

# Teacher Contract Outlook Brightening

## Both Sides Are Optimistic on Pact

By SUE SHAUGHNESSY.

Optimism seems to be the new key word for the Farmington teachers and the school's administration in the negotiating sessions for a master contract for the districts' 700 teachers.

At least that's the atmosphere conveyed by both the teachers and Superintendent of Schools Gerald V. Harrison.

The two bargaining teams have recessed for the first two weeks of July, but a schedule of approximately 12 meetings has been set up after the July 15 resumption date.

ONE OF THE ITEMS that has been holding up negotiations in Farmington and throughout the state has been the stalemate in the legislature on fiscal reform.

Thursday morning's agreement in the House has contributed to the optimistic outlook of the teachers; The teachers were pinning their hopes on Senate agreement to the bill in the hopes that then the schools will be in a position to start negotiating on the economic items.

To date the two teams have agreed on a statement of academic freedom and a provision for the practice program along with articles regarding leaves for the following reasons: health, maternity, elective public office, military, Peace Corps service, MEA and NEA offices, and sabbaticals.

The only real change in the leave policy comes under the article covering sabbatical leaves the teachers said.

FEA chief negotiator C.B. Shevbridge explained that the percentage granted sabbaticals has been increased from a half to one per cent of the total teaching staff. He added that the stipend for sabbaticals was set at 30 per cent of the teachers' current salary, a policy which had not been previously spelled out.

A negotiating session to try to arrange some priorities on the question of fringe benefits was scheduled for the evening of June 29.

"FOLLOWING this we hope that we can talk about the economic areas in general," Shevbridge said, "and then will be in a position to begin negotiations on the salary question."

"After this is done the rest of the contract should fall into place," he noted.

The FEA team expressed the opinion that both sides seemed ready to try to spell out an

agreement on the content of the contract, while Harrison told The Enterprise & Observer that he thought "both sides were communicating with each other better."

One of the prime goals for the teachers in the contract is a salary schedule of "10 or fewer steps over the same number of years. The current schedule is 13 steps over 15 years."

The teachers also seek increased salaries at the upper end of the scale and contend that the experienced teacher cannot afford to stay in Farmington.

## \$1.5 Million Grant Goes To OCC

Oakland Community College received two Federal grants this week—one of which will go for construction of buildings at the Orchard Ridge campus in Farmington Township.

According to Congressman Jack McDonald, the funds were released through the provisions of the Higher Education Facilities Act of 1963.

The first grant—\$750,000—will help pay for a \$10 million project in Farmington Township on the college campus.

Plans call for the money to be used in the construction of a new administration building, a fine arts building, a learning resources building and academic portions of a multi-purpose building.

The second grant—also \$750,000—will be used on the Auburn Hills campus in Pontiac Township to help build an \$11.8 million permanent academic building.

## Early Collection

Farmington city residents whose regular trash pickup day is Tuesday should put containers out Monday night this week. Pickup will be made early in the morning Tuesday, July 3.

## No School Monday

The Farmington Public Schools Summer School office has announced that no classes will be held on Monday, July 3. This is due to the July 4 holiday.

On the Monday preceding Memorial Day absenteeism in the school system was about double the usual number. Regular classes were held that day.

## Township Has OK For Bonds

The Michigan Municipal Finance Commission has granted approval to Farmington Township to sell \$600,000 worth of special assessment bonds to construct facilities for the Detroit water system.

Township Supervisor Curtis Hall said that the district served would be the "middle section of the northeast pressure district."

Hall noted that the subdivisions serviced by the system included Farmington Hills, Glen Orchard, Staman Acres, Springfield and Brookhill.

According to the supervisor, it will take the township from 45 to 60 days to draw up the contract, advertise for both the sale of the bonds and the project, and to award the contracts.

"The project will probably be completed in about four months after work starts," Hall said.

Residents of the area will be served by a water line which has just been constructed along 11 Mile Rd. from Inlaker to Orchard Lake Rd.

Cost of the bonds will be paid by special assessments over a 15 year period.

## Little League Team Plays In Windsor

Members of the South Farmington Major League Baseball for Boys Yankee team are participating in the International Freedom's Festival this weekend.

The 12-year-old ballplayers were one of three teams selected to play Little League Baseball with Canadian Little Leaguers as part of the Dominion Day celebration on July 1.

The players participated in a parade in Windsor prior to the game in Jackson Park.

A float inviting all the residents of Windsor to Farmington's Founders Festival was also entered in the parade by the Farmington Board of Commerce.

The Yankees have a 4 win and 1 loss record in the South Farmington Major League.

William Rees is manager of the team, while Iv Vahration is the coach.



THE FOUNDERS FOLLIES were staged Thursday and Friday nights in the Mercy High School auditorium. The Farmington Board of Commerce, sponsors of the Farmington Founders Festival, had the goal of raising more than \$3,000 through the benefit. This picture was taken at one of the dress rehearsals for the Follies early in the week. George Assemany was the director of the show, while Dorothy Seidick was the accompanist.

