

Council Considering Budget With 3/4 Mill Tax Increase

By EMORY DANIELS

The City of Farmington's tax rate may go up by three-quarters of a mill for 1972-73 to \$3.25 per \$1,000 equalized valuation.

Robert Deadman, acting city manager, told the city council Monday night that to maintain services at current levels, it will be necessary to raise the city's operating levy by 0.75 mills or 75 cents per \$1,000 state equalized valuation.

The recommendation was made in the proposed budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1. Indications are the council will agree to the tax hike after holding steady sessions and conducting a public hearing.

The proposed budget represents a total revenue requirement of \$1,150,535 with a deficiency of \$7,220 which must be dealt with by raising the millage rate or reducing expenditures.

The city presently levies 8.5 mills, which includes the 1 1/2 mills collected for the Farmington Public Library district.

A "STUDY" session among councilmen will be April 11. It will be a closed meeting with the public and press barred.

The public hearing will be held sometime in May, probably on May 11. The city charter requires adoption of the budget by the third Monday in May, or by May 15.

Oakland County for the operation of city services. "As the cost of operation increases and a growing population places additional demands on central city services, we find no alternative but to increase the tax rate to meet these rising costs."

"Reserve funds have been reduced to a minimum within this budget allowing only limited funding for unexpected occurrences during the budget year."

Included in the budget is \$8,000 to qualify for \$32,000 of state and federal aid for completing phase two of the Drake Road Park. That phase includes expansion of the picnic area, improved lighting

The city is entering the second year of a three-year contract with its Department of Public Services which calls for an 8.5 per cent increase in base wages for 1972-73.

The city is still negotiating with the Department of Public Safety but expects to stay within Federal Pay Board guidelines and negotiate a 5.5 per cent increase for most job classifications. The budget was written on this assumption, Deadman said.

"In comparing the requested 9.25 mills with other Oakland County cities," the city of Farmington will continue to maintain one of the lowest tax rates within

of baseball diamond, construction of restrooms and a storage building, tennis courts and construction of a paved parking lot.

THE DEPARTMENT OF Public Safety has been limited in the capital outlay budget to replacement of six vehicles with more than 50,000 miles and construction of a six-bay carport.

The Department of Public Services will be allowed to replace its utility tractor, build storage bins for road gravel, salt and other road materials, buy an earth drill for street sign installation, and acquire foul-weather gear lockers for employees.

In 1970-71, the city spent a total of \$1,027,000 and this past year budgeted \$1,135,000. The projected budget for 1972-73 shows an estimated expenditure of \$1,150,535.

Police salaries account for \$291,900 in the current budget but are expected to rise to a total of \$311,900 for the next fiscal year providing negotiators agree to the 5.5 per cent pay hike.

The 9.25 mills, if approved by council, will be levied against a tax base of \$61.6 million.

In 1967-68, the city levied 11 mills and reduced that to 10 mills the following year. In 1969-70, another reduction was made to nine mills and then to 8.5 the next year.

Last year, City Manager John Dinn recommended a half-mill increase but the council decided to hold the line and kept the rate at 8.5 mills.

The city's surplus funds are depleted, however, and it is expected that this year the council will agree that a tax hike is needed and is likely to approve the three-quarter mill increase.

In fiscal year 1970-71, for instance, the city had an operating balance (surplus) from the previous year of \$54,770, but that surplus was reduced to an estimated \$26,770 for this fiscal year. The proposed budget, with the tax hike included, would provide an estimated surplus of only \$5,415 at year's end.

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today's hot line

Volume 83, NO. 50

what's inside

Crumbling Walls

Suburbs all over the nation have set up legal barriers to housing for the poor, blacks, the young, the old. But Joseph Kraft, prominent political writer, says those walls are being cracked by federal policies and court rulings. We've devoted our entire Editorial Viewpoints Page today to his article.

Page 16B

Shop At Home

Farmington Township is beginning its annual spring tree sale and has six species of trees to choose from with prices ranging from \$12 to \$19. Shop at home by using the coupon inside.

