

# Smith's 'State Of Schools' Predicts Few Program Cuts

By STEVE BARNABY

Dr. Roderick Smith, superintendent of the Farmington School District, in his annual state of the schools report, has vowed to maintain quality education during the 1972-73 school year, despite the lack of programs, materials, and new equipment because of the defeat of three previous millage proposals. "It will be our task and the challenge before us to maintain a quality educational program which will continue to have a reputation of excellence throughout the county," Smith said.

in other schools whenever possible," Smith said. These programs reinstated were in the areas of music, reading and art whose staffs had been cut 50 per cent last year. In an attempt to inform the public on the needs of the schools, the administration hired Ned Hubbell Associates Inc., a public relations firm, to establish communication links with staff members, students, parents, and citizens. Smith said the first step was to ascertain public feelings toward the school system. It was found that parents felt they weren't regularly informed on school activities and programs.

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--Dr. Roderick Smith

newsletter was published, which contained news of the individual schools and the whole district. Smith said that it will be a monthly publication this year.

A telephone "Newswire" was established so news which the administration felt was significant and of interest could be recorded for immediate release to the public. Finally, an attempt was made to improve the news releases prepared for the public press.

AFTER THE third millage proposal was defeated in April 1972, the board of education and the school administration set out to develop a budget which would be balanced in terms of anticipated revenue and authorized expenditures, Smith said.

They felt it would be necessary to reduce expenditures by \$400,000.

Besides the cuts in art, music and reading programs a number of other possibilities were considered to save money.

Taken under consideration was the proposal to close Bond Elementary School. It was ascertained that students could be assigned to an adjacent elementary school with a minimum of transportation to be provided with a net saving to the school district of \$70,000.

The program was not implemented, said Smith, because of strong opposition from parents.

ALSO CONSIDERED was a plan to reduce classes of secondary schools by one

period a day, at a savings of \$250,000.

After considering the proposal, the board directed the administration to maintain the school day without the reduction of the period.

Also because of budget problems, only one of two vacant posts was filled after the resignations of two of the administrative staff.

The director of special education, a post formerly held by Ted Cumio, was filled by Graham Lewis. Smith said that an analysis of the situation showed only five per cent of the salary of the director of special education would be realized as a net saving, so the position was filled.

The post of director of secondary education formerly held by Joseph Nicitia, will not be filled for the first semester of the 1972-73 school year because, Smith said, the responsibilities could be managed for first semester by administrative staff working together.

In his report, Smith indicated other matters of

administrative personnel remain unresolved and that there is no anticipated change for the 1972-73 school year.

The first of these is the director of media services which, Smith feels, if filled, could save in operational expenses a significant portion of the salary of the individual. "In later years all or most of saved as a matter of efficient operations of libraries and audio-visual materials," Smith said.

SMITH INDICATED a desire for curriculum area specialists. He said their main function would be to evaluate the curriculum offerings and work with the staff and administration to improve and strengthen subject area instruction across the school district.

The specialists, Smith said, would be a matter of necessity when the school enrollment approaches 18,000 to 20,000 students.

At the present, total school enrollment stands at 16,418.

## Property Tax Endorsements Are Split 2-1

Proposals "C" and "D" on the November ballot have generated mixed reaction in Farmington.

The proposals, which would alter the property tax structure for financing schools, and attempt to replace the tax with a graduated state income tax, were recently endorsed by the West Bloomfield-Farmington League of Women Voters and the Farmington Education Association, and opposed by the Farmington Chamber of Commerce.

PROPOSAL C would limit the property tax for general school operation; limit taxes for county, township and schools to 26 mills, with a possible six mill enrichment; and mandate the Legislature establish a tax program for raising and distributing school funds.

Proposal D would remove the present constitutional ban against a graduated income tax.

The LWV supports the proposals because "mounting costs for local school districts have collided head on with taxpayer resistance to property tax increases," according to Ruby Gould, LWV president.

"Particularly hard hit are senior citizens, those who are unemployed or laid off, and others with limited income."

The FEA endorsed partly on the basis that if "quality education is to exist in Farmington, the current method of financing has to be altered," according to Roger Allen, executive director of the FEA.

He mentioned "Farmington's record of millage defeats" as the strongest argument for reform.

THE CHAMBER OF Commerce, in opposing Proposal C on the ballot, said "it is an unacceptable substitute which would lead to a loss of control of neighborhood schools."

## Voter Law

Voters will get many chances to make law themselves Nov. 7 as they decide on constitutional amendments, state law proposals and local issues. We have a news story outlining them and our own editorial recommendations to help you make up your mind.

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## Raiders Waiting

North Farmington hosts Garden City East Saturday afternoon in the Northwest Suburban football finale. The winner wins the title and will be No. 1 in Observerland. For the complete story, see today's sport section.

