

# the farmington enterprise & observer

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

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today's hot line

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what's inside

## All-Area Teams

Post season honors continue to mount for Observerland athletes with the All-Area Hockey Teams and Wrestling Teams being announced in today's papers. For the complete sports picture, turn to today's sport section.

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## Eagles Saluted

Farmington took most of the honors at a dinner honoring local eagle scouts. We were there to cover the event, and the story is on:

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## C'Ville Honored

Clarenceville students won a double set of honors. A pair of seniors ran one-two in the Soroptimist citizenship competition, and the junior high bands won rave reviews in a music festival.

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## How Fares Congress?

Not too well, says Mrs. Jane Hart, but she has some therapeutic suggestions. She voiced her views to the League of Women Voters, and you can read them in today's Observing Life.

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## OCC's Bait

Like most community colleges, the Orchard Ridge campus of OCC lost some students this semester. But college officials are fishing all the harder for more students and trying different kinds of bait.

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FLAMES outline the snorkel truck from the City of Farmington attempting to dampen the blaze at Irving's Furniture at Eight Mile and Grand River.

Thursday night. (Photo by Ralph Evert)

# 5-Alarm Blaze Demolishes Township Furniture Store



A WALL collapses with a burst of flame. Smoke blackened the sky and made it appear the sun had set early. (Photo by Ralph Evert)

A spectacular blaze demolished Irving's Furniture store, Eight Mile and Grand River, Thursday, in a five-alarm fire, the biggest in several years in Farmington.

Oyner Irving Rosenberg, 29754 Rock Ledge, Farmington, was in the store, along with his brother Max and some employees and customers when the fire broke out.

He told the township fire department he noticed smoke coming from the area around the incinerator at the rear of the store. Efforts to put it out with blankets and water failed.

Volunteers from Wheeler station got to the scene about 6:30 p.m. Thursday evening, but the fire had already burned through the roof and was well on its way to completely destroying the building.

"We could have had a thousand men and we couldn't have saved it," one fireman said.

No one was injured, but Sgt. William Roberts and Hinz Apriorius of the township fire department were treated for smoke inhalation.

Estimates of the damage, which included the store and contents, were not available at press time.

The blaze brought out equipment from Redford Township, Southfield and West Bloomfield, as well as the snorkel truck from the City of Farmington. There were 56 township men fighting the fire.

West Bloomfield covered the north end fire barns while township equipment was at the fire.

# School Tax Renewal Passes 3-1

By MARTHA MAHAN

Farmington School District voters have agreed to extend a five mill property tax levy for another 10 years to support education.

The vote was 3,553 in favor of the renewal and 1,251 against, for a 3-1 majority. Each precinct in the district voted for the extension.

However, only 4,804 of the district's 33,180 voters, went to the polls Monday. They represented 15 per cent of the electorate.

School Supt. Marinus Van Ameyde expressed himself as "naturally delighted that the citizens wish to continue the excellent program we now have."

However, he remarked he is "always, as an educator, concerned that so few make decisions for so many."

"It was the support, really, of our employe' groups, PTAs, Citizens Councils and the press that made this (millage approval) possible," Van Ameyde said.

Board of Education President Kenneth Perrin said he was "very, very pleased" at the result.

"I think the vote showed the community is willing to support the schools through local taxes in hopes of retaining local control," he said.

"I think it also is an endorsement by the community of recent board action in making organizational changes," Perrin apparently referred to the recent termination of the contract of former School Supt. Roderick Smith and his

replacement with Van Ameyde.

"I think the people believe we do have a good school system and have confidence in that system and are willing to support it now," Perrin went on.

"At least these are the things I read into the rather overwhelming vote of approval," he said.

The five mills is expected to provide \$1.82 million for the coming school year, or about 10 per cent of the \$18.5

million projected 1973-74 budget.

However, just how much schools will have to spend next year won't be known until the legislature passes a state aid bill.

"We have a tentative, tentative, tentative projected budget now," Van Ameyde said.

"If our income approximates the tentative budget with any decency at all, we ought to be able to do without additional millage."

At the same time, the superintendent said it would not be "fair" to community not to acknowledge that a budget review will come "when we know what state aid is."

# Township Park Sale Takes A Legal Twist

A peculiar twist of the law has placed the final decision on whether to build a senior citizen housing project on Farmington Township's five-acre park squarely in the hands of a group apparently opposed to the sale.

The township housing commission was nearly ready to announce the sale of the parcel at the northwest corner of Glen Oaks Golf Course for \$120,000 as a site for a 10-11 story building for Farmington's senior citizens when Trustee Earl Opperhausen announced the surprising twist.

A legal opinion from the township attorney indicated it was not within the power of the township board to sell township parkland. This has to be done by a parks commission.

A parks commissioner is normally an elective office in a township, but lack of inter-story building for Farmington commission's demise several years ago. In its place has been a four-member advisory parks committee with no official power.

Several members of this committee, including Chairman Herman Moehlan and Dorothy Cox, who is also president of the Farmington Naturalists, spoke in opposition to the park sale before



TOWNSHIP PARK -- This is a view of the five-acre parcel at the northwest corner of the Glen Oaks Golf Course. (Evert photo)

Continued on 2A