Page 3A

A Photo Hunt

Almost all parents in Farmington with youngsters were in Farmington City Park Saturday morning for the Easter egg hunt. You will find lots of pictures inside of the Easter Bunny, but you might find A Picture of him holding your child.

Pages 3A, 7-8A, 9B, 8-9C

Shape Up Or . . .

Area motorists driving cars with defective equipment or with an improper operator's license ought to get things in order soon. City of Farmington police are welcoming the warm weather by getting outside with their mandatory vehicle inspection program.

Page 7A

What's The Debt?

What do we owe our children, a rabbi was asked recently. His answers, in a recent talk, may surprise you. The story is in our Women's Section.

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RABBITS ARE often accused of being over-productive, but in Farmington Saturday morning, the humans far outnumbered the Easter Bunny when he arrived at Farmington City Park for the annual Easter egg hunt sponsored by the Farmington Area Jaycees. (Evert photo)

Annual Flooding Now Is Met With Some Humor By Victims

By CRAIG GAFFIELD

Part of Kenwood St. near Eight Mile in the township has gone to the fish, at least, local residents agree. The "lake" has existed long enough for the fish to find it.

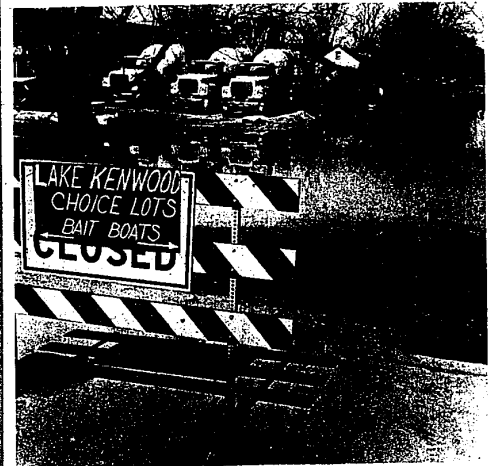
A PLUGGED storm drain has left the street covered with a four-foot depth of water covering about half a block.

A self-help program composed of concerned neighbors was begun some time ago to fix the drain, but the project became plugged also.

Elmer Wendow, owner of the Elmer the Welder Shop, finds that each year the lakeshore reaches his front door and decided to approach township hall about whether the tide could be prevented from rolling that far inland.

The board backed off when residents declined paying for 80 per cent of a larger drain project to run a large pipe underneath Eight Mile and relocate the lake in Livonia.

Wendow decided to band with a few neighbors and fix the plugged drain at their own expense, but found themselves in a legal bind because the drain is on Oakland County property and, therefore, the county is responsible for any accidents that might happen.



DEDICATE LAKE - Farmington residents are organizing the "Surf and Turf" club and are inviting the township board to set the date for a proper dedication ceremony on the shoreline of "scenic" Lake Kenwood. (Photo by Craig Gaffield)

Yacht Club Envisioned

"Commodore" John Gabrys announces this week that the "Lake Kenwood Surf and Turf Club" is organizing and is offering charter memberships to all Farmington residents.

Organizers are excited because the "Surf and Turf" club will be the first, and most probably the only, yacht club in the Farmington area.

Some of the many highlights planned for the upcoming season include a bathing beauty contest, which will be entitled the "Kitty, the Kenwood Critter" contest.

THE CLUB, in its formative stages, is offering a "nautical" this year with many contests being planned which all residents will be encouraged to enter, even non-members.

MEANWHILE, club members and future members should start thinking up good ideas for a monument, Gabrys says, and submit them to: Harbormaster, 20817 Sunnysdale, Farmington, 48024.

Another delight will be the contest for decorating two recently vacated outhouses to be used as HIS and HERS bathrooms for the Kenwood Lake beach. A judge for this competition has already been picked and will be announced later.

As part of the club dedication ceremonies, a monument will be erected on the site of "Lake Kenwood" with a plaque inscribed with all the names of the present Farmington Township Board.

Gabrys announces that membership in the club is free and those interested in joining should write the harbormaster.

Winners of all contests will be announced at one of the community's local annual events because, the commodore concludes, "I fully realize we cannot keep all the wonders of Farmington Township all to ourselves and so we intend to continue to make public all colorful events."

THE SAVINGS ADD UP!

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