

Farmington Observer & Eccentric

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Light turnout passes school millage 2-1, new vote being predicted on an increase

Voters in Farmington approved renewal of a five mill school tax by 2,948 to 1,210 Tuesday.

"As soon as the exact amount of the need is known we will have to come back for additional millage," Marinus Van Ameyde, Farmington superintendent of schools said, after thanking all the members of the community for their hard work and support in getting the renewal passed.

Broken down by precincts, the vote was precinct one: yes-816, no-329; two: yes-988, no-365; three: yes-407, no-152; absentee: yes-46, no-18.

An open study session on April 9 will include discussion of the amount of the needed millage.

The millage renewal guarantees approximately \$1 million in revenue to the school district for the next ten years.

The special election date of April 2 was set earlier than the upcoming election for school board members by the board, mainly because it was felt the issue should not share the ballot with a heated campaign.

The district promoted the millage with a series of mailings to teachers and residents.

The renewal does not add new revenue to the district, but maintains the tax rate the same as it was.

New revenue will come in from an overall increase in assessments, according to Prisk, but because of deductions in state aid, the increase to the district is limited to approximately one third of the increase in taxes.

The turnout Tuesday represented approximately 12 percent of the registered voters in the district.

Farmington city council to fight private school

By DAN McCOSH

Opening of a new private school in the old Brennan home on Drake Road in Farmington is in doubt after the city council decided Monday to continue a legal fight on zoning and occupancy for the proposed school.

The council split 3-2 deciding to

reject the advice of city attorney Robert Kelly and continue defending a suit filed in Oakland Circuit Court by Mrs. Joan Dudley and her father, Richard Maicki, proponents of the school.

The developers want to open a private school in the old estate,

emphasizing fundamental education.

The property is zoned for single-family homes, and the project has been rejected by both the Farmington planning commission and the Zoning Board of Appeals.

THE CURRENT zoning allows the construction of a school, and apparently non-profit, private schools are also allowed.

William Mitchell, from the planning commission, told the council even a non-profit school would need a special use permit to use the property.

Attorney Kelly's opinion said the zoning ordinance allowed schools, the only question was whether the school in question was to be non-profit rather than profit.

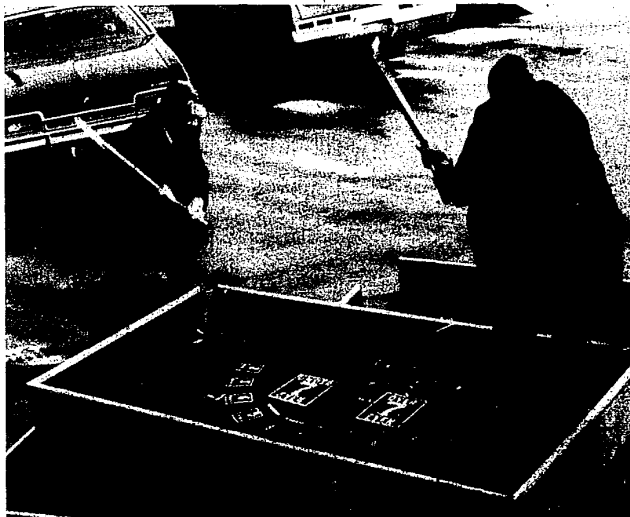
Mrs. Dudley says her school is going to be run for profit, and points out that makes it a taxpayer, unlike non-profit corporations.

Kelly indicated the courts would probably rule in Mrs. Dudley's favor, since the land use was not in question.

MITCHELL argued the school would need a special use permission, regardless of the manner of financing.

Richard Tupper, one of three councilmen who opposed voted to continue the lawsuit, said the zoning law had several provisions which prohibited the proposed use.

In addition, he pointed to a building code provision which prohibited the conversion of a single-family home to any other use.



Carrie Nation?

The famous lady who chopped her way through turn-of-the-century bars waging a one-lady war on sin and intemperance had nothing on the Farmington Hills police department. Two detectives apply the ax to the gaming tables confiscated in a gam-

bling raid last year. The gambling equipment had been gathering dust in the station until a recent court ruling authorized the destruction of the evidence. Then the axes flew. (photo by Ralph Evert)

An Easter party planned for kids

If it goes as planned, Ms. Patricia Ash hopes to be bounding around in an Easter bunny costume Saturday, getting smiles from area children at her party.

