

# Farmington Observer & Eccentric

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Fifteen Cents

## Farmington school district to decide the fate of 5 mill renewal on April 2

By NANCY STEIN  
Renewal is the important word. Tuesday, April 2, Farmington residents will be asked to renew a five mill school tax.

ever before because of spiraling expenses," said Dr. Mervyn Ross, president of the board of education. "The five mills represents a little more than \$2 million."

The school budget this year was about \$19 million.

Partly because of known built in expenses such as cost of living increase and raises based on senior-

ity, next year's projected budget is approximately \$21 million.

"Some people mistakenly think we won't need this renewal," said Ross, "because of the recent increases in assessed property values. They're wrong."

"What they don't realize is that the gain to the schools by the increase in property assessment is greatly offset by a corresponding reduction in state aid."

**ROSS EXPLAINED.** "The schools will gain about \$900,000 from the increased property tax but they will lose about \$600,000

*"Some people are under the impression the increased assessments will make up for the millage—this is not true."*

—Dr. Mervyn Ross

from state aid. The state aid formula is set up so that as property values go up in a community the aid to the district goes down.

"The net result is a gain of about \$300,000 from the increased assessments. That would hardly be

offset by a \$2 million loss to the district if the millage renewal is not approved.

"Farmington has traditionally renewed millage," said William Prisk, Farmington schools business manager.

Asked what would the effect be if the five mills is not renewed, Prisk said, "I'd hate to think about it." We couldn't just cut out one program, like athletics or music or art. None of them costs \$2 million a year to run.

**"PROBABLY SOME** programs would go in total, but every area would feel the cut."

Supt. Marinus Van Arneyde asked people to remember, "The schools exist for one purpose—that is, the education of children. That philosophy must permeate all of our thoughts."



A new dress was part of the fun, for more, see page 3A.

## Youth program funding killed; Hills council ends financing

By CARL STODDARD

In the wake of a sudden denial of funds, three Farmington area youth services groups appear headed for oblivion.

The Farmington Hills City Council voted 5-1 to deny funds to the groups and not to send representatives to the 21-member board being formed to study consolidation.

The council acted in what appeared to be dissatisfaction with the lines of authority related to the various groups.

"There comes a point in the road where you stop and stand to be counted," Mayor Robert McConnell said.

Councilman Frederick Lietman, the most vocal opponent of the youth groups, charged the groups roles were duplicated elsewhere, did not always help "the good kids" and were unresponsive to questions he had raised.

Councilman Keith Deacon, the only councilman to vote against the denial, said he felt the council should have input try to direct them through representation on the consolidation board.

**THE THREE** organizations affected by the shutoff are the Farmington Area Advisory Council (FAAC), the Farmington Youth Assistance and the Youth Employment Service.

The Farmington Area Recreational Committee may still receive funds, according to city administrators.

Joe Damiani, head of FAAC, admitted the fund cut could mean the end for the three groups.

"We are dependent on a certain amount of local money to match with federal and county funds," Damiani said. "We may have to close down."

**DAMIANI SAID** FAAC received \$12,000 from Farmington Hills last year, \$2,500 from the City of Farmington and \$48,000 from the government.

The funds support five full time staffers, an office at Cloverdale School and a portable classroom. The primary function is to provide counseling services for area youth.

Mrs. Claire Orians, head of the Youth Employment Services (YES) said her program is sponsored only through local funds.

"If they don't fund us, the other city can't fund us for the children

in Farmington Hills," she explained.

The program is currently funded by Farmington Hills, the City of Farmington, the Farmington School District, the chamber of commerce, churches and service organizations.

"That's the end of our program," Mrs. Orians said.

YES, like the other two programs, will lose its funding July 1.

**RESPONDING TO** Lietman's charge, Mrs. Orians said more

than 90 percent of the youth placed "are quote good kids unquote."

She said the program has placed more than 1,600 persons since the program in the past year and one half. The program has been basically concerned with persons 14-20 years old.

"Obviously, when you're placing a kid 14-18 years old you can't place them in a job permanently, they'd drop out of school," she said in response to an accusation that the center wasn't finding full time jobs.

Members from the third group could not be reached.

**CITY ATTORNEY** Joseph T. Brennan, in a memorandum to City Manager George Marjores March 7, said FAAC "has had a stormy history in our community organization of the original group."

He added that the counseling was being done by "non-competent people."

## Colfax parents form committee

Parents of children attending Gill Elementary and Power Junior High have formed a committee called "The Committee for the Forgotten Kids of Gill and Power School."

The committee is a more or less formal organization of a group of residents in the sending districts of the two schools who have been attempting to get an improved walkway built to the school.

The first meeting is at Mrs. William H. Dart's home at 33152 Magnent, Farmington, at 8 p.m. April 8.

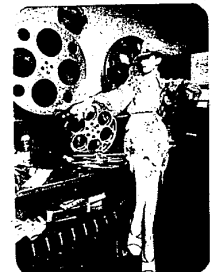
Parents of children attending the two schools have brought their case to the City of Farmington and the Farmington School Board.

Although the sidewalk in question lies in the City of Farmington Hills, the Farmington City Council agreed to communicate support in principle to rebuilding the walkway.

The road is so muddy as to be impassable, according to Farmington residents who send children to school along the route.

The school district has taken the position the walkway is a municipal problem.

The parents have not yet reached the Farmington Hills council.



## Fashion and films

Included in this week's issue of The Observer & Eccentric newspaper is "The Greatest Show on Earth," part one—a survey of the women's fashion scene, what's new, what's reminiscent of past eras and how the films have influenced fashion over the decades.



### Collections Please, Sir!

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## Our Lady of Mercy

"Carousel" is the combined spring production of Our Lady of Mercy and Detroit Catholic Central Friday, Saturday and Sunday, March 29-31. Curtain time is at 8 p.m. in Our Lady of Mercy auditorium.

Rodgers and Hammerstein's Billy Bigelow and Julie Jordan are portrayed by Joe Kolinski and Liz McQuire. (Evert photo)