

An Editorial:

Add more than \$500,000 in basic operating costs to the annual budget, then try to balance the books.
Sound impossible?
That's what the Farmington School District is seeking to do by its request for an additional five mills for operation during the next 10 years.
We believe that both the proposal for additional operating millage, together with the second question of \$9 million bond issue for construction costs deserve "yes" votes at the polls Monday.

THE MORE THAN \$500,000 in increased costs each year stem from the current year's cost of \$615 to educate each pupil for one year.

Next September, and each fall in the immediate future, a total of 900 additional children will enroll for classes.

So the easy answer of trimming costs rather than seeking additional funds just doesn't hold water in this case.

In Farmington, the existing tax base behind each pupil is \$10,000. The current total 15 mill voted levy yields \$150 per student. Another 8.4 mills, or \$84 per pupil, comes from the county levy.

State aid amounts to \$274 per pupil. All this adds up to \$508 per pupil. That's less than the estimated cost of education for each student, which is expected to jump from its present \$615 to \$655 next year.

The bill must be paid.
That's why we advocate a "yes" vote on the request for operational millage.

THE INCREASED property assessment that the county has directed for the city has been much discussed. It deserves some analysis.

City Manager John Dihan has estimated that the increase will average 17 1/2 percent. He hopes to lower the tax rate to equalize the bill.

To date no one seems to know for certain just what will happen to the township assessments.

The Board of Education has not changed its position that the additional funds are needed in any event.

The board has stated that if the reassessments are required throughout the district and if the additional millage is not required, it would not levy the tax.

This is in keeping with past actions of the board. We are certain that it will keep its word.

If the board does not keep its pledge, then each and every one of the members should be defeated at the polls. The board members should not doubt the public's intention to replace them if the pledge is broken.

THE SECOND BALLOT question would, if approved, allow the school district to float \$9 million in bonds to build four new schools. Under state law, school districts are not allowed to use operating millage for construction and may not use building funds to run the schools.

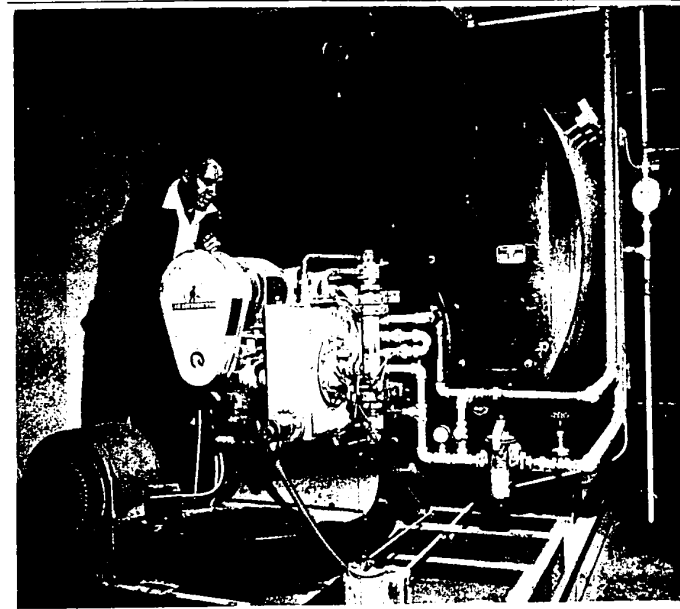
If approved, the additional building funds would be used for the construction of 153 additional classrooms to accommodate the district's estimated 20,000 students in 1972.

Included among these classrooms will be two new elementary schools (scheduled to open by 1969); Harrison High School (1969); another junior high school (1972) along with the purchase of additional sites for still more school buildings.

Sheer numbers of children necessitate the construction of these classrooms, since the district is required by law to provide educational facilities for all the children residing within its boundaries. This is what the bond proposal is designed to do.

It also deserves a "yes" vote.
—The Farmington Enterprise & Observer

School Bond, Millage Issues Will Be Decided Monday



B-R-R-R. IT'S COLD—Don Cowan, heating engineer for the Farmington Schools, keeps a "weather" eye on the gigantic equipment which insures warm toes at the O. E. Dunckel Junior

High School. The early cold snap has forced such operations—on a smaller scale—throughout Farmington.