The party, planned at the Sans Souci Bingo Hall at Nine Mile and Orchard Lake Road in Farmington, will help finance, with the \$3 admission, some other projects Ms. Ash has in mind for children, she says.

A regular bingo player at the hall, she is planning the party with a show by "Ricky the Clown," games and prizes.

With the proceeds, she hopes to be able to promote some other children's shows, and has a dream of opening a child care center.

"That is if I can get approval, I'm not sure about that," she said.

The party Saturday has been consuming most of her time lately. She said she needs reservations at 522-6726 at her home at 15077 Fairlane, Livonia, by Thursday

evening to be sure a child gets a basket.

"Otherwise, they may just see the show," she added, while packing the baskets.

Other than a consuming interest in kids and the upcoming party, there is one outstanding thing about Ms. Ash which singles her out.

She is blind.

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Rap Line director cuts off most FAAC programs

By NANCY STEIN

"We are going to suspend all programming except the hot line until the security of our programming is ascertained," RapLine Director Joseph Damiani said Wednesday.

"It would be unfair to begin a professional relationship with a client and then to have to break it off suddenly for lack of funds."

The Farmington Hills City Council voted recently to not continue funding the Farmington Area Advisory Council (FAAC) after July 1.

Rap Line and its medical program are both part of FAAC.

Damiani's Wednesday decision followed a request by Dr. Mervyn Ross, president of the board of education, who asked, "If Mr.

Damiani would please make an appropriate decision concerning the use of Rap Line portable until we can settle this matter."

THE REQUEST was made at the Tuesday meeting of the Farmington Board of Education.

Every member present except Dr. Burton Knighton, (who said nothing) said they were in favor of the Rap Line operation and its accompanying medical clinic.

It was pointed out by Trustee Gary Lichtman that three members of the school board were also members of the board of the Farmington Area Free Clinic (FAAC) which is the governing body of Rap Line.

The three were Lichtman, Hugh Stewart and Ross.

The question raised was: is there liability on the part of the Farmington School Board when the Rap Line operation added a medical service, since it is performed on school property?

THE CLINIC is run out of a portable building which sits on the far end of the administrations parking lot and is rented to FAAC for \$1 a year.

Board member William Corliss said during the discussion, "Our lawyer, Mr. Kelly, is not here when we need him."

Many questions concerning funding and responsibility were put to Joe Damiani, director of the FAAC programs and also to Kelly, who left a few minutes after the meeting began.

Damiani asked that he be given the questions in writing and be allowed to respond to them the same way.

This met with the approval of the board, but Lichtman said, "While we are looking for additional input from our lawyer and from Joe Damiani, what happens in the mean time?"

Ross then asked Damiani, "please make the appropriate decision."

THE BOARD also voted 7-0 to repay a \$3 million loan due April 15.

The money was borrowed to run the schools in advance of receiving state aid monies.

"Even with the low interest rates we can command, this loan cost us \$87,000 in interest," said Lichtman, who is a proponent of twice-yearly school tax collection.

Van Ameyde announced that the board will meet in open study session April 9 to discuss millage, the physical education budget and the county allocations budget.



Films & fashion

Included in this week's issue of The Observer & Eccentric is "Films and Fashion" a survey of the world of men's fashion as it is today and as it has been in the films of today and yesterday. The relationship between movies and men's apparel is the theme.



Whorf sales begin

Tickets for the Mike Whorf show May 15, 16 and 18 are being sold through the Farmington Chamber of Commerce. The historical pageant will be the basis of a Kaleidoscope radio program. The historical show, presented in the Mercy High Auditorium,

11 Mile and Middle Belt Rd., is based on the history of Farmington and will feature the Max Davey Singers. Richard Sabatini (left) and show chairman Howard Aldrich kicked off the ticket drive recently. (Evert photo)



Egg hunt

The annual Jaycee egg hunt will be held in the city park at Power Rd. and Shawwassee Saturday, beginning at 10 a.m. Free candy, and lots of eggs will be featured at the hunt, headed this year by Mark Rado. Children from ages 3-12 are welcome. There is no admission charge.