

the farmington enterprise & observer

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YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

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today's hot line

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what's inside

Center Delayed

A new shopping center. "The biggest we will have," according to one city planner, has been delayed until developers, neighboring homeowners and planners can get together.

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On Any Saturday

The Farmington Police launched a community relations program a few years ago that is keeping a lot of kids busy on Saturday. We attended to bring you the story and pictures.

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New Column

Wood Creek Farms is back. The popular column covering village affairs will again be appearing in the Enterprise and Observer.

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Holding Steady

Community colleges such as Oakland and Schoolcraft usually show an enrollment drop during the winter semester. But this year winter was different. Kathy Moran reports.

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Good Citizens

Daughters of the American Revolution chapters have named 10 of them in Observeland. You can meet them today in our Observing Life section.

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Big Variety

There are a variety of ways to let people know that you have something to sell. Try a sign in your window, or write a few letters, or mention it at bridge club. Kind of a limited audience, isn't it? How about reaching thousands of people in one shot? It's easy when you place an Observer Want Ad. You just dial 522-0900, tell our friendly Ad Taker what you want to sell and leave the rest to her. It beats cluttering up your window, paying postage on letters and losing up your bridge game.

A 'Soft Sell' Is Predicted For Millage

By STEVE BARNABY

The Farmington school board is planning a soft sell campaign for the five mill renewal election March 26, says Supt. Marinus Van Aমেয়ে.

Final day for registration to vote in the millage election is Feb. 23.

IN PREVIOUS elections the board has set up special millage committees to go through the community and explain what the millage means. There will be none of that during this campaign.

Van Aমেয়ে says that because of the positive response to the renewal the administration has received from board trustees, PTAs, and other community leaders, no intense campaign seems necessary.

Projecting an \$18.5 million

budget for the 1973-74 school year, Van Aমেয়ে says the five mills are necessary to maintain existing programs.

FIVE MILLS will yield \$1.8 million for the district.

The schools are presently operating under a \$16.9 million budget with an enrollment of 16,415. Van Aমেয়ে estimates that enrollment will drop below 16,000 for the 1973-74 school year.

The question of increased millage rests on the actions of the State Legislature, which is working on a new formula for aiding school districts, says Van Aমেয়ে.

THE DISTRICT is receiving \$5.9 million in state aid for 1972-73, and Van Aমেয়ে estimates a minimum increase of \$700,000 in state aid is needed for the district to keep its head above water for 1973-74.

However, an increase in local taxes may not receive the unanimous support of the board.

Trustee Elizabeth Brennan says she will oppose any proposed millage increase because of her objections to Family Life Education program (FLE) which incorporates into sex education. Mrs. Brennan based her campaign for a board seat on opposition to FLE.

"I am still opposed to FLE and sex education. I oppose any increase until FLE is done away with."

Stating she supports renewal in order to maintain present standards, she urges anyone who supports her to speak out if they object to her support of the millage renewal.



MARK RAPP, an eighth grader in Duncel Junior High School, participated in the school's science fair by demonstrating dimensional laser photography. (Evert photo)

Trustee Critical Of YES Program

By DAN MCCOSH

The Farmington Youth Employment Service may have a difficult time getting funding out of the Farmington Township board for the coming year, if the reaction of some board members to a \$26,000 budget proposal is any indication.

About to enter its second year of operation, the service was founded with joint contributions, mainly from the federal government, school district, city and township.

Additional contributions came from various local groups, including the Chamber of Commerce, whose president, John Anhut,

was active in promoting the service, and the Farmington Kiwanis Club.

The township board launched a study at the end of last year to see if the service could be incorporated in some kind of youth-oriented "super board" supervising all the youth-related activities in the area.

Trustee Earl Opperhauser reported to the board the study indicated little could be done along this line, with the possible exception of including YES under the Youth Assistance Program.

Youth Assistance is a county-funded agency, and the hope was also to get county financing for YES.

Particularly critical of a proposed raise to \$10,800 for YES Director Claire Orions, he said, "What they are attempting to create is the biggest job of all."

He said "questions haven't been answered" about the program, and accused the program sponsors of evading

his attempts to find out details of age groups, the kinds of jobs and the number of YES-placed employees who retained their jobs.

