

Farmington Observer & Eccentric

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CHARLES E. LARSON



MAJ. GEN. I. G. BROWN

Memorial parade more local

More local participation is anticipated in this year's Memorial Day parade in Farmington, Parade Marshal Joe Gibbons said.

The annual trek down Grand River has become one of the best-attended parades in the area. But this year's memorial to the nation's war dead will have less military participation than usual, according to Gibbons.

Directives going through the armed forces to save on fuel have curtailed much of the traveling to parade routes.

A highlight of the parade, however, despite the gas shortage, is a formation of F-100 jets from Selfridge Air National Guard base will fly over at the start of the parade, shortly before 10 a.m.

The planes traditionally form the "missing flyer" formation. The "missing pilot" has more meaning than usual this year, as Major John M. Rose, a West Bloomfield pilot who participated in several flyovers in the past, was killed in a crash last year.

He was the nephew of Alfred Freude, of Farmington.

The parade activities actually got started with a dinner the Sunday before at the Farmington American Legion Hall.

Charles Larson of Southfield will be the guest speaker.

LARSON, district commander for Michigan, has served 28 years with the Legion. Awarded a life membership in 1969, he received numerous honors, including a presidential citation, during WW II.

Guest of honor at the parade ceremonies is Major Gen. I. G.

Brown, director of the Air National Guard.

Gen. Brown will give the keynote address after the parade at the monument in front of the Farmington City Hall on Grand River.

JUDGING will be by members of the Farmington Chamber of Commerce following the parade.

Entrants are asked to assemble at the parade start, in the Farmington Plaza shopping center, before 9:30 a.m. to register.

Schools kick off millage campaign

By DAN McCOSH

"We are taking an optimistic approach," Farmington School Trustee Gary Lichtman told a group of community leaders invited to a presentation of the schools' millage request Monday.

The schools invited more than 100 people connected with community organizations. A handful showed up at the meeting at Farmington Junior High.

The school board outlined a "low key" approach to promote the millage. "We have gone out and beaten the drums all through the community in the past, and sometimes this only generates opposition," Lichtman said.

The four-mill increase requested was outlined by William Prisk, business manager.

"THE QUESTION is frequently asked, if the assessments went up 10 or 11 percent, as they did, why does the school need more money?"

"The answer is, the local tax only provides 60-65 percent of the revenue needed to run the district. We need the four additional mills to meet the expenses projected in the budget."

One key to understanding the board request, according to Prisk,

is the reduction in tax rate already authorized by the school board.

The "variable millage" allocated during the current year will be dropped next year, and the levy for bonded indebtedness will be reduced. The total for most taxpayers is a reduction in millage of about 2.6 mills.

Taxpayers in Farmington and Farmington Hills now pay 37.53 mills in school taxes. West Bloomfield residents pay 36.13. If the millage succeeds, the school rate will total 39.13.

"This means Farmington residents will net about a 1.8 mill increase, and West Bloomfield will receive a three-mill hike, if the millage is approved.

RICHARD MAICKI, chairman of the council of homeowners, threw out the most pointed questions.

Maicki noted that combining the assessment increase experienced by many residents this year, and the millage increase, the actual tax bite would be much larger than the apparent increase in millage.

Prisk agreed, but pointed out it was difficult to predict what the individual would pay, since the assessments were different for each home.

He said the increase in revenue

being sought by the district was approximately 13 percent over last year.

The projected enrollment next year is 15,500, he said, down about 250 from last year. Even with the passage of the millage, a reduction of about six classroom teachers is anticipated, he said.

WHILE THE board avoided outlining what would happen if the millage failed to pass, they did mention '65 teachers have been given notice, as required by law, of the possibility of not being rehired next year.

"If you want to know why the public is bightfisted," Maicki said, "it is because the federal, and now the state government, does not allow any choice in the matter of taxes."

"The property tax is the only one left where the people have a choice. I think you have to recognize that psychology when you make your presentation."

Lichtman said the board should "avoid the numbers game—you always lose."

"The board should say—this is what we intend to do with the money if it is approved—this is the kind of program we intend to have."

