

# Farmington Observer & Eccentric

Volume 85, Number 65

Monday, June 3, 1974

Farmington, Michigan

26 Pages

Fifteen Cents

## What schools want improved

By DAN McCOSH

FARMINGTON — What "extras" are being asked for by the Farmington Board of Education in the current request for more millage to operate the district?

A four-mill proposal coming to a vote June 10 will raise the Farmington tax rate approximately 1.5 mills, and will raise the West Bloomfield portion 3 mills.

In deciding to ask for four mills, the school board has indicated improve-

ments in both the buildings and curriculum will be possible.

The dollar amount above a "hold-the-line" budget is \$2,000, according to William Prisk, business manager.

The budget totals for the millage passes, would be \$12.5 million, according to Prisk, compared to \$11.4 million last year.

**BIGGEST SINGLE** new item would be improvements to sites and buildings, \$121,000. Total for repairs, replacement and furniture is \$278,000, including five replacement buses.

The additions call for 15 new special education teachers, a psychologist, a social worker and seven teacher aides.

Additional personnel are a research and development specialist, a career specialist and a secretary for the research man.

Two teachers and two counselors are also added.

\$25,500 is slated for extracurricular athletics, \$3,000 for additional girls sports, and about \$25,000 for additional supplies and textbooks.

"The question is often asked, 'Isn't the increased money the school district receives as a result of increased property valuation sufficient to meet the increased costs of the district?'" Prisk said.

"The answer is it is not, because the valuation increases only apply to a part of the revenues that accrue to the school district, not all revenues.

## Democrat gloves come off in 17th race

By DAN McCOSH

SOUTHFIELD — The gloves came off as five of the candidates for the 17th congressional Democratic nomination clashed at Stevenson Elementary school in Southfield.

Sponsored jointly by the Farmington and Southfield Democratic clubs, the forum attracted mainly an audience of professionals, candidates and their supporters.

National issues were diminished as Patrick McDonald attacked State Sen. Jack Faxon and Rep. William Brodhead as members of an "ad hoc committee" of state legislators "actively in favor of the sale of marijuana."

**THE CHARGE BROUGHT** Brodhead to his feet for a short time he engaged in a low-keyed shouting match with McDonald.

Faxon had left by the time McDonald produced a copy of a brief including the list of names filed with the Michigan Supreme Court during an appeal which eventually resulted in the freeing of John Sinclair. The court case led to the reduction of the criminal penalties for possession of marijuana.

McDonald accused the other two candidates of promoting "socially unacceptable practices" and attested "Southfield is third in this state in the use of drugs."

Brodhead, confronted with the brief which included his name along with several other legislators supporting a change in the criminal penalties for marijuana (a 10-year felony at the time), said he did not give permission for the use of his name.

Sol Pfafkin, the attorney who filed the brief in 1971, told the Farmington Observer and Eccentric he had not asked Faxon or Brodhead before their names were used.

He said the list was prepared by one of the other legislators, and submitted along with the brief.

**McDONALD SPARRED** again with Brodhead on the issue of campaign reform, challenging his voting record on two bills in the legislature on the subject. Brodhead rebutted him by listing

his support of strong amendments in favor of reform.

Brodhead leaned heavily on "reform" issues during his introductory remarks. "All of a sudden, everybody is a reformer — possibly this is an attempt to conceal some of their own problems," he said.

The candidates reaction to some key national issues separated them.

Faxon called for national leadership in controlling inflation by "putting a lid on profits, not taxing the profits after they have been made."

McDonald and Brodhead both called for "middle class tax relief. They split on the issue of national health insurance, with McDonald not in favor of direct competition with private insurance companies, and Brodhead favoring a full national program.

**ALL THE** candidates touched on Watergate, with Robert Fitzpatrick coming down hardest, referring to "lawlessness in the streets as well as in government."

Mrs. Kathleen Strauss spoke of a "feeling of hopelessness and cynicism about the whole political process."

Fitzpatrick looked for support from the partisan audience by pointing to his long career as a Democrat "since I was 16 years old," and his experience with federal programs handled through Wayne County.

The auditions included local Democratic stalwarts such as Farmington's John Campbell, circulating petitions for a try at the state 6th district, and Joseph Forbes, (D-Oak Park), fresh from victory in passing a generic medicine bill.

**THEIR REACTION** ranged from disappointment to hostility, and at one point McDonald was accused of "McCarthyism," as the candidate waved the court brief.

"I felt they should have addressed the national issues at greater length," Aldo Vagnczi, president of the Farmington Democrats, said.

Faxon devoted the longest single floor speech, five minutes, on the subject of state legislative trips.

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## Politics, like nature abhors an empty seat...

By DAN McCOSH

Even if you come to a primary rally early, there are a lot of pamphlets.

The advance men deal them out along the rows of chairs, and before the first spectator shows up shows up there is usually a neat pile of literature on every seat.

Martha Griffiths left a gaping hole in the politics of the northwest area, and politics, like nature abhors a vacuum.

In the 17th congressional district, which was recently restricted to be mainly white and mainly Democratic, the seat has attracted a field which

straddles the full political spectrum.

