

# Logjam Ends, State OK's School Bonds

Finding a months-long deadlock, the Michigan Municipal Finance Commission has given Farmington School District permission to float two bond issues totaling \$6.1 million.

The bonds will finance pools, auditoriums and other work at the district's two high schools and work at Power Junior High and Forest Elementary schools.

A \$3.1 million bond issue was approved by voters in June of 1966, and a \$3 million issue passed in November of 1965. Farmington School District originally asked the MMFC, state government's watchdog over local borrowing, last August for approval to sell the bonds. But a deadlock on the commission held up state approval.

The required unanimous approval came last week. The conflict was resolved in favor of the position taken by Farmington and other school districts across the state.

FARMINGTON had originally expected to sell the bonds during November 1966. The date has now been set for June 26 at 8 p.m.

The addition of teaching facilities at Farmington High School was originally scheduled to open in September 1966. Harrison said that, while the district would "desperately" need the additional classrooms in September, he did not really think the deadline could be met.

The Board took bids on the construction several weeks ago and had held off awarding a

contract until it was certain that the bond application would be approved. Construction was first scheduled to begin in May.

Completion date for the pools and auditoriums was originally scheduled for Jan. 1, 1969.

WHAT HAPPENED in the MMFC was a 2-1 split on a proposed policy change which would have required that the school districts levy not only

the required seven mills for debt retirement, but half of whatever additional millage has been approved to pay for the debt service costs.

Favoring the higher tax policy change were the MMFC's two non-school members—Atorney Gen. Frank J. Kelley and State Treasurer Allison Green. Blocking the change, which required unanimous ap-

proval, was Superintendent of Public Instruction Ira Polley. The conflict was resolved, according to Polley's office, when the other two members last week agreed to stick to the original seven-mill rule, at least for a two-year period.

Supt. Harrison and other educators across the state had objected to the proposed policy change on the ground the MMFC

would be amending state law without legislative authority and upsetting the district's financing plans.

Farmington school officials had promised voters in 1965 that, if they approved an operating tax increase, the schools would reduce the debt service tax rate one mill per year for four years.

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## One Trustee Spot, Millage Question on Monday's Ballot



FIVE OF THE SIX candidates for the Farmington Board of Education attended a League of Women Voters candidates night Wednesday at Farmington Junior High School. Chaired by Mrs. Marion Gagahan (standing), the meeting was held to give candidates an opportunity to explain their positions to the voters. At the speak-

ers' table were (left to right) Sanford Bloomberg, George F. Adams, Harold H. Taylor, Jr., Mrs. William Smith, LWV moderator, Albert R. Lorenger and Mrs. Mary D. Johnson. The sixth candidate, Sidney Brown, was not present at the meeting.

One seat on the Farmington Board of Education and a half-mill tax levy for area vocational education centers in the County are on the ballot of the annual school election Monday.

The polls open at 7 a.m. and close at 8 p.m. Any person in line at the 8 p.m. closing time will be allowed to vote.

About 15 per cent of the District's 19,041 registered voters are expected to go to the polls. Last June 3, 616 of the 18,802 registered voted.

A MAP of the location of the polling spots, along with a complete guide to the candidates prepared by the Farmington chapter of the League of Women Voters appears on page 5A of this edition of the Enterprise & Observer.

Six candidates have filed for the one vacant spot on the Board. The incumbent trustee, Barbara Ann Brown, did not file for re-election. Seeking the four-year term are George F. Adams, 20158 Fernhill. Sidney Brown, 23380 Old Franklin Dr.; Sanford Bloomberg, 29570 Pipers Lane; Mary D. Johnson, 1245 Gold Spring Rd., Birmingham; Albert R. Lorenger, 30190 Pipers Lane Ct.; and Harold H. Taylor Jr., 22243 Brookdale.