Building repairs, supplies and some new programs are anticipated with the additional revenue, Lichtman said.

Supt. Marinus Van Ameyde made a more general statement.

"The community grows because of interest—interest in the youth, and interest in the old. A good school system has a positive influence on property values.

"There is no question, if we are going to be short, we can't do the same job."

City to fight lighting rates

By DAN McCOSH
FARMINGTON—A proposed rate increase which would hit cities with a 19 percent increase for street lighting will be protested by Farmington.

The council voted to create an organization known as Communities in Opposition to Detroit Edison Rate Increase.

The rate increase is inequitable because the increase for street lighting being requested is much higher than that proposed for either residential or commercial users, according to City Manager Robert Deadman.

Street lights have been turned off in many communities as an energy-saving gesture. The Edison proposal includes a rate structure which still charges 70 to 80 percent for these lights which have been extinguished.

The argument cited by Edison is that the investment in the poles and lights still has to be paid for, even with the light out, Deadman said.

The increase will cost Farmington approximately \$9,000 per year if granted, he said. The city fought a similar fight in the past and ended up with reduced rates.



Bright Hydrants

Mardi Reichardt puts the finishing touches on a fire hydrant in downtown Farmington. The little creatures which now decorate the city were

Painted by members of the Farmington Beautification Commission last weekend to help brighten up the area. (photo by Fran Evert)

Senior trips and publicity are cancelled by board

By DIANE HUBEL
FARMINGTON—There will be no more school-sponsored senior class trips, the Farmington School Board decided at their meeting Monday night.

The board also added an amendment to the policy statement which prohibits the circulation of descriptive material or advertisements within the schools. In recent years the attendance on school trips has dwindled to the point where a significant majority of students were not attending the trips, according to school officials.

There is also legal difficulty since the schools could be held responsible for injuries incurred while on official trips. The board first considered a motion which would not permit the senior class trips but would allow outside individuals to advertise if they had the prior consent of the administrators. They also wanted a disclaimer printed on all mate-

rial stating that the school bears no responsibility.

IT WAS THIS issue which drew lengthy debate from the board members.

William R. Corliss said the students had indicated through their discussions at the Student Round Table that they would like to have the opportunity to see which trips were being offered or sponsored by other groups outside the school.

"Our original intent was to eliminate the trips for legal reasons," he said. "We cannot bear legal responsibility for things over which we have no control. However, I think we should try to solve the legal difficulties without unduly restricting the freedom of the students."

MRS. LILLIAN Allen said, "It was the opinion at the Student Round table that the students would like the opportunity to have

the travel literature displayed on their bulletin boards.

"They can understand our difficulty in sponsoring the trips and (See SENIORS, Page 2)

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Tupper wants EMS for Farmington

By DAN McCOSH

FARMINGTON—Councilman Richard Tupper called for investigation into an emergency medical service (EMS) unit for the city.

"I think we should know where we are on this, even if we have to go to the electorate," he said.

EMS units, sometimes called "life support units" are currently operating in Detroit and some suburbs, including Southfield.

Farmington Hills has been investigating the possibility, and the service is called for in the city charter. At a recent joint meeting of the two city councils, the possibility of a combined service was discussed.

EMS UNITS are manned by trained operators who sometimes have paramedic status. The Southfield unit is particularly equipped to handle heart attacks, including electrocardiogram equipment connected by radio to the hospital.

Tupper's suggestion was supported by the other two councilmen at the meeting, Dr. John Richardson and William Hartsock. The remainder of the council was attending Mayor's Exchange Day activities in Flushing.

"We spend hundreds of thousands on protecting property, but not much on protecting life," Richardson said.

A preliminary investigation will be undertaken by the city administration.

Offices close for holiday

Offices of The Observer & Eccentric will be closed Monday, May 27, Memorial Day. The Monday paper will be published Tuesday, May 28.

News deadlines for the May 28 and May 30 issues move up 24 hours.

All advertising for the May 28 issue is due by 5 p.m. Thursday, May 23. Advertising for the Suburban Life (People) and Creative Living sections for the May 30 issue is due 5 p.m. Friday, May 24.

All other May 30 advertising deadlines remain the same.



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