## College Boosts Tax Levy

By DOUG JOHNSON  
Staff Writer

Taxpayers in Farmington and Farmington Township will pay a few dollars more this year as a result of a one-half mill levy for the Oakland Community College—a levy made without a vote of the people.

The Community College Act of 1966 allows such a levy to retire debts incurred for new buildings. The millage hike was approved by the Board of Trustees

of the college in late spring.

"THE MILLAGE can be placed on the tax bills without a vote. A nearby college, Schoolcraft College, which serves Livonia, Redford, Plymouth, Grosse Pointe City and Northville, was faced with the same decision last spring, but instead went to the voters. Taxpayers approved 77/100th of a mill increase for the retirement of building debts. By law, they could make the levy without the vote.

"We chose to keep faith with the people," Schoolcraft president Eric Brader explained.

Residents of the city should not be surprised by the increase in their July tax bill. People in Farmington Township won't see it until their December tax bills arrive.

The local impact was explained this week by City Manager John Dinan and Curt Hall, Township supervisor.

"In the city we mean 50 cents a thousand on the assessed valuation. That is, if your home is assessed at the average of \$8,000 of \$9,000, you'll pay \$4 or \$4.50," Dinan said.

In the Township it will mean about \$1 per thousand assessed valuation. The cost per thousand is double that of the city because of the State Equalized valuation and the current equalization factor of 2.01, according to Hall.

THOMAS AUCHI, director of business and finance for the college, explains it this way: "A new Michigan law (Public Act 311 of 1966, Community College Act) allows a community college district to levy a tax to pay off any debt-in fact it requires that we do it. Since the college first opened we've incurred certain debts with bond issues."

"The bonds, by state law, may total \$28 million—in our case. We've floated the bonds as far as we can, now we must start to pay them back. The one-half mill will do that."

THE ONE-HALF mill should not be confused with the one mill voted for operating the college—paying the everyday bills of the institution.

The new millage pays for buildings.

The one-half mill will be levied across the Oakland Community College District, whose assessed valuation is listed at about \$2,672,000,000.

The college trustees approved the move in April. They sent letters to all cities in the district instructing them to make the levy, and sent letters of intent to all townships, notifying them the levy was to be made by the county in December.

The college is limited in this way: it may float bonds at one and one-half per cent of the first \$270,000,000 in district valuation, then at one per cent of the excess.

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WORK CONTINUES on the Power Junior high despite the fact that the school will not open in September for students. Construction work has lagged because of strikes, material shortages and road conditions. In the budget cuts approved by the Board of Education the opening of the school will be delayed from September until the first of the year. An estimated \$117,500 was pared from the budget in this move. An additional factor in delaying the opening of the school is the fact that it is not desirable to move students into an uncompleted school.

## FARC Youngsters Set For Ballgame

Participants in the Farmington Area Recreation Commission's youth program will see the Detroit Tigers play the Boston Red Sox on Saturday, July 8.

An additional feature of the day is the Tiger-Sox baseball classic prior to the start of the regular game.

Buses will load on a first-come, first-served basis from 4:15 to 10:45 a.m.

Because of the trip to Tiger Stadium, no activities are scheduled for the south area for Friday, July 7. The youngsters from the north will see a Tiger ballgame July 22.

CHILDREN attending the game should bring a large-size lunch as the day will be long. The buses will arrive in Farmington about an hour and a half

after the game ends.

Registration figures for the first three days of the program were 552. A total of 350 participated in the swim program, while 990 attended the morning and afternoon sessions on the playgrounds.

Ernie Lagerstrom, FARC director, attributed the decrease in registration over last year to the poor weather during the past week.

Parents are reminded that the FARC program is set up to handle only the youngsters between the ages of eight and 15. Registration forms may be picked up at any of the school sites being used.

These include: Beechview; Eagle; Kenbrook; Ten Mile; Cloverdale; G11; Shawwassee and William Grace Elementary Schools.

## Lights Go Out In Storm

A power failure left about 80 city homes without lights Wednesday on Pickett and Wilmarth Streets near Oakland Ave.

The heavy thunderstorm came at dinner time and flooded

streets in the City and the Township. The water moved away quickly, however.

DETROIT EDISON spokesman said lightning struck two primary lines near downtown.

Service was out about two hours, from 6:25 p.m. until 8:40 p.m.

City Director of Public Services Ted DeBane reported "about a dozen" flooded basements in the Bel-Aire area. The

storm drain in that area being checked.

Township Clerk Floyd Calm reported little street flooding but a few flooded basements in the southeastern section of the Township.



WATER COVERED the roads during the rains this week. This picture taken Wednesday night on Middle Belt just south of Shawwassee

shows how the drainage just couldn't handle the water forcing the cars to slow down in order to traverse the puddles.