As the candidates try to "package" themselves, create a solid identity hopefully fitting into the mainstream of their constituents, the first try is often these pieces of paper piled between the aluminum ashtrays at places like Stevenson Elementary in Southfield.

**JACK FAXON'S** "sheet" was a blurred mimeograph, two pages single spaced. Wordy and cheap, it made him, perhaps the most liberal candidate in the race, the only one with no union printing label on his literature.

Brodhead's literature is neat, blue-

tinted, and crisp. He has the union "bug," and it is printed on recycled paper.

Patrick McDonald had run out of brochures by the time he arrived, late, but he is circulating a crisp folding post-card style pamphlet dominated by an appeal for more help with the campaign.

Robert Fitzpatrick was handing out old circulars from his last county commissioner's campaign.

This is a primary, and infighting prevails, something like the bull elk's battling heads together before the herd begins to migrate.

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PATRICK McDONALD



WILLIAM BRODHEAD



JACK FAXON



KATHYRN STRAUSS



ROBERT FITZPATRICK

## Murder suspect held without bond

By DIANE HUBEL

A 37 year old Farmington Hills man was bound over Friday to the Oakland County Circuit Court on an open charge of murder by Judge Michael J. Hand.

Following three days of pre-trial hearing examination in district court Judge Hand ruled that James S. Thornton should be held without bail in the May 10 shooting death of William Day of Boston.

Edward Rasen Jr., of California, who was being held on a \$100,000 material witness bond had his bail reduced to \$10,000.

### Youngsters seek work

Got a job a youngster can do? A yard that needs attention? A garage that needs painting? A house that needs cleaning?

How about summer vacation help? A typist? Cashier? Bus boy?

Dozens of junior high and senior high students are looking for work, and you can choose between them in today's Classified Ads section of the Observer & Eccentric.

At our invitation, the youngsters sent in "work wanted" ads to be published in today's and next Thursday's sections. Most listed some specialties, but others will take any kind of work.

One thing you can rely on: If a youngster bothered to send in an ad, he or she is probably pretty serious and is a good prospect for you.

Got a job a youngster can do?

Both Rasen and Thornton have been subpoenaed to appear before a Los Angeles Grand Jury which is reportedly investigating narcotics and trafficking in drugs on June 5.

Thornton's attorney, Sheldon Halpern, asked that the case either be dismissed or reduced to no greater than manslaughter. Halpern maintains that Thornton was acting in self defense.

In handing down his opinion of the case Judge Hand said that although counsel the defense council had been able to show inconsistencies in the testimony of Rasen, the only eye witness, the physical facts still support the majority of Rasen's testimony.

HE ALSO said that Day was found dead with a shot in the back of the head which does not indicate self defense. Adding that there had been no evidence to indicate that either Day or Rasen had a weapon.

Rasen testified that he had arrived in Detroit from California on the morning of May 11 to meet Day. He said he and Day had come to Detroit to "retrieve a vehicle" which he believed belonged to Day.

He said that while he and Day were at the Thornton house Thornton entered a bathroom; then came out and fired a series of shots.

Rasen said that he had been shot in the face and went to a nearby service station for help. It was from that service station that he called police and later told them where to find Day.

On May 15 Thornton and his attorney went to the Farmington Hills police where Thornton turned himself in.

The attorney also turned in a gun which which Thornton's attorney told police belonged to Thornton.

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY, Te-

rence Page offered ballistics tests which he said proved that the bullet which hit Day as well as two others, one which was found in the kitchen and another which was found in a car directly outside the directly outside the house, came from that gun.

Defense Attorney, Sheldon Halpern was able to prove an inconsistency in Rasen's testimony and thereby cast some doubt as to his credibility as a witness when he proved that Rasen had been seen by a Farmington Hills city employe on May 10, the day before Rasen said he came to Detroit.

Mrs. Margaret Social, an employe in the Farmington Hills assessors office said a man whom she identified as Rasen had come to her on the afternoon of May 10 and inquired as to the whereabouts of 21285 Goldsmith, Thornton's residence.

Halpern then called the prosecuting attorney to the stand in an effort to find out why he had not made the inconsistency known.

Page said he did not "know how Rasen would react" if confronted with the contradiction and the prosecuting officer's main concern at the time was with determining what went on in the kitchen during the time of the shooting.

"It was my decision not to go into that area with him, Page said, "but

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### First Tiger winners listed

The names of the first five winners of Detroit Tiger baseball tickets appear in today's Classified Ad section of the Observer & Eccentric. Each issue will contain the names of five winners of a pair of reserved seats.

To get their tickets, winners must call the Observer & Eccentric's promotion department at 644-1100 ext. 220 by 5 p.m. the day following publication of their names.

Anyone is eligible to have his name picked. Just send a postcard to: Tiger Baseball, Observer — Eccentric Newspapers, 1225 Bowers, Birmingham, Mich. 48012.



Watching the candidates were primarily persons who had something at stake: candidates, their supporters and friends and the League of Women Voters.

Photos by Kathy Willens

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