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## Pole Recovered

A letter to the editor got results for a Farmington woman, and a prized possession was returned. The story of a wandering totem pole is on

Page 3A

## Candidates Speak

As part of our coverage of local elections, a series of interviews in the Farmington Enterprise and Observer gives you the local candidates' views. Today's interview is on

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## Gentle Raid

"Nader's Raiders" have made their report on three Observerland congressmen, and the local folks in Washington come out fairly well. Kathy Moran read the reports and got the lawmakers' reactions.

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WELCOME WAGON and "Wagon Wheels" donated a check for \$850 to the Farmington Public Library recently as its community service project for the year. From left: Sara Grindle, Welcome Wagon ways and means chairman;

Georgia Carruthree, president of Wagon Wheels, and Mary F. Allison, of the library board of trustees. The money was raised mainly by a fashion show at the Farmington High cafeteria. (Evert photo)

## Township Gets Cemetery For \$1

By STEVE BARNABY

Farmington Township Supervisor Earl Teeple has met with some measure of success in his battle to preserve cemeteries in the township.

Title to the West Farmington Cemetery, 12 Mile and Halstead, has been transferred to the township for \$1 by Donald McCracken of Howell.

In the past, Teeple has

expressed the sentiment that the cemeteries should be preserved as a part of Farmington history.

TO ENACT this idea he has proposed that the cemeteries which are no longer maintained by the owners be turned over to the township and that a cemetery commission be established to maintain the facilities.

He said that many of the older cemeteries in the

township area haven't been maintained in a number of years because relatives have died or moved away.

A perpetual fund, he suggested, could be established to maintain the cemeteries. He said this could be done by raising the price of lots in cemeteries that are still in business.

He said that through the use of a township fund the old cemeteries could be maintained and that the "youth

corps and prison labor" could be utilized to do the manual labor.

ONE OF the main reasons Teeple took on the crusade to preserve the cemeteries was because there was an interest by developers to make the Farmington West grounds into a gas station.

"These areas should perpetually be cemeteries. I don't want them to become gas stations. I have a great fear of this," Teeple said.

## Farmington High Band Needs Uniform Money

Members and patrons of the Farmington High School band, which needs more instruments and its first new stage a tag day in shopping centers Saturday, Oct. 28.

FHS Music Patrons, working with students in the music department, will ask community support for its program to outfit marching band, wind ensemble, concert band and orchestra.

The community's original high school has used the same outfit and increasingly worn marching band uniforms and never has had any sort of identifying blazer for band and orchestra concert use,

said Harry Williams, Music Patrons president.

In addition, he said, funds are needed for several instruments in the music department.

THE PATRONS hope the tag day will raise funds to improve instrumentation and make a start towards new uniforms, he added.

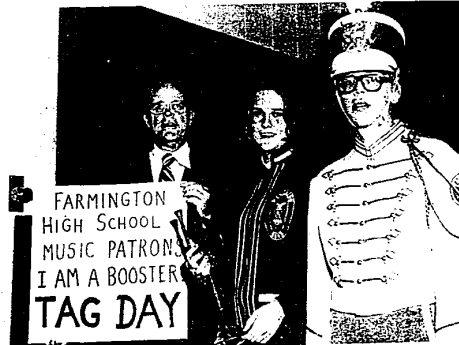
One band mother pointed out that the school's blue and white uniforms have become faded blue and dirty beige in 20 years of use and added that last year the band was hand-pressed to put together 30 complete ones for the Memorial Day parade. This year marching band

members have purchased their own blue blazers, white stacks and blue berets. Williams said because the old uniforms were not suitable for use.

The tag day sale will be launched at the Farmington High open house Tuesday, Oct. 24.

THEN, ON Saturday, Music Patrons members and students will be selling tags in shopping centers asking support for the school's musicians.

Some of the tag saler men will be in band uniforms so the tables can be spotted easily, said Mrs. Cyril Johnson, tag day chairman. Others won't for obvious reasons.



HARRY WILLIAMS, (left) president of the Farmington High School Music Patrons, shows off a tag day poster with band members Gayle Yerge and Bob Williams. Gayle is wearing one of the blazers band members purchased for marching this year, and Bob is showing one of the school's 20-year-old uniforms. (Evert photo)



It's that time again. How did a month go by so quickly? Your carrier will be visiting you in the next few days—around "trick or treat" time. His visit is a serious one, however.

He's conducting perhaps his first business venture. So, in order to guarantee his success, ask for a receipt when you pay him. You'll help him and yourself—because your Observer Newspaper receipt is worth its face value toward an Observer Want Ad. Thank You.