

# the farmington enterprise & observer

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

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## today's hot line

Vol. 83 No. 37 28 Pages 3 Sections

## what's inside

### Gauntlet Thrown

Aldo Vagnozzi, Farmington Board of Education member, has thrown the gauntlet before Bruce Duke. Vagnozzi has said he would resign from the school board if Duke is able to prove charges he has made against the school board.

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### Bussing Rally

An anti-bussing meeting has been scheduled Tuesday night in Farmington High School. A report on the meeting includes an update on Tri-County Citizens' efforts to intervene in the Detroit schools desegregation suit.

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### Ecology In News

Ecology continues to make news with a scout troop collecting newspapers to aid a young girl, the arrival of the Papermobile run by Earth Alive this weekend, and two ecology pictures taken by Farmington residents which have won prizes.

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### Appointment

A priest well known in Redford and Farmington has been picked for an important job in the Detroit Archdiocese. You can find him on our Church Page.

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### Missionaries

They'll come from all around the world to attend a conference at a church in Farmington. Find out when to hear them on our Church Page.

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## FOCUS: Suburbia

It won't be long before the first crocus shows its bright bloom from under the winter sod. For all that's new in landscaping and gardening read today's FOCUS: Suburbia.

# Trustees Establish Election On 3.5 Mills For One Year

The Farmington Board of Education, acting on what President Richard Peters called "probably the single most important item of business the board will deal with this year," has agreed to ask the voters for an extra 3.5 mills in property taxes for the 1972-73 school year.

The election, set for April 24, will ask voters to increase their property taxes by \$3.50 per \$1,000 in state equalized valuation for one year.

Peters conceded that confusion over bussing for integration and over possible state financing of public schools through added income taxes has clouded the likelihood for passage of any new millage for schools.

But he emphasized the funds are being sought for the school year beginning September 1972, whereas neither bussing nor state financing, in his opinion, will be imposed before September 1973, if at all.

THE ONE year's added tax, he said, would be a "stopping measure to stop the continuing erosion of the program we have" and prevent "allowing a disaster to happen to our district while waiting for some other way to be bailed out."

Only one of the seven school board trustees, Mrs. Betty Brennan, voted against seeking the added millage.

Mrs. Brennan explained

that her loyalties lie with those who oppose sex education in the schools. She claimed they elected her, and that she could not support millage as long as sex education was retained.

"I do not agree with some of the charges made by a few individuals that the (school) monies are being recklessly spent," Mrs. Brennan said in a statement.

"I have carefully studied the expenditures of the present budget and would agree that every dollar of it is being prudently allocated."

But sex education fees have agreed, she said, to oppose millage until the program is removed and she added: "It is to these people that I feel my loyalties must lie, and I do not intend to violate the trust they have placed in me."

IN SEPARATE action, the board unanimously endorsed Mrs. Brennan's motion to take "strong action" in appealing to the governor and State Legislature for increased property tax exemption for senior citizens.

Board members called the 3.5 mills a compromise between the 1.5 mills needed simply to continue the present school program, already "vastly" reduced from two years ago, and the 1.5 mills it would take to restore program in full.

The two mills beyond the basic 1.5 would restore part of

the eroded program, but not all, they said.

Some in the audience suggested splitting the proposal into two parts, one seeking 1.5 mills and the other two mills. Others proposed going for the full 4.3 mills the board said was needed.

BUT THE BOARD stuck to its decision to seek 3.5 mills, explaining it had reached the figure after consultations with the Citizens School Advisory Council and its finance subcommittee, and PTA Council, and representatives of bargaining units for school employees.

"They made it easier for us to reach our decision," said Trustee Kenneth Perrin. "We owe them a debt of thanks for their assistance."

Trustee Aldo Vagnozzi argued that the district needed to go beyond the basic 1.5 mills necessary to maintain the status quo in order to guard against "the kind of unexpected blows we have had the past few years."

He cited, as an example, the Michigan Supreme Court decision that schools must furnish books and supplies, a decision which cost Farmington \$50,000.

He also reminded the audience that after last year's budget was adopted, the state "came back and took away" some of the state school aid it had voted earlier.