Opperthausen Calls For 'Frank' Discussion On Unification Vote

Township Trustee Earl Opperthausen has called for "a completely frank and honest discussion" of his proposal for a vote on consolidation of Farmington Township, the City and the two Villages.

Under Opperthausen's proposal, petitions calling for a vote would be filed before any area wide study of the various governmental alternatives is made.

The election, however, would be held after the completion of the study and time had been allowed for a study of the report's findings.

Township Trustees lauded Opperthausen's resolution at its last meeting so that they could determine the reaction of other governmental units to the idea.

IN A LETTER addressed to both officials and citizens, Opperthausen lists 10 points in defense of his proposal.

He asserts that "the best interests of all our citizens would best be served by a thorough, deliberate and objective study of our future development alternatives without the constant threats of

further piecemeal annexation of township territory, and of partial incorporation."

The Township Trustee notes that he does not believe that such a study can be accomplished until such moves are legally impossible. Filing of a consolidation petition would achieve this goal, according to Opperthausen.

Taking issue with the City's "Meritorious Resolution" Opperthausen asserts that it has no legal effect. It would not stop any action by private citizens and adds that township residents would be "naïve" to believe it "in view of recent history."

The filing of a consolidation petition would prevent any interim annexation or incorporation moves and would "create an environment necessary to the success of the study," according to Opperthausen.

In the letter Opperthausen cites two possible reasons why the City supporting the study.

"They are either interested in further annexation of a part of the Township territory, or else in consolidating with the entire township," he asserts. "If they (the city officials) are really interested in consolidation with all of the town-

ship, then there should be no hesitancy in agreeing to the filing of consolidation, or unification petitions to guarantee that the study will be made, and that the question will be presented to the voters," according to Opperthausen.

"IN REPLY to the charge that the proposal 'puts the cart before the horse' Opperthausen says that "the study would be made first, and reports completed before the voters decide on whether or not they want unification."

Noting that by placing the question on the ballot at the time of the next general election, the only cost would be a \$500 filing fee to the communities involved, Opperthausen calls this a "wise investment".

"Even though the proposed study may show that consolidation or unification of the Farmington community may not be practical now, it should also show how unification can be achieved in future years, and the best way to develop the community during the intervening period of time."

"If the facts from the proposed study convince our citizens that they do not want consolidation or unification

now, they can vote it down," Opperthausen continues.

"IN OTHER WORDS, I believe that even if consolidation or unification is not now feasible, a proper development study would be invaluable to our more immediate development, which could be pursued in a manner which could make eventual unification an ultimate goal."

Opperthausen concludes by calling upon all officials "to consider my proposal objectively, and without rancor or emotion. I believe we all owe this to the citizens of our respective territories, and to the welfare of the entire Farmington community."

Only Land Owners Permitted To Vote

A five mill increase for operations and a \$9 million bond issue are the two proposals facing residents of the Farmington School District Monday, Nov. 27.

The polls open at 7 a.m. and close at 8 p.m. Under state law, any person in line when the polls close will be allowed to cast his ballot.

Only property owners, who are registered voters within the school district, will be allowed to vote on the two questions.

THE MILLAGE increase (\$5 per each \$1,000 of assessed valuation) would, if approved, be levied for a 10 year period.

School officials contend that the additional funds are necessary to help the district meet the increased costs.

These costs are created not only by increasing salaries, but also because of the projected rise in school enrollment.

The \$9 million bond issue has been earmarked to finance the construction of two new elementary schools, the third senior high school (Harrison High) and an additional junior high school. Funds from the bonds would also be used to purchase additional school sites.

OPPOSITION to the millage question has centered around the report that the county is requiring new assessments in the city to bring the level up to 50 per cent of market value.

It is estimated that the increase in assessments will be 17 1/2 per cent.

In the township, no final decision on reassessments has been made by the county board. A decision on this is expected for sometime during the first of the week.

If required, the increase would yield more than \$1 million for the schools. The school administrators say, however, that this would still leave the board \$1 million short of meeting its 1968-69 budget.

