with non-college bound kids," Flanagan said during remarks at Tuesday's school board meeting. "What he didn't say is that all the voc ed (vocational education) millage would be eliminated. Schools will be

expected to pay for everything out of the grant money."

Engler's plan would guarantee \$4,500 per pupil. The Farmington schools currently spend \$7,975 per pupil and would be among those allowed to raise more money through local taxes.

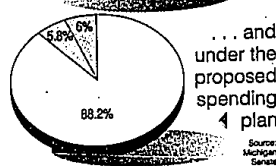
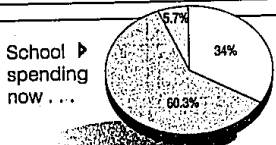
Voters will need to be motivated to approve the increased sales tax, Flanagan said. More than 500 districts would not be allowed to ask voters for more millage, and Flanagan expects

See ENGLER, 16A

REPORT CARD

Do you agree with Governor Engler's educational plan? To answer yes or no, please call 953-2024. Comments are welcome.

Touch-Tone phone must be used



... and under the proposed spending plan

Source: Michigan Senate

Legend: State Local Other (Federal aid)

For details on Gov. John Engler's plan and your local legislator's reaction, see page 16A.

IN THE PAPER

TODAY

Century marker: The McCabe family has been in the funeral home business for 100 years, including the last 21 in Farmington Hills. McCabe Funeral Home received a historical designation from the state. /3A.

OPINION

School chief search: With Michael Flanagan stepping down Jan. 1, the Farmington Board of Education is going forward in its search for a new superintendent. We offer some advice. /22A.

CREATIVE LIVING

Magnificent monotypes: Works by famed artist Helen Frankenthaler are featured in an exhibit at the Robert Kidd Gallery in Birmingham. /1D

Early classified: Thursday's classified sections 402-421, rental properties, are now available Wednesday evening at 6 p.m. Call 953-2297 or see the Reader's Service Index for more information. /4A

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Hazardous waste day dropoffs dwindle



SHARON LEHTINEN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Haste with waste: Rebecca Davis of Chemical Waste Management of Southfield "decans" hazardous wastes Saturday that would have otherwise ended up in a landfill if it weren't for the annual drop off. This year's drop off took place behind 47th District Court

The numbers were down for this year's hazardous waste day for Farmington and Farmington Hills.

Karen Birkholz, Hills recycling coordinator, said 404 vehicles came out in Saturday's warm weather to drop off hazardous waste behind the 47th District Court on 10 Mile in Farmington Hills. That compared with 503 vehicles last year.

"It was a great day, and we haven't had that many (for hazardous waste collections)," Birkholz said. "I'm not sure why the numbers were down. Maybe people have already dropped off their hazardous waste."

Birkholz said residents have gotten the word about not bringing in latex paint, which the city no longer handles.

This year 2,358 gallons of hazardous waste were brought in compared with 2,782 gallons last year.

Of the 404 participants in the waste collection, 319 (79 percent) were from Farmington Hills

and 85 (21 percent) were from Farmington, which is about the normal mix, Birkholz said.

The waste included 54 car batteries; 300 gallons of motor oil; 40 gallons of household batteries; 65 gallons of waste containing asbestos; five gallons of mercury; 495 gallons of oil-based paint, antifreeze and gasoline; 330 gallons of aerosols; 220 gallons of paint thinners and adhesives; and 913 gallons of pesticides, fertilizers, acids and household cleaners.

The waste was handled by Chemical Waste Management Inc., of Southfield.

I'm not sure why the numbers were down. Maybe people have already dropped off their hazardous waste.

Karen Birkholz

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Arnold Campbell

Campbell: Commitment comes 1st

Arnold Campbell is one of four candidates, including two incumbents, running for Farmington City Council. Election Day is Nov. 2.

By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Arnold Campbell prides himself on commitment.

A two-page document is needed to log all his civic and community involvement. It's the kind of stuff that leaves pages in a date book frayed and dripping with ink.



The Farmington council candidate has been on the city's planning commission, zoning board and economic development corporation. He's also been involved with the PTA Coordinating Council and has been past president of his homeowners association.

The list goes on.

Undoubtedly, his most high-profile commitment has been on city council. Campbell, who turns 43 Oct. 17, is running for a third term.

Campbell was elected to a four-year term in 1985 and defeated in a 1989 re-election bid. Missing the contact with people, he bounced back to win a two-year term in 1991.

As a council member, Campbell exhibits an easygoing manner. An attentive ear, not to mention a distinctive laugh, appears to make him affable and approachable to residents.

See CANDIDATE, 2A

Book mark

The Farmington Branch of the American Association of University Women is having its 41st-annual used book sale Thursday through Sunday, Oct. 14-17, at Livonia Mall, Seven Mile and Middlebelt roads. On Oct. 17, there will be a bag day where people can stuff a large grocery bag with books. The cost is \$3 a bag.

Everything from Stephen King mystery novels to Betty Crocker cookbooks will likely be available. More than 20,000 books in 46 categories have been collected for this year's sale. In addition to books, periodicals, sheet music and LP's will be on sale. Profits go to women's scholarships and grants, and to local schools, libraries and other civic groups.

FARMINGTON FOCUS

Fashion statements

Farmington Hills councilmen Ben Marks, Jon Grant and Larry Lichtman will be modeling fashions at the Farmington Community Center's "Dolls and Guys Fashion Bash" Wednesday, Oct. 13, at the Sheraton Inn Novi, across from Twelve Oaks Mall. Marks is past president of the Community Center board and Grant is a chairman for Farmington Area Philharmonic Orchestra. Dinner is served at 7 p.m. followed by the fashion show.

Both men's and women's fashions will be featured at this annual fund-raiser for the Commu-

ty Center, which is a non-profit organization. Tickets are \$35 and available by calling the Community Center at 744-8404. Tickets will also be at the door.

Podium postscript

Detroit Free Press columnist Bob Talbert entertained the audience at the Oct. 1 Farmington Families in Action kickoff breakfast with his gregarious brand of "down home" humor. Included were recollections of conversations he's had in outhouses and bathroom stalls. The jokes didn't seem to sit well with FFIA chairwoman Betty Nicolay, though, who looked a little flush herself when Talbert finished. "Thank you for your words," said Nicolay to Talbert afterward, "and for your lessons on bathroom etiquette."