A report which was issued in October 1972, was termed "the most amateurish thing I've ever read" by Lichtenman. He said it "made me mad," particularly when he read a section giving some case

FREDERICK LICHTMAN, the trustee who fought hard against the original funding

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LOGAN CAUDELL and KEVIN BOWEN (from left) ponder their next moves in a vocabulary game devised under the federally funded Title I program which faces possible elimination under President Nixon's new budget. Their learning center teacher, Leona Crouse, watches helpfully near by.

Study Is Done Drains Planned

A major policy question—how will storm drains in Farmington Township be paid for?—was raised with the presentation of the master drainage plan to the Farmington Township Board Monday.

The master drainage plan, held up for two years, according to Supervisor Robert McConnell, outlines a network of drains which will eventually serve the whole township.

The "policy question" which was only lightly touched on at Monday's session—is whether to pay for storm drains with an ad valorem tax or by local assessment districts.

Ad valorem would mean the cost of each drain would be added to the tax rolls as it

built, over the whole township. Assessment districts, currently used to finance almost all improvements in the township, would mean the charge for each drain would go only to the benefiting area.

PRESENTING the plan, which was a blueprint without cost figures, McConnell pointed to the area around Northwestern Highway as a critical problem.

Trustee Earl Opperhauser mentioned the southeast corner of the township as a "high priority," since the water runs generally in that direction and many drainage problems exist there.

But the proposed construction of an expressway on the Northwestern right-of-

way means the township has to act to get the state to enlarge the pipe draining in highway to accommodate township drainage, McConnell said.

He indicated state highway policy prohibits such enlargements even if the township pays the additional cost—which could mean building another drain parallel to the highway drain.

In a related action, McConnell told the board he was meeting with some residents of the area south of Grand River east of Middle Bell to determine if they would be willing to establish a larger assessment district to replace the one in the Kenwood area which was recently defeated by residents' petitions.

Federal Fund Cuts Worry Local Schools

By MARTHA MAHAN

The "real worthwhile" federally funded Title I program, which seeks to improve educational skills of children in four Farmington District elementary schools, hangs in limbo awaiting congressional decision on President Nixon's budget cut proposals.

The district received \$128,000 for the program this year at Grace, Shiawassee, Larkshire and Gill schools. "THE OED uses the entire shot, and that would be most unfortunate," commented Don Howell, director of adult education who handles the federal program. "It's a real worthwhile program."

However, no direct mention was made by the president about Title I funding, Howell said, which leaves the program "in limbo."

"It appears Title I is not his target," Howell went on. "He seems more concerned about impacted aid."

"Impacted" aid is money given school districts with a high number of federal employees. Begun at a time when federal workers, generally, were low paid, the allotment is cut because of current high government salaries, Nixon says.

Future possibilities for both Title I and the federally funded pre-school program were outlined for board of education members on a visit to Grace School.

instruction to prevent and remedy the specific problems.

THE PROGRAM is offered early elementary pupils at Grace, Shiawassee, Larkshire and Gill. Similar Title I services are offered some 40 children from the Sarah Fischer Home who attend Woodcreek School and to some 30 boys attending Boy's Republic.

A pre-school program for 30 disadvantaged children is dual funded, with the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) financing the morning session and Title I money that in the afternoon.

Nixon has recommended phasing out OEO, which would mean the loss of those funds, Howell said. However, the current program is funded through January 1974. Title I is due to expire June 30, 1973, however, unless extended by Congress.

"If Congress doesn't act on any new legislation, it would be almost automatic to have an extension of the current program for one year," Howell said.

Another possibility, revenue sharing, would reduce the compensatory education money by about 60 per cent, Howell estimated.

A RECENT evaluation showed the programs are "making real progress" toward their goals, Howell said.

For example, about 50 per cent of the pre-schoolers in last year's program who entered kindergarten in the fall were able to assume a place in the regular classroom and needed no special attention, Howell reported.

"It's a very high quality program and the results indicate the capable teaching performance of Mrs. Phyllis Howard," he said. "Both the children's attitude and learning development were very positive."

He also complimented the parent involvement and assistance which Mrs. Howard has achieved as forwarding the program greatly.

Contest Looming In Wood Creek

A change in the Wood Creek Farms Village Council is assured by the failure of Councilman Richard Quey to file for re-election.

Petitions filed in the clerk's office for the election March 12 indicate Alvin Albertson, 28701 Wellington, will run unopposed for re-election as village president David Martin, 28270 Wellington.

Incumbent David Martin, 28270 Wellington, John Charles, 29204 Utley, and Kryn Ihrman, 28200 Wellington will be in contention for two council seats.