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OTTAWA DISTRICT Boy Scouts, including many troops from Farmington, flocked to the oak-covered hills of Kensington Park recently for "Operation Polar Bear," a winter event that all scout districts conduct to teach cold-weather camping skills and survival. A typical group at the Sunset District's recent "Chinook '72" event was the Panther Patrol of Troop 400, sponsored by the Latter-Day Saints Church in Livonia. From left: Fred Deutsch, Mike Schreiner, Chip Browne and Chad Niefeldt. (Observer photo by Bob Woodring)

## David Comfort Resigns As Director Of YMCA



DAVID L. COMFORT

Dave Comfort has resigned as executive director of the Farmington Area YMCA to accept a position as director of the Grand Rapids West YMCA.

Comfort has submitted his letter of resignation, sold his home, and is spending this weekend looking for a home in Grand Rapids for his wife and two children.

He expressed sadness in leaving Farmington but speaks with enthusiasm about the new position in Grand Rapids.

IN SEPTEMBER, 1965, Comfort became the first executive director of the Farmington Area YMCA.

During his almost seven years of leadership here, the local 'Y' has increased membership to about 1,500, developed a full camp and Indian Guide program, has seen community contributions double, and has broken ground on the first permanent YMCA building.

He will now become executive director of the Grand Rapids West Branch which is the second largest in that city. The branch has a swimming pool, double gymnasium, healthy club,

a membership of about 5,000, and 24 full-time employees.

WHILE cleaning his desk in the temporary YMCA offices at Grand River and Halstead, Comfort commented:

"A YMCA program will not suffer just because its executive director or a staff member leaves and Farmington YMCA will continue with a strong program."

"A YMCA staff is here to help guide, give leadership and develop the daily operation of the 'Y' and the real test is what happens in the areas of program services, lay leadership and community support."

Comfort said the Indian Guide and Camp programs are well-established and their success can be measured by what has happened to persons in these programs.

The board of directors, he added, is composed of outstanding community representatives who will continue to move the 'Y' forward in Farmington.

Comfort adds that community support is strong in Farmington with good financial backing from individuals, businesses and service clubs.

"I have enjoyed providing leadership and guidance for six years and eight months in Farmington and am sad to leave but very excited about this new career opportunity."

"I am very proud of the progress Farmington has made, particularly the start on the new building. I hope to hear from Farmington often as I pursue my career in YMCA and am proud to have been part of its development as its first executive director."

COMFORT is past president and vice-president of the Rotary Club of Farmington and a board member of the Farmington Area Advisory Council.

Before coming to Farmington, Comfort was youth director of the South Oakland YMCA in Royal Oak. He was born in Boston, attended high school in Louisville, Ky., and received his BS in 1961 from Springfield College, Mass.

He belonged to the Farmington Area Jaycees and was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Farmington.

He and wife Dianne have two children, Andrew, 3½, and Rebekah, 18 months.

## School Administrators Become Ambassadors

Dr. Roderick J. Smith, superintendent of schools, Farmington Schools, has been making a point to get out into the community and meet with parents, students and staff members.

Since November, he and school officials have met with several hundred parents, mostly mothers of elementary school children, in "coffee clatches," in private homes and in schools.

They have also stopped in to visit students and teachers in their classrooms.

"It is something I have wanted to do for a long time," says Smith. "I just had to clear the calendar for several days and get out to the buildings."

MOST superintendents and many administrators, Smith adds, are too far away from the classroom — where the real action is — and "it is our benefit to know the staff, the children and their parents."

"Education is a continuing living process. It is most important to learn what

people are thinking, what they like and dislike, so we can answer these questions and plan a better education program with their help."

Other school administrators also consider school visits with students, teachers and parents a top priority item.

LARRY FREEDMAN, director of elementary education, recently attended a special play prepared and conducted by Mrs. Lee DiMaio



ROUND TABLE — The first meeting of Farmington School's Round Table discussions between students, administrators and board members was held recently and attended by (from left) Jill Schneberger, Farmington High student; Dr. Mervyn Ross, board of education; Supt. Roderick J. Smith; Lewis Schulman, Harrison principal; and Steven Piche, North Farmington High student. (Evert photo)

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