

# Farmington Observer & Eccentric

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## 'Kids Count' committee is pleased with response

FARMINGTON—Formed for the sole purpose of passing the four mill proposal on the April 29 millage election ballot, the "Yes—Kids Count in Farmington" committee is rapidly gaining momentum.

"We have been extremely pleased with the number of folks who have volunteered," said chairman Bud Pickett. Volunteers, he said, are placed according to their expressed interest.

Pickett said the committee needs more people to make phone calls, distribute literature and speak at meetings.

passed a millage since 1968, and although the margin of "no" votes has decreased, we've got to get everyone involved to help this pass."

After the last election, the "no" votes were only 57 ahead of the "yes" votes.

"WE FEEL we've got to get everyone to vote. It wouldn't be right if the millage was defeated or passed if only 10 per cent of the votes came out."

"That would mean that only about 10 per cent of the people decided what the other 90 per cent should be doing," Pickett said.

*'Let's face it. Farmington hasn't passed a millage since 1968, and ... we've got to get everyone involved to help pass this.'*

—Bud Pickett

On the April 29 ballot will be two propositions. The first proposition requests an increase of four mills to restore the operations of the district to its 1973-74 level.

THE SECOND proposition, conditional upon the defeat of the first request, asks an additional two mills to allow the school district to operate at its current level during the next

school year (1975-76).

Part of the committee's function, Pickett said, is to explain that anyone favoring the four mill proposal should also vote "yes" for the two mill proposal.

"The ballot states that the two mills proposal would go into effect only if the four mills is defeated. In this case, four plus two equals four, not six," he said.

Besides chairmen Dick Wallace, who is requesting funds, other committee members include John Bailey, Robert Brown, Robert Coleman, Donald Cowan, Richard Cradelle, Ken

Floyd, Cathy Jones, Ed Lane, Mary Lazaraton, Lynn Nutter, Carolyn Stenick, Brian Sprague and Joan and Gerry Sunk.

Anyone interested in helping pass the millage proposal should contact the "Yes—Kids Count in Farmington" committee through Bud Pickett, Richard Wallace at 2828 Kendallwood Drive or Penny Coon at 2828 Leamington Drive.

Contributions may be sent to P.O. Box 1978, Farmington. According to Pickett, funds are needed to print literature, pay for newspaper advertising, and other expenses such as telephone and postage.



A HAPPY AND HEALTHY Suzanne Dreisbach is the prized addition to the Dreisbach family. She arrived eight months ago from Vietnam, where countless orphans are feeling the effects of living in a war-torn country. (Staff photo by Bob Woodring)

## Parents await 'war babies'

By MARILYN FITCHETT

They're calling it a "happy nightmare." But no one is sure when the happiness will begin and the nightmare will end.

"They" are the expectant parents waiting to receive word that their adopted Vietnamese children are on their way to the United States from Saigon.

The "happy nightmare" is the government's decision to waive paperwork needed for Americans to adopt foreign-born children following the communist takeover of South Vietnamese provinces which have left thousands homeless. Adopted Parents of Asian (APAC) children presently is working to raise \$60,000 to charter a plane for an airlift of Vietnamese children, and area churches are becoming drop-off points for baby clothes and non-perishable food items.

AT BEST, the situation is iffy, says Livonian Millie Dreisbach, member of APAC and mother of an adopted 13-month-old Vietnamese daughter.

"There's nothing that definite," Mrs. Dreisbach explained. "It depends on if we can raise the money, if we can get a plane and if we can get into Vietnam."

The airlift, which was planned for this past weekend, was aimed at "transporting as many children as could fit in the plane." All of these children would be placed with families who have gone through the adoption process.

"Now we have to find a way to pick up the children who haven't been adopted," she said.

APAC president, Nancy Fox of Troy, estimated there are 21 orphans remaining in Saigon, 6,000 children. In South Vietnam, it is believed there are 123 orphans and 30,000 orphans.

Her group is working with Anlach, Hol Dagan and Hoa Binh orphanages. "We are seeking a blanket passport for these orphanages," Mrs. Fox said.

"It's obvious that President Ford's decision to airlift 1,000 orphans amounts to a drop in the bucket."

As plans stand, APAC hoped to charter a Pan Am plane to Saigon over the weekend with a Georgia couple, Dick and Judy Darragh, who both work for Eastern Airlines and who promised to secure an escort service for the children.

OVER THE WEEKEND trucks stopped at pick-up points at Rosedale Garden Presbyterian Church and Newburg United Methodist Church in Livonia to pick up children's food and clothing.

One Livonia couple sitting on pins and needles have been waiting since October for their two-year-old to arrive from Vietnam.

Since then Mary and Mike Dolinski have kