

the farmington enterprise & observer

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

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Record Turnout Denies Tax By Margin Of 205 Votes

It's Relay Time

It's this weekend - the Observerland Track Relays. A total of 18 schools vie for the area crown at Redford Union's track at Lola Valley junior high on Saturday with the gates opening at 5 p.m. For the complete rundown on the meet, flip to Tom Donoghue's story in today's sport section.

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Big Week Coming

May is nearly here, and that means the annual observance of National Music Week, a big occasion in Farmington, and the Farmington Musicales each year plays a leadership role. A complete pictorial and news report is provided inside.

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Our Share

A revenue sharing bill is being reported out of the House Ways and Means Committee in Washington, and Congressman Jack McDonald has calculated Livonia's and Farmington's shares.

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Foes Organizing

Thursday night's meeting of the Farmington Township Planning Commission should be jam-packed with residents as two groups of homeowners are organizing: one to oppose cluster housing near Olde Franklin, another to speak against expansion of the Flamingo Trailer Park on Middle Belt.

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C'ville Doin's

An old-fashioned variety show for kids... a Band Boosters announcement... a spring carnival. We keep Clarenceville covered because a lot is going on.

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Youth Who Help

The Farmington Community Center's annual fund-raising is under way and a report inside tells of the many youth who have helped stuff thousands of envelopes to potential contributors.

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"75 cents, please"

Your Observer carrier will ask for three extra nickels this month when he comes by to collect. As a young business man, he's faced by the problems of rising costs, and the extra 15 cents will help him increase his earnings and give him the incentive to continue good delivery to you. And it's a bargain for you, too, since getting your hometown newspaper at regular newsstand prices would cost you an extra 45 cents! Be sure to ask your carrier for a receipt - it will insure regular delivery of your hometown newspaper. And it's worth face value toward an Observer want ad!

By SANDRA ARMBRUSTER

The Farmington Board of Education plans to "recognize the feeling of our community as expressed in the election, and continue to provide the best education with the resources we have."

With that statement, Richard Peters, board president, resigned himself and the board to defeat of the millage proposal by 205 votes.

In the largest voter turnout for a school election of any type, Farmington residents defeated the 3.5 mills for one year proposal on the ballot by a vote of 6,185 to 5,980.

MORE THAN 12,000 persons voted in the four school

district precincts; defeating the millage question in Precinct One by 1,599 to 1,471 and in Precinct Four by 1,714 to 1,497. The total vote in last August's millage election was 8,450.

Altogether 344 absentee ballots were cast, also defeating the proposition by eight votes. School officials said many of the absentee ballots were cast by college students voting for the first time.

Although many school officials also believed that the large voter turnout would forecast a victory, Peters said the defeat was "apparently the result of concerns in the community centering on

bussing or the taxation issues."

BOARD TRUSTEE Aldo Vagozzi added that a victory was "partially blunted again by a last-minute smear sheet. 'The freedom of speech covers many things including the right to distort and deceive. That's one of the prices we pay in a democracy. Hopefully, in the end it even out and truth prevails,' he said referring to literature distributed this weekend by MOTORDE, the local John Birch Society committee."

"The board is always in the position of providing the best education with the resources we have. We will continue to

do that and provide a balanced budget," continued Peters. "We'll make the dollars go as far as we can, but there will be cutbacks made in such a manner as to least damage the program."

DEFEAT of the millage will affect \$1,640,000 of the \$17 million budget which Farmington submitted to the Oakland County Tax Allocation Board for next year.

Although the district's business manager, William Prisk, said the budget won't have to be resubmitted to the county board, Supt. Roderick Smith explained that the proposed budget will be ad-

justed to reflect the millage defeat as well as the results of the county board meeting and state aid allocations.

Dr. Smith predicted that it will be "several weeks before any final decision is made."

The student-teacher ratio, sports and extra-curricular activities are expected to be affected by the millage defeat in addition to the areas of programs, materials, supplies, repairs and maintenance which were restricted when a millage proposal was defeated last August.

Dr. Smith echoed the board's attitude: "Obviously, we will carry on the best program with the funds we have. It's unfortunate that

many citizens who voted have no direct effect from the election."

While explaining that he was "extremely disappointed that the community has higher priorities than the educational system," Peters lauded the "great amount of work" done during the millage campaign with "far more community effort."

In order to shorten long lines encountered in last August's millage election, school officials hired more poll workers and divided the waiting lines into two at the heavy precincts during Monday's election.

Abowd Wins Region Citizenship Award



James Abowd of Farmington was announced winner of the Soroptimist midwestern regional citizenship competition Saturday in Dayton, Ohio.

Abowd was picked citizenship winner by the Farmington Soroptimists and received a \$50 cash award from the local club. He received a \$1,000 cash award Saturday for winning the regional competition and is now eligible for the national Soroptimist award to be announced in July.

THE MIDWESTERN Region covers seven states, Michigan, Wisconsin, Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Pennsylvania and Kentucky.

Abowd is the first Farmington youth to win the regional award and is believed to be the first from Michigan. The winner of the national competition, which includes



JAMES ABOWD

Canada, will receive a cash award of \$1,500. The cash is given as grants which may be used as the recipient sees fit.

Abowd, son of Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Abowd of 12 Mile, has applied for admission to Notre Dame and plans to use the money earned to date to finance his college education.

Abowd moved to his present address on 12 Mile in Wood Creek Farms with his family in 1959. He attended Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic High School until it closed this past fall and plans to graduate from Harrison High School of Farmington Public Schools this fall.

AT SORROWS, he was elected freshman class president and was a member of the Sorrows student council for two years, including one year as vice president.

He is currently president of the Harrison Student Council and a member of the Round Table, the Farmington Board of Education's council of student, board and administrative representatives created to discuss student problems.

As a member of the Michigan Student Congress, Abowd was the only sophomore allowed to attend and won top speaker awards for three years. This year, he served as the Congress speaker of the House.

region competition four times, state champion once, Wayne Oakland League champ once and was rated 15th in the nation.

ABOWD HAS also been active in Junior Achievement for the past four years. He was twice officer of the year in the Southeast Michigan Region, finished second once and was in the national semi-finals.

He has keynoted Future Unlimited dinners twice, was twice a member of the Achievers Association, a toastmaster, member of the Advisory Council, speaker of the year, Mr. Executive and coordinator of the winter arts festival for JA.

In addition to the Soroptimists' local citizenship award, Abowd has won the Optimist Club's speaking award. He attended Wolverine Boy's State as keynote for the convention and as president pro-tem of the Senate.

For the past two years, he has worked as a volunteer for the Sarah Fisher orphan home in Wood Creek Farms.

He has a letter in track at Sorrows and played basketball, tennis and soccer there. He was a roving reporter for the "Midnight Oil," Sorrows' newspaper, and was on the yearbook staff and pep club. He is now chairman of the Sorrows Teen Club.

Abowd has been a debater and forensics star for three years at Sorrows and this year at Harrison. He was a novice league champ once, a Detroit Catholic forensics league champ four times, a Genesis reading festival winner twice, a champion at district and

Franklin Drowns

James E. Franklin, 45, of 2124 Jefferson, Farmington Township, was found dead Sunday morning in a creek running behind the Flamingo Trailer Court at 22600 Middle Belt in the township.

Franklin's body was found lying in the creek at about 10:10 a.m. Sunday, April 23, by township police.

Ronald Holko, director of public safety for the township, says determination of cause of death is awaiting autopsy reports. The case is still under investigation.

The creek which runs behind the trailer court is one of the tributaries of the Rouge River.

Court Rules Against Cityhood Vote Delay

By EMORY DANIELS

Oakland County Circuit Judge William Beer has decided against issuing delaying the May 16 incorporation election for Farmington Township.

Township trustees were informed of Beer's action at a special May cleanup job to the Township Board of Trustees on Monday night's board meeting at which they voted to endorse the cityhood question and urged residents to vote "yes" on incorporation.

At the same meeting, trustees voted to award the special May cleanup job to the Taulbee Sanitation Co. and to draw up specifications and take bids to obtain a three-year contract for the township's regular monthly pickup.

TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY Joseph T. Brennan told trustees that Judge Beer ruled Monday against granting the injunction delaying the May 16 election as requested by the Village of Quakerown.

Quakerown asked for an injunction when it filed a suit against the State Boundary Commission for its decision against excluding the

village from the proposed incorporation.

Beer ruled against Brennan's request that the lawsuit be dismissed but ruled the election would be held with the suit heard later.

Judge Beer stipulated he would ask Circuit Judge Frederick J. Ziem to conduct the suit because Ziem had presided over the previous litigation on whether two villages could be joined with a township into a home-rule city by the process of incorporation.

Brennan had been instructed by the township's board to intervene in the suit to represent the township's interests. In an unusual turn of events, Brennan obtained permission from State Attorney General Frank Kelley to represent the Boundary Commission as defendant.

BECAUSE THE Boundary Commission does not conduct elections, Brennan explained, it would be difficult to explain that body from holding the May 16 election.

By entering the case as defense for the state, Brennan continued, it prevented any

possibility of the injunctions being issued because the township conducts the election.

Brennan added that he believed the lawsuit is shallow and will not stand up once it comes up for full hearing by Ziem, if he consents to hear the case, or Beer.

Brennan had asked that the township be allowed to enter the suit as party defendant, but Quakerown Attorney Howard Bond refused to agree to that stipulation. After that refusal, Kelley agreed to allow Brennan to act as counsel for the state.

EARLIER in the meeting, the board voted 5-4, with one abstention, to endorse the cityhood question and urge passage by residents.

Supervisor Earl Teeples obtained, explaining that he felt the board should not take stands on positions to be decided by the electorate. Trustee Margaret Schaefer was absent because she is in New Grace Hospital, Detroit.

Motion to endorse the cityhood question was made by Trustee Earl Oppenhaus who voted in favor along with

Clerk Floyd Cairns, Treasurer Thomas Nolan, and trustees Fred Lichtman and David Stader.

Oppenhaus noted that the township form of government is an inefficient vehicle to administer urban affairs. The township is a well-planned community, he continued, and failure to approve incorporation would result in attempts to annex territories necessary for the township's orderly growth.

Oppenhaus's motion urged a "yes" vote on cityhood to preserve the township's borders and protect its planning.

The motion also urged residents to study the quality of charter commission candidates and elect those best qualified to write a charter to serve the needs of future citizens.

TAULBEE SANITATION Co. was awarded the contract for the May Cleanup after submitting a low bid of \$14,000. The only other bidder was Willard Sanitation, which quoted a price of \$15,950. The

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Observer Announces Price Change

Monthly home delivery price of the Farmington Enterprise & Observer will be increased by 15 cents, effective this month.

Announcement was made by Publisher Philip H. Power, who explained that the price change was made necessary by rapidly rising costs. He added that it would enable Enterprise & Observer carriers to increase their earnings and provide incentive for better delivery to their customers.

Power pointed out that at 75 cents per month, home delivery of the Farmington Enterprise & Observer represents a savings of 45 cents per month under regular newsstand price.

Power explained that the price change was fully in accordance with federal regulations dealing with Phase II of the president's wage-price stabilization program.