

today's hot line

Vol. 83, No. 82 48 pages, 6 sections

what's inside

Hospital Expands

Botsford General Hospital in Farmington Township has started construction of its new wing and a report on the progress and ultimate hopes for Farmington's growing medical facility is given inside.

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You May Qualify

A group of students have been working all summer at the Farmington Community Center in preparation for a special production the end of August. All is set except for one special need which YOU may be qualified to supply.

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Big, Bigger, Biggest

The Farmington Founders Festival will begin in eight days and the 1971 version promises to be bigger and more exciting than previous years. Reports inside include plans the Quakers have to mark their anniversary during the Festival, plans Max Davey has to present another free outdoors concert at the Community Center, and plans for what might become the largest parade ever staged in Farmington.

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They're Enthusiastic

The Plymouth State Home is operating an unusual day camp with great success. You'll see why parents are just as enthusiastic about it as the children who attend.

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Thin More Fun

There's no doubt about it... being thin is more fun than being fat, according to a Plymouth woman who should know. It took her 19 months, but she's lost 138 pounds.

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HIT THE BEACH!

It's more fun to lie in the sun knowing your beach bag is full of extra money that will buy souvenirs for the folks back home. Sell useable household items with an OBSERVER WANT AD.



CALL 522-0800 TODAY

Dr. Ross Picked For Board; Schools To Seek 3.5 Mills

By MARTHA MAHAN

The Farmington Board of Education will ask a smaller tax increase for a shorter time, 3.5 mills for one year, when it goes back to the voters, Aug. 23.

And it has named Dr. Mervyn B. Ross, runner-up in the June school board election, to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Trustee Gary L. Lichtman.

The 3.5 mills (\$3.50 per \$1,000 assessed valuation) would still put the district \$320,000 shy of what school people figure is needed to keep the educational system at last year's level.

In making the second try for increased millage, Board President Richard Peters said that it was the intent "basically to try to retain those areas which affect curriculum directly and still make savings in areas such as transportation, teaching supplies, etc. which have an effect on education but not such a direct effect."

Passage would still mean that 39 of the 49 teachers already released would be rehired, that only students living beyond a mile and a half would be bussed, secondary counseling would be reduced and elementary counseling would be eliminated and library service, maintenance, repairs and supplies would be cut, Supt. Roderick Smith reported.

In returning to the electorate with a new millage request, Peters said the board was "not ignoring what the voters said" June 14 when they defeated a 4.5 millage increase for four years.

He indicated members felt they would be remiss if they failed to attempt to better inform the voters of school financial needs and give them an opportunity to express their attitudes toward a reduced millage proposal.

The vote on the 3.5 mills was unanimous. Mrs. Betty Brennan, who campaigned on an anti-millage platform, said her vote was intended merely as a technical approval of the wording.

Land Fill Protested

The preservation of trees has once again become a hot political issue in Farmington.

This time, the residents of Twin Valley Court have obtained an attorney and are asking the city to remove a thousand yards of land fill dumped down the slope behind the Farmington Baptist Church at Shawassee and Farmington Rds.

After hearing much discussion at Monday night's meeting, the city council tabled the item to allow councilmen to take a field trip to the site and gather more information before taking action.

David Jones, Department of Public Services director, confirmed that the dumping operations had continued for about a week after the first phone call from Mrs. Hauser was made.

CITY MANAGER John Dinan said when Hauser brought it to his attention that the operation was causing a potential problem, the city ordered that the dumping be discontinued.

Reverend Walter Ballagh, of the Farmington Baptist Church, has agreed to allow city workers to remove any debris from the side of the slope and remove excessive dirt from around the trees at the bottom of the slope so they will not be damaged.

The city had a representative from the Davey Tree Service analyze the trees growing on the side of the slope that had excessive dirt around the trunks, Dinan added.

It was his opinion that these trees may survive due to the fact that the root structure of the trees on a side of a slope have a tendency to reach down to the bottom of the valley for water."

Dinan said Rev. Ballagh claims the fill material used around the trunks, Dinan added.

Hauser argues that the church should remove the dirt and debris and restore the landscape of the slope to prevent further erosion, sliding and unnecessary drainage.

She said she would take no part in the millage campaign.

"I'm not doing it any harm," she said after Tuesday's board meeting, "but I can't ring doorbells and support it either."

In connection with the millage action, the board also adopted unanimously a resolution by Trustee Aldo Vagnozzi urging state legislators to "support the proposed constitutional amendment to reduce the property tax which now finances school district operational budgets and to do so in time to be effective for the 1972 fiscal year."

The board split in voting to seat Dr. Ross, an

active supporter both of increased millage and of the Family Life Education program.

Mrs. Brennan, who campaigned against both issues, voted against appointing him to the vacancy and Trustee Kenneth Perrin abstained.

Perrin said personal differences which developed between himself and Ross during the campaign lead him to have "rather serious reservations" as to whether Dr. Ross "could perform the management role" in regards to the "various bargaining units we work with." Perrin said he felt a vote on seating Dr. Ross, however, might be construed as resulting from personal animosity and so he would abstain.



ALMOST LIKE the real thing are these driver training simulators, machines that teach the basics of driving to students before they actually encounter them in a car. Here Peggy

Higgs, a Farmington High School student, tries to manipulate her "vehicle" along with one being driven on a screen at the head of the class in Harrison High. (Evert photo)



"SLOW DOWN UP THERE" says John Harrington, driving instructor at Harrison High, to a student working the new driver simulator.

The central switchboard tells him when a student is going too fast, braking improperly or making other driving errors. (Evert photo)

Students Learn Driving From 'Fake' Vehicles

"Take it easy on the turns, Jeff."

"Watch your signals."

"Not so fast on this stretch."

You guessed it—training young drivers entails all the above commands and many more in the Farmington Public Schools driver training program now in progress at Harrison High School.

BUT THE learning experience takes in much more than lectures, textbook tests and "on the road" practice in donated cars.

Each machine comes equipped with an auto seat, steering wheel, column, dashboard, brake, gas pedal, ignition switch, and manual shift column that is activated when the "clutch" is folded down from the upper left hand corner under the steering wheel.

A series of red lights above the dashboard flash on when the driver signals incorrectly, brakes too slowly, or begins to sport a heavy foot on the gas pedal.

Each "MISTAKE" is then recorded on a central switchboard at the rear of the classroom under the watchful eye of driver education

teachers like John Harrington, who call out to the driver to correct his error.

Each driver education student receives five weeks of instruction including alternate days of lectures, practical road experience and a turn on the simulators. Most classes are filled to capacity.

The procedure for using the simulators goes like this: after a few minutes of discussing textbooks, Harrington gives the cue to man the machines. Each student immediately finds his designated machine, reports any malfunctions, fastens both his seat and shoulder belts and turns on the ignition.

Then the films start to roll, depicting "everything from driving at night and in the rain

to expressway driving, driving in suburban areas and handling any hazardous situations that may arise," says Harrington.

Students must follow the narrator's commands as each film is shown at the front of the class, braking when the driver on the screen brakes, accelerating when he accelerates, and so on.

All driving on the simulators is done on "automatic," although students learn to shift manually during the last week of class, Harrington says.