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Fifteen Cents

3 candidates, 4 mills, to be decided

By DAN McCOSH
FARMINGTON — Voters will be going to the polls Monday, to elect three school board members and decide whether to approve a four-mill increase in the voted tax rate of the district.

Running for a one-year term is Mrs. Ann T. Rodewig, Maynard Gordon, and Edmond Dodson. Running for a four-year term are William Gravius, Bruce Duke, Mrs. Anne Struble and George Bowman.

The millage is supported by all the candidates with the exception of Duke.

The Farmington Chamber of Commerce also adopted a resolution supporting the increase.

In asking for the increase, the school board is aiming at making improvements to the physical plant, including buildings and grounds, and adding to the program and staff beyond what was available this year.

The cost to the taxpayer varies depending what part of the district the property owner resides in.

THE TAX RATE levied by the schools for Farmington area residents was reduced for the coming year by two actions of the board of education.

A 1.4-mill "variable millage," levied this year, was dropped, and a 1.0 mill request to pay off school bond issues, was also dropped.

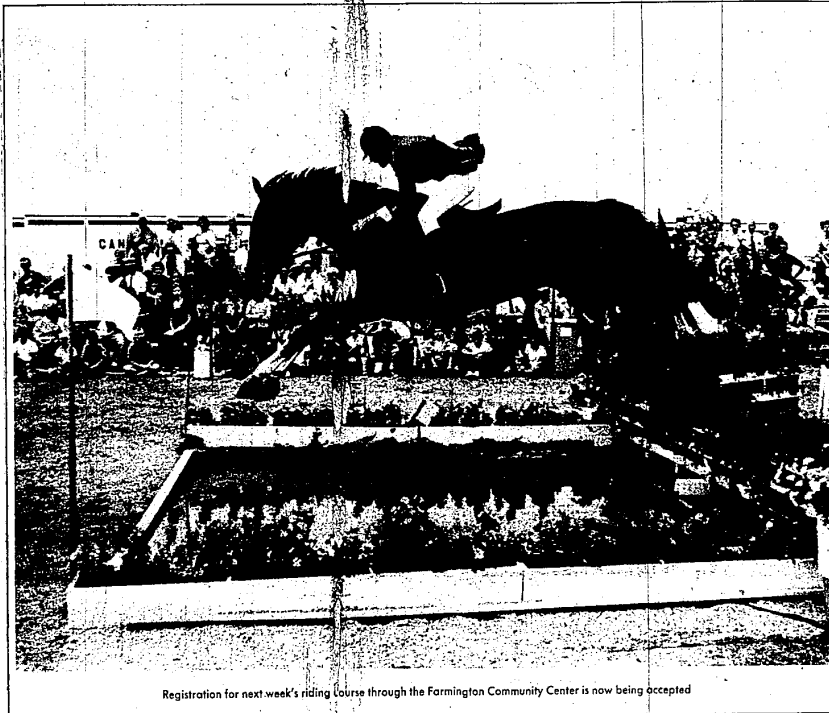
The result is the rate for the Farmington area residents would go up 1.6 mills if the issue is approved. Assessments have also gone up in the area, which raises the tax bill for all local units — city, county and schools, approximately 10 percent.

West Bloomfield residents would not see a change from the "variable millage," and they are voting on a three-mill hike.

A home valued at \$40,000, assessed at \$20,000, would see the school taxes increase approximately \$32, in Farmington and Farmington Hills, or \$60 per year in West Bloomfield, if the increase is approved. The same homeowner will have an additional increase if his house were reassessed, regardless of whether the millage passes.

THE DECISION to drop the variable millage, and then ask for a four-mill increase, put the schools in a position, if it fails, of not having enough to maintain the operation at last year's level.

The projected budget for next year is \$21.6 million, up approximately \$2.4 million from last year, according to William Prisk, business manager.



Registration for next week's riding course through the Farmington Community Center is now being accepted

LWV candidates night slated

The West Bloomfield-Farmington Area League of Women Voters and the Farmington PTA Council have invited the candidates in the Farmington School Board election to speak at a candidates rally on Thursday, June 6.

The rally will be held at 8 p.m. in East Junior High School, 25000 Middle Belt Road in Farmington Hills.

The public is invited to attend the rally which will be the last time before the election that the candidates will all be appearing together.

The co-chairmen of the rally are Mrs. Helen Prutow, who is a member of the League and Ed Miller of the PTA Council.

Mrs. Prutow said, "After each candidate makes a brief statement, there will be ample time for the audience to ask questions of any or all of the candidates."

