

Farmington Observer & Eccentric

Vol. 85, No. 56

Thursday, May 2, 1974

Farmington, Michigan

98 Pages plus Supplement

Fifteen Cents

Dual millage proposals get mixed reaction

By NANCY STEIN
The Farmington Board of Education held an open study session Tuesday, April 30 in the auditorium of Farmington High School on a proposed tax hike.

The schools wanted to get community input concerning the preliminary operating budget for 1974-75.

The board wanted to know how the community felt about asking for millage, and also how it felt about asking for new millage at the next school election June 10.

THE ADMINISTRATION presented two budgets. They

called them A and B. "A" would give the schools operating revenue of \$20,840,841. The "B" budget would offer the schools an operating capital of \$21,633,543.

"I strongly recommend that the board approve the 'B' budget and that it bring it to the voters on June 10," said Marinus Van Amedye, superintendent of schools.

"Why the enormous increase in spending for special education?" asked Peter Lodos of Farmington Hills. "Do we have such a bad program now, or are we going to make a tremendous amount of improvement in it next year?"

Trustee Gary Lichtman said, "There is now a special education program mandated by the state that requires us to provide education for even the most severely retarded children from ages 0-25.

Our program was good and it will be better. The money that is shown here will be reimbursed by the state, almost 100 percent."

A lady in the audience expressed deep concern about the fact that vocational education did not show a noticeable increase in money to be spent.

The board members assured her that while the city would not show

"I have heard the larger millage request referred to as an 'enrichment', this is not really the case."

—Mrs. Emma Makinen

an increase, the Oakland Intermediate School district, of which Farmington is a part, would be showing a substantial increase in vocational education spending and it will be reflected in Farmington.

Although there was much discussion about budget content, there was nearly total agreement concerning the June 10 date.

A woman in the audience said, "A special election costs \$3,000, and

no matter how much people have in the past abused millage as a campaign issue it still is an expensive luxury that Farmington cannot afford."

Mrs. Lillian Allen, school board trustee, said, "The term enrichment has been raised here concerning the 'B' budget. That is totally incorrect.

If we approve the 'A' budget we

will be keeping things exactly as they have been."

She continued, "If we approve the 'B' budget we will be able to do some things, like repairing leaking roofs, that we should have been doing these last six years, but haven't had funds for."

The board will formally vote on the millage requests and the election date at the next school board meeting, Tuesday, May 7.

BACKGROUND

2 tax proposals: the differences

By NANCY STEIN
It's rare to get a tax bargain, but that's what the school administration says Farmington residents will get this year.

It's not something for nothing, but it almost seems that way.

The administration presented the preliminary budget requests for the 1974-75 school year. William Prisk, business manager for the Farmington Schools, said he had some good news for the public, but first the bad news.

He presented two budgets. "The 'A' budget requires a three mill tax to be operative and keeps things exactly as they have been with very little room even for building repair and maintenance."

"The 'B' budget requires a four mill tax, and allows for a few of these improvements. It will mean about \$300,000 more in revenue for the schools," he said.

The good news was that in terms of taxes, approval of three or four mills will not mean an increase on a tax bill of that much.

PRISK EXPLAINED, "We will be retiring bonded indebtedness, which will amount to one mill reduction in taxes. On top of that since the school board voted to accept variable millage, the cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills will have a further reduction in their taxes of 1.4 mills."

"If you live in Farmington or Farmington Hills and you approve a millage of four mills you will end up paying only 1.6 mills of new taxes.

"I arrive at that figure by taking four mills, subtracting one mill which is the retired indebtedness, and then subtracting 1.4 which is the variable millage which residents will not have to pay this year.

"I arrive at this bargain of voting four mills and actually only having to pay 1.6 mills."

He said that the people living in the West Bloomfield part of the school district would pay three mills if they approved four mills since they do pay the 1.4 mill county tax now.



Hanging out

Going to college can mean getting a degree, learning a profession, getting away from home. At OCC in the spring, it is a time for a bit of relaxation. The Orchard Ridge campus in Farmington is celebrating

seven years with the community soon. A fresh look at the campus is on page 3A.

2 arrested after melee

FARMINGTON HILLS — Police have arrested two men in connection with a fight Monday night that involved more than 150 persons and sent one boy to the hospital.

Martin Camp, 18, of 21843 Hamilton, Farmington Hills was arraigned before Farmington District Court Judge Michael Hand on charges of felonious assault.

Laing Kalaj, 18, of 21506 Oxford, was charged with being a disorderly person.

Police said both men were arrested following a fight that started about 8 p.m. Monday at the Mid-Nine Market on the corner of Nine Mile and Shiawassee roads.

Police broke up the fight, but it reportedly started again at William Grace Elementary School, 29040 Shiawassee.

According to the police, most of the 150-200 persons gathered at the school dispersed when the police arrived.

One 16-year-old boy was injured after being struck on the head with a tire iron. Police said he was taken to Botsford General Hospital where he was treated and released.

Nowland, who entered the Southfield establishment with a number of wrestlers from the North Farmington wrestling team said, "I had just planned on eating the zoo, not on setting a new world's record."

"After eating the entire thing, I was kind of happy and kind of full," said Nowland.

HIS WRESTLING coach, Jim O'Leary, said, "Bill is aggressive

Urp!

Wolfing 8 lbs of ice cream is record

By CRAIG NEWMAN

Special Writer
When North Farmington Junior Bill Nowland entered Farrell's Ice Cream Parlor, he had only one thing in mind. His intention was to eat the world record, "Farrell's Zoo," which contains eight flavors of ice cream, three natural fruit flavor sherbets, five different toppings, whipped cream, cherries, almonds and bananas.

To his surprise and disbelief, he ate it in world record time. Nowland devoured the eight pound sundae in 17 minutes and ten seconds, trimming the previous world record by exactly one minute.

Nowland, who entered the Southfield establishment with a number of wrestlers from the North Farmington wrestling team said, "I had just planned on eating the zoo, not on setting a new world's record."

"After eating the entire thing, I was kind of happy and kind of full," said Nowland.

and guilty." After he had consumed "A good portion of the zoo," Farrell's manager informed him that he had only three minutes left if he

wanted to break the world's record. Obviously dedicated to eating, he said, "I was really glad when it was over."

Combined police study is coming

FARMINGTON — A joint study to analyze the proposal to consolidate the Farmington and Farmington Hills police departments was the concrete result of a recent joint meeting of the two city councils.

The two city managers were directed to prepare an outline of the consolidation, which would then be turned over to a consultant.

The proposed consolidation has not met with an enthusiastic reception.

First proposed by Farmington Hills councilman Earl Opperhauser, the consolidation was seen as a long-range step towards greater cooperation between the two cities.

Problems listed by both city councils include the far larger number of police per capita in Farmington compared to the new city of Farmington Hills, and the smaller territory covered by the small city force.

Other factors working against consolidation are the differences in organization.

Farmington has a combined police-fire department, while the Hills works with a volunteer fire department.



With nature

A special section, 64 pages on "Home and Garden," is included with today's issue of The Observer & Eccentric. Japanese haiku poetry sets the theme for reflection and relaxation around the home.

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