

Farmington Observer & Eccentric

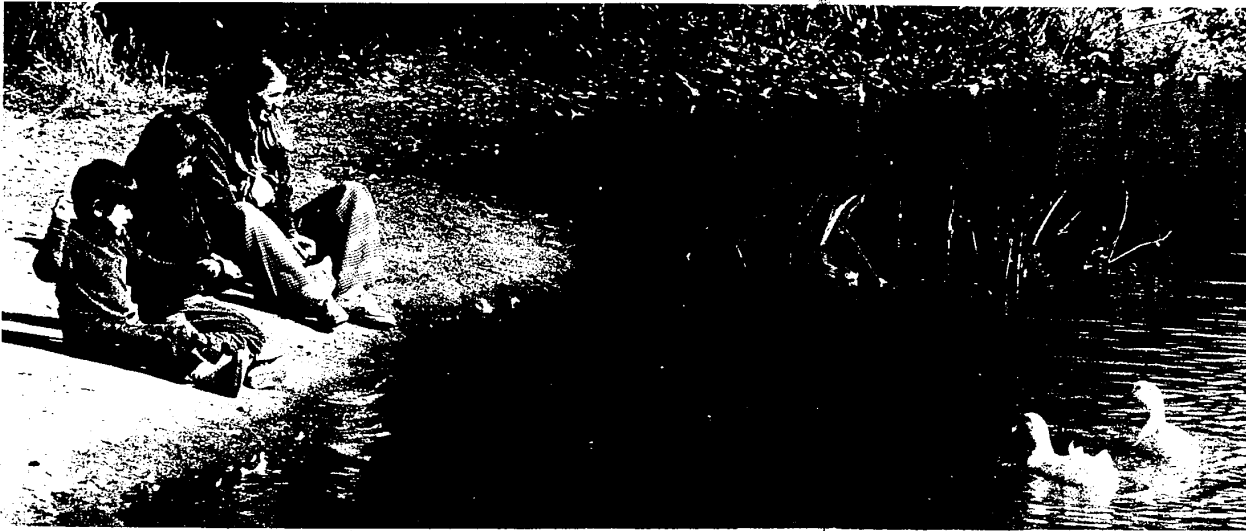
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Fifteen Cents



Fall quiet

Farmington Hills is a nice place to be as the weather winds down into a cold winter. There's room to sit and watch the leaves turn. And there's a pond on Farmington Road where a mother and

child can sit and watch a play by nature: ducks paddling in the quiet water.

School officials look at need for millage

By JUDY OWEN
FARMINGTON — Board of education members and school administrators will meet in a closed study session Monday night to determine the next step in a possible request for millage.

Superintendent Marinus Van Ameyde said he sees the meeting as a brainstorming session to give board members an opportunity to take a look ahead to the next school year in terms of facilities, staff and enrollment.

Monday's meeting follows the board's approval last Tuesday of a \$20

million operating budget for the 1974-75 school year.

The approved budget reflects deletions of \$1.5 million in personnel, lunch programs, athletic programs, text books and supplies, and field trips well as the closing of an elementary school.

THE DELETIONS were made after voters twice rejected millage requests.

Anticipated revenues were further diminished when a projected enrollment loss of 250 students became a 437-student loss.

In its favor, the board has three-year contracts with teachers, bus drivers and administrators which will help the board more closely project salary needs.

The sale of undeveloped district-owned property can provide additional funds for the district, but these funds must go to the building and site accounts and cannot be used to meet general operational expenses.

Within the next few years, the district will find it must contribute to various employee benefits not previously required.

IN JANUARY, all school districts in

the state become liable for unemployment insurance which will require paying staff members who have been laid off.

The Occupations Safety, Health Act (OSHA) represents another obligation to the district.

In July 1977, local boards will begin making contributions to employee retirement funds. Previously, these funds were deducted from an employee's paycheck.

A taxpayer's suit against the district and a grievance filed by the Farmington Education Association

(FEA) represent potential added costs to the district.

Although the district has coped with the loss of millage, cuts in programs and the loss of state funds due to declining enrollment, Van Ameyde is not optimistic about its continued efforts to do so.

"THERE ARE signs of deterioration of the educational program," he said.

Reduction of the kinds and quality of services expected from the district are bound to have an effect, he said.

"These cuts are the handwriting on

the wall sort of thing," he said.

"Now it's up to the parents in the local school units to become aggressive in their efforts to make other parents in those local units aware of these needs."

If the trend of millage rejection continues, it will have a serious effect on the district's educational program, he said.

ACT Monday's meeting, board members will be taking a long, hard look at all the district's needs as it studies the feasibility of calling a special millage election. Van Ameyde said.

Martha Griffiths hits tax law loopholes



REP. MARTHA GRIFFITHS

If you're paying more than eight percent of your income in federal taxes, you're paying too much, U.S. Rep. Martha Griffiths (D-Detroit) told members of the Southfield Chamber of Commerce at its annual business meeting last week.