Candidates running for short, long terms

By DAN McCOSH
FARMINGTON — The three seats open on the Farmington school board, one more than usual, will be filled Monday from a field of candidates now reduced to seven.

Running for a one-year term is Mrs. Ann T. Rodewig, Maynard Gordon and Edmond Dodson. Running for a four-year term are William Gravius, Bruce Duke, Mrs. Anne Struble and George Bowman. Michael Sheldon, whose name

will still appear on the ballot, has announced he has withdrawn.

WHILE TWO of the three vacant seats would have been filled this year, the resignation of three members of the board during the past school year set the stage for the biggest single change in the board in recent history.

While the first resignation, of Ronald Emmitt, was publicly for personal reasons, the last two, Mrs. Elizabeth Brennan and Kathryn Stirling, were made with loud

criticism of the conduct of the board meetings.

Mrs. Stirling moved out of town shortly after her resignation.

None of the interim appointees have run for election.

Dr. Burton Knighton, Mrs. Lillian Allen and Rev. Hugh Stewart declined the race, leaving the field open to completely new faces.

Mrs. Brennan's resignation left a short-term, since she had a year to go at the time of her resignation. Edmond Dodson, Mrs. Ann T.

Rodewig and Maynard Gordon have filed for that seat.

Dodson, running with a slogan "bank on Dodson," referring to his profession, has been critical of the conduct of the board meetings.

Mrs. Rodewig has run a low-key campaign mainly supportive of the current board. Gordon, a publisher of automotive newsletters, says he hopes to bring a "questioning, inquisitive" approach to the board.

Gravius was the latest in supporting the millage, indicating he was a belated supporter because it

wasn't relevant to his qualifications.

Mrs. Anne Struble, like current board members Mrs. Emma Maki-nen and Mrs. Lillian Allen, has worked with the PTA Council before launching a campaign for the board.

Dr. George Bowman is a school administrator who says he is now eligible to run without conflict because he is working out of the district.

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THE FOUR-YEAR seat has

four candidates and two openings, making it less competitive than the short term.

Bruce Duke, who tape-records every school board meeting, and has printed his literature on the back of a John Birch Society pamphlet, is opposing the millage proposal, citing mainly the increase in local taxes dictated by rising property assessments.

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wasn't relevant to his qualifications.

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Hills is suing policemen on contract wording error

By DIANE HUBEL
The City of Farmington Hills is suing the Police Officers' Association to amend a mistake in its contract with the police officers which could cost the city as much as \$151,000.

The mistake concerns a formula which lists the cost of living increases which the officers are to receive every October and April.

The city has a contract with both the patrolmen and the command officers. The formula was the same in each contract, however the command officers have already agreed to the contract adjustment. The police officers' association

has not accepted the adjustment for the patrolmen. On May 23 the city began civil action against the association to get a "reformation of contract."

UNDER THE TERMS of the contract the police officers salary was to be increased on the basis of the cost of living index for Detroit. Under the contract the police were to assume the first 2.5 percent increase.

For each point above 2.5, the officers would receive a one percent increase in pay. According to Joseph T. Brennan attorney for the city there was an

agreement between the city and the officers that all increases were to apply to the adjusted base pay.

However, the formula in the contract which listed outlines these increases did not allow for previous increase adjustments.

According to Brennan the officers would be collecting the increase more than once under the contract formula.

The Observer & Centric index

News	Section A
Opinion	14
Columns	14
Letters	14
Sports	Section B
Suburban Life	Section C
Club circuit	3
Community calendar	17
Business	Section D
Business people	3
Dining and entertainment	5
Obituaries	17
Classified ads	Section E

Bike Rodeo is Saturday

FARMINGTON — A bike rodeo sponsored by the Farmington Jaycees will be held June 8, beginning at 10 a.m. at Farmington Junior High, 33000 Thomas.

Open to all Farmington area children 12 years and younger, the rodeo is an exhibit of bicycle handling and knowledge of safety rules and regulations.

Judging will be performed by Councilman, William Hartsock of

the City of Farmington. There will be awards and trophies for the best decorated bicycle and for the first three places in each division.

Registration and licensing will be available and safety inspections of all bicycles will be conducted by the police.

The Jaycees will be providing free hot dogs and soft drinks to all participants.



Auctioned off

A souvenir plate with the printing reversed was auctioned off at the sesquicentennial ball last Saturday. The fund-raising auction was one of the

highlights of the evening. Mr. and Mrs. Paul McEllwain, purchasers of the plate, examine their prize. (Evert photo)