

# Farmington Observer & Eccentric

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Fifteen Cents

## School officials assessing budget; meeting is planned to look at cuts

By DIANE HUBEL

Why was the millage defeated on June 10? More important, what effect will that defeat have on the quality of education in the Farmington district? Those are the questions which face the school board and administration as well as the parents of school age children.

School business manager William Prisk is currently working out alternate budgets for the district.

"We should know definitely in a couple of weeks what will have to be cut if the millage fails again on July 30," Prisk said.

FOLLOWING THE June 10 election the school board voted to hold a special election on July 30 to ask for the four mill increase again.

The board maintains that it needs three mills merely to hold the current level of education in the district.

They said they are asking for the four mills because they want to add to and improve services and programs.

They are holding a special study session Tuesday, June 25, to determine exactly which services can be cut if the millage is defeated again on July 30.

Prisk, along with the various depart-

ment heads within the school system, is trying to determine specifically which services are not necessary.

"In many cases we are already operating at minimum levels," he said. "How can we save money by cutting out services we don't even have?"

Prisk said the largest share of the budget goes toward salaries. He said that the district had already begun to make cuts in personnel in anticipation of the June 10 defeat.

OPINIONS ON why the millage was originally defeated on June 10 are varied.

Aldo Vagnozzi, co-chairman of the

citizens committee for the millage said he thought it was a combination of bad timing and a "low key" campaign.

"I don't think enough emphasis was put on exactly what the money was going to be used for," he said.

"I also think the timing might have been bad, since I was on the ballot with the school board candidates, one of whom opposed the millage. Actually I think we came fairly close to winning it at a difficult time."

Vagnozzi added that it has been difficult to get millage increases passed in any district for a long time.

HIS CO-CHAIRMAN, Mrs. Max Jurroske said, "I have tried to analyze the defeat myself but I'm just not sure."

"Maybe people just didn't fully understand what the money was going to be used for. It was so close. I don't really consider the defeat a positive turnaround."

The millage was defeated by 288 votes out of 4822 votes cast.

In calling for the special July 30 election the school board members said that many people have indicated to them that they did not vote in the June 10 election and would like a second opportunity.

Should the millage request be denied on July 30 the board will be operating with a cut budget.

WHEN DECIDING to ask for the four mill increase in voted tax the board decided to lower the amount of variable tax they receive from the county board of allocation.

Board President Dr. Mervyn Ross said, "It is pointless to consider the June 10 election now."

"I suppose the defeat was due to several factors, but the important thing to do now is look forward to the July 30 election."

## Lawsuit looms over zoning analysis

By DAN McCOSH

FARMINGTON HILLS—A court suit which may become a milestone in the development of the northwest side of Farmington Hills is looming over the denial of planned residential development zoning for the 320 acres owned by Pulte Homes Corp.

"We are going to fight," William Pulte said after the Hills council defeated his PRD proposal unanimously last week, despite planning commission support.

The Hills council appeared to be reacting to a well-organized opposition of residents from surrounding subdivisions.

"This way we will never get to look at the site plan," Pulte said.

Underlying the conflict over which way the area should be zoned are several related issues:

- Several major landholders, Pulte among them, have agreed to advance "front money" for the construction of the 10 Mile Arm sewer, which will eventually develop into a sewage system for the northwest side.
- Their agreement promised an advance on "tap fees," which means the land must be developed for them to collect their money.
- The master plan, which was supported by the city council during the election campaigns, calls for more multiple units in the area than many present, residents would like.
- Last year, a zoning involving a PRD district at Grand River and Drake was overturned in court, with the result a court-ordered rezoning to multiple units. Key to the case was a city stand interpreted by the courts as too restrictive.
- The PRD zoning, which aims at mixing multiples, single-family and open space, has proven attractive to developers.



## Bike-a-thon

David Tadrazynski (left) tries to keep his bike between the white lines during an event at the Farmington area Jaycees Bike-a-thon. Debbie Watson (right) guides her bike through an obstacle course. Gordon Rivers, (above), "Gordon the Traveling Magician" brought his magic tricks to the Bike-a-thon. (Photos by Fran Evert)



## Waiting on millage

## School repairs tabled by board

By DIANE HUBEL

FARMINGTON — Repair items which were listed on the Farmington schools districts priority repair list have been temporarily tabled until the July 30 millage election.

The board voted to table the items

until after the election to see whether or not the millage request will be passed.

In moving to table the motion, trustees William Corviss said, "Our situation has changed as of June 10."

"I have no argument with the need for the repairs but we can delay them

until after the election and still have time to have them completed before school starts."

Corviss said the money for the repairs could be used for the salaries of two reasonably qualified teachers if the millage should fail.

"This is not a good time to consider

spending this money," he said, "I can see a reasonable probability that these funds will be needed in other areas."

The items tabled were sidewalk replacements for four schools, new sidewalks for five schools, and paving work at Fairview and Harrison High.

## Getaway

The Observer & Eccentric's travel and leisure special section "Let's Get Away From it All!" is featured with this issue.

It surveys what there is to do in leisure time with stories about everything from car trip games for the kids to a listing of all the summer music and theater festival offerings in the Michigan area.

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