SCHOOL Superintendent Roderrick J. Smith has stated that if the reassessments are required and the Board discovers that the entire five mills are not needed to meet the need, the entire tax would not be levied.

"If it is found that we don't actually have to levy the entire five mills, then I'm certain that the Board will keep faith

with the public and levy only the taxation needed to meet its needs," Smith declared.

The Superintendent noted that the Board of Education had made similar pledges in the past and that the board members had held to the "good faith" policy.

Precinct Locations

Four separate precincts have been established by the Farmington School District for its elections. These are:

PRECINCT 1: Farmington Junior High School, 32000 Thomas St.; boundaries are Haggerty Rd., Grand River, Orchard Lake Rd. and Eight Mile Rd.

PRECINCT 2: Dunckel Junior High School, 32800 12 Mile Rd.; Haggerty Rd., 14 Mile Rd., Orchard Lake Rd. and Grand River.

PRECINCT 3: Eagle Elementary School, 29410 W. 14 Mile Rd., Orchard Lake Rd., 14 Mile Rd., Inkster and 12 Mile Rds.

PRECINCT 4: Middle Belt Elementary School, 24400 Middle Belt Rd., Orchard Lake Rd., 12 Mile Rd., Inkster Rd. and Grand River.

The polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Apartments Approved

Construction will begin within three to four weeks on the city of Farmington's newest apartment development on Farmington Rd. south of Nine Mile.

Developer Harold Borzoe received approval of the site plan for the project at the last meeting of the City Planning Commission.

Approval was granted subject to approval by the Board of Zoning Appeals for installation of a greenbelt in lieu of a screening wall on part of the property.

Borzoe describes the project as one and two bedroom units ranging at \$120-\$160 per month, each with compartmentalized bath, kitchen with pantry, balcony and basement storage space.

The 160 units will have a central swimming pool and tennis courts. Over-all design by architect Arnold F. Serin is in the contemporary-traditional line.



HOW TO—Christmas crafts and the how to make them is the subject of a special pre-holiday adult education class beginning Tuesday, Nov. 28, and Thursday, Nov. 29, in the Farmington Schools. Classes will continue for four consecutive weeks in Room 110 at East Junior High School from 7 to 10 p.m. Registrations will be taken at the first session. Mrs. Kay Petris of Pipers Lane, Farmington Township, who will teach the course, displays a centerpiece which will be featured.

Books On Christmas Fill Farmington Library Lobby

Visitors to the Farmington Library will find the quarters in full holiday mood.

A complete display of books to do with Christmas has been set up in the lobby.

Included are books on holiday cooking, how-to-do books on holiday decorations and books on just-for-reading about Christmas.

CHRISTMAS WEEK, the lobby will be full of a display of Goodwill dolls which the Jaycee Auxiliary has dressed.

And there won't be any let-down after the holidays. The week following Christmas, paintings by members of

the Farmington Artists' Club will be on display.

Farmington Librarian Mildred Droegge would like library users to know that there has been a change in policy on withdrawal of books.

BOOKS CAN now be withdrawn for one week or three weeks, with no renewals. A book will be re-issued only if it has been on the shelf for 24 hours.

Mrs. Droegge says this will allow wider circulation of books because, as she said, "There aren't that many three weeks in a year. With renewals, a book could be out for six weeks."

Mrs. Droegge says that the library has added a good number of paperback books to its stock.

FOUR hundred new titles in paperbacks were put on the shelves two months ago, and 300 titles were added last week.

The paperbacks include books in all categories from fun reading, mysteries, books on games, and so on.

Paperbacks for young readers are in the young people's section of the library. Adults will find paperback books to their interest near the new book racks.



FUTURE SCHOOLS FOR TODAY'S TOTS — In essence, that's one of the issues in the upcoming school election Nov. 27 when voters will ballot on \$9 million for school construction, plus a five-mill tax increase. Here, Mrs. John Primeau, of 26089 Steele, and a neighbor, Mrs. Ed Richardson, stroll past a field adjacent to their Old Homestead subdivision which soon will be the site of 344 new homes. School authorities say that each of those homes will add 1.5 pupils to the enrollment potential.