Mrs. Griffiths, who is retiring after this term, represents Michigan's 17th Congressional District, which includes Southfield, Farmington, Redford Township and part of northwest Detroit.

THE VETERAN Congresswoman described her experiences as a member of the U.S. House of Representative's powerful ways and means committee, which controls taxation legislation.

The ways and means committee, she said, is studying the tax system for the fourth time in her 12 years on the committee.

"I'm here to tell you what I think is going to happen to you and how you can prevent it," she said.

The inequities in the tax code will never be corrected, she said, because so few people know how it operates. Mrs. Griffiths said her experience on the committee showed her where the loopholes in tax laws are.

ONE LOOPHOLE which might be changed, she said, allows tax payers to use the appreciated value of donations they make to universities or other charities. Sometimes the appreciated values of the donations are fraudulently inflated to balance income.

When the committee considered correcting the problem, Mrs. Griffiths said, it closed off all institutions which benefit from donations and wanted to let the exemption stand.

MRS. GRIFFITHS cited another example of a tax loophole which the committee refused to close. Former President Richard Nixon asked to change a law allowing large residential housing developers deductions for interest expenses. The committee, including Republicans, voted instead for an amendment which preserved most of the loophole.

The Nixon representative arguing for the closed loophole, Mrs. Griffiths said, it would be "cheaper to permit 16 years of tax free rent" to the developers rather than approve the amendment.

Mrs. Griffiths also argued for welfare reforms aid a national health care plan which she has backed in Congress.

Mrs. Griffiths said the General Account Office conducted a "scholarly exercise" in research on welfare and found that those receiving help from various programs were better off than neighbors who worked. The various federal programs also were not coordinated, she added.

Although the government "presumably favors marriage," she said, welfare programs "run the legitimate fa-

ther and married husband away from home" in order to help children.

Her national medical care program, she argued, would be the best welfare program. Now, the poor, aged and those in large labor unions have medical care while the remaining 50 percent of the population has nothing.

She said she favors a program similar to Medicaid except it would apply to all citizens equally.

PLANS supported by Wilbur Mills, chairman of the ways and means com-

mittee, and the Republican administration split costs between employers and employees.

Those plans would "hit main street America like a nuclear bomb," she said.

Also during the meeting, the chamber of commerce announced the selection of Mrs. Betty Stump as First Citizen of Southfield for the year.

Also announced were the election of six members of the chamber's board of directors: elected to three-year terms were: Art Shaler, marketing di-

rector of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers; Lon Kain, Southfield manager for Michigan Bell; Henry Owen, chief engineer of WJBK television; Ronald L. Sevold, manager of Tel-Twelve Mall, and John W. Coe, manager of Hudson's Northland store.

Elected to a two-year term was Jack L. Gaines, general manager of the Michigan Inn.

Chamber members also approved the expansion of the board from 15 to 18 members.

Hills competing for U. S. title

FARMINGTON HILLS—Although just a year and one-half old, the city is among 21 in the country vying for top honors in the All-America Cities citizen action awards competition.

Communities from 14 states are competing for awards in the contest sponsored by the National Municipal League (NML).

The city is pinning its hopes on long-term citizen involvement in efforts for governmental reform which resulted in the consolidation of the villages of Woodstock Farms and Quakertown and Farmington Township.

At its meeting Monday night, the city council authorized \$1,100 expendi-

ture to send Mayor Fred Lichtman and councilman Robert McConnell to San Diego to plead the city's case before a panel of judges headed by Dr. George H. Gallup.

THE PANEL meets at the NML's conference on government Nov. 17-20.

The names of winners will be announced following field evaluations to verify accomplishments.

More than 500 nominations were submitted for the awards.

Communities range from Cincinnati with a population of 492,524 to Eagle River, Wis., with a population of 1,326.

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THE FINISHED product was the result of work by coaches, Little League officials and interested residents, said Dick Tyler, Farmington High School athletic director.

Actual work on the facility began in March when a meeting was held to review preliminary drawings.

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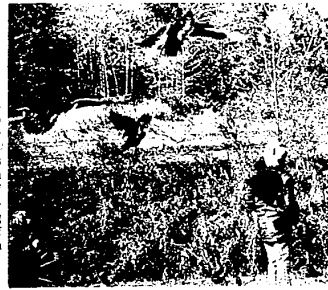
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Friendly ducks

Take a look, kid. They're ducks. Real, genuine, down-home ducks. The kind you hardly ever see in today's too-busy, too-built-up world. The kind you used to be able to see for free if you drove out to the Drayton Plains nature center in northern Oakland county.

But the ducks are on the wing, the place of admission is on the rise and the center's in danger of going so far in the red that it'll have to close. The problem is, of course, lack of money, and some residents of the southern Oakland county suburbs are trying to do something about it. But they need some help. For more pictures of the center and more information on its problems, turn to page three.



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