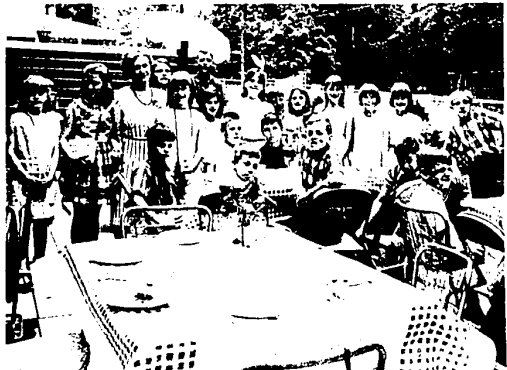
All registered voters in the Farmington School District are eligible to vote for the trustee candidate, but only property owners will be allowed to vote on the millage question.

The half mill levy, if approved, would provide for the construction and operation of vocational centers in each of the four quadrants of the county.

A MAJORITY of the voters throughout the county must approve the millage if the centers are to be established.

Farmington Superintendent of Schools Gerald V. Harrison told the Enterprise & Observer that the existing vocational education facilities would be used to capacity before the construction of additional centers.

The four centers would be operated in the school district in which they are located, but all the costs would be met by



MRS. EDWENA MCCLUSKEY, retiring from Kenbrook School after teaching for 21 years, 14 of them in Farmington, received a rousing send off from her fourth grade pupils. The children gave her a patio party June 6 at the home of Mrs. Irving Bishop, 32046 Bonnet Hill Rd. It will be an event Mrs. McCluskey will long remember, along with many other school memories.

## Schools Fete Them 13 Persons Retiring After 222 Long Years

A total of 222 years of school experience were represented at the retirement and installation dinner co-sponsored by the Farmington Education Association and the Board of Education Tuesday night at Luncheon Junior High School.

Thirteen people connected with Farmington schools were honored at the dinner, including retiring Supt. Gerald V. Harrison, who has spent 32 years in education, 20 of them in Farmington.

The others are: Josephine Birdsall, 18 years a teacher, five in Farmington; Louis Bowlers, maintenance department, 18 years of service; Loretta Brennan, retiring from Eagle, teacher for 30 years, 24 in Farmington; Elizabeth Crickshank, bus driver for 10 years; Elizabeth Harrison, food manager at 10 Mile School, eight years in Farmington.

A former president of the Farmington Education Association, Shell has many interests, which include fishing, skiing, hiking, swimming after a sauna, bicycling and various craft work, which will stand him in good stead during his forthcoming leisure.

Elizabeth Cruckshank, who drove a school bus for 10 years, for a time drove 160 miles a day when she transported special education pupils.

Her most recent schedule has been to drive 92 miles a day from 7 to 9:30 a.m. and 1:45 to 4:15 p.m.



Barbara Brown Looks Back On Seven Years of Service ..... 2A  
 Church feature ..... 6A  
 Editorial Page ..... 4A  
 League of Women Voters' Guide to School Board Candidates ..... 3A  
 Little League Standings Regional News - Section 3 Sports ..... 2B  
 Women's ..... 2B  
 Want Ads ..... Section C

When Snell came to the Farmington district in 1941, there were only 22 teachers. Today there are 700. The junior and senior high schools were combined at the present junior high.

At that time, the gymnasium was considered so outstanding that people came from all over to see it.

There was only one school bus, which Snell drove in the evenings. It was what he calls

Born in Scotland, Mrs. Cruckshank drove an ambulance during World War I and also worked on the railroads with the Red Cross during that time.

IN HER EARLY days with Farmington schools, she drove a red-white and blue bus. And she thinks the kids then were better behaved.

Loretta Brennan, who first taught Farmington children 24 years ago, thinks there's no comparison between today's children and those of the 40's.

## School Candidates Express Their Views at LWV Night

Five Farmington School Board candidates answered four comprehensive questions Wednesday night at the League of Women Voters candidates night at Farmington Junior High.

Wet weather may have cut down the turnout of voters. Excluding league members, nineteen people were in the audience—three of them incumbent School Board members.

Q. How do you view collective bargaining right for teachers?

A. Taylor - A solution to the present problem in Farmington could be provided sooner if the Board of Education took a more active role.

Lorenger - Negotiation is a two-way street. The teachers show of solidarity on the hill doesn't belong in negotiations at all. Both sides should break the issues down into points and stick to those points.

Adams - Negotiations are here to stay. Some school districts have employed professional negotiators and Farmington may have to in the future. It is the duty of the board to bargain for the needs and children.

Bloomberg - The show of force on the hill was a group of sincere, desperate teachers who wanted some sign that the board is interested in them. Questions they asked showed the board didn't know what was going on at negotiations.

The superintendent should not be involved in these negotiations. But I believe the board should have a representative acting as mediator at negotiations.

Mrs. Johnson - The negotiation law has impinged on warm, face-to-face relationships. All parties are at fault.

Q. What are the functions of the school board?

A. Adams - Its main function is to represent the citizens.

Taylor - The board makes command decisions concerning school philosophy and fiscal matters.

Mrs. Johnson - The board sets policy.

Lorenger and Bloomberg did not give specific answers to this question, Bloomberg saying he would learn board functioning as they observed.

Q. Since sources of money for schools from the state and federal government are the responsibility of the legislature and the congress, what can be done if the legislature and congress do not provide these necessary funds?

A. Taylor - It has to come from the citizens. A bond

issue would have to be floated. We'd have to have more industry and apartments.

Mrs. Johnson - Local people would have to share the burden.

Lorenger - Bond issues and deficit spending should be a last resort. We should commit ourselves to a pay-as-you-go program.

Bloomberg - Shifts and changes can be made to save money. We should strive for as much excellence as we can afford.

Adams - If fiscal reform doesn't take place, we could be stuck. Forced into it, I would consider deficit spending to save our schools.

## Court Hands Down Four Convictions

Four convictions were handed down in the Oakland County Circuit Court this week in cases originating in the City of Farmington. Awaiting sentencing are:

Thomas E. Robinson, 30554 Elmira, Livonia, on a charge of larceny from an auto. The larceny occurred last October in Farmington. Sentencing is set to five years and five months in jail.

Joseph Dean LaRue of 23095 Floral, Farmington, convicted of molesting a minor child.

Thomas Goodman of 14950 Fairfield, Livonia, who was convicted of not carrying narcotics in a proper container. This is a misdemeanor and carries up to a 90-day jail term.

City Police explained that state law requires that all narcotics obtained by prescription be kept in the prescription bottle. It is illegal to carry the drugs in a pill box or any other container.

Goodwin will be sentenced June 15.

Fredric C. Knight of 28700 Independence, Farmington, convicted of carrying a concealed weapon. City Police stopped Knight's auto at Old Grand River and the Expressway and found a gun in the car. Sentencing has been set for July 5.

There is no sound way to attract quality teachers but the dollar. I think a system of merit pay for teachers could be worked out, although it would be difficult to do it now.

Federal funds are for only supplementary services. More apartment development would only increase the cost of more city services.

When it pours — John King, a Victor Excavating Co. worker, clears a ditch on Willow Drive at Shadylane in Woodbine Subdivision, near 10 Mile and Middlebelt, one of the most severely affected areas as the result of the Tuesday-Wednesday rainstorm. (More pictures and story on Page B-1.)

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## Woodbine Lineman Is Electrocuted

An electrician working on overhead lines was electrocuted June 6 in Farmington Township and pronounced dead on arrival at Botsford General Hospital.

Waino Talo, 60, of Mt. Clemens, was working on lines at 28100 Willowood Trail, when his right arm touched a primary wire.

He was employed by L. E. Meyers Co., Clawson, a firm doing electrical work in Woodbine Subdivision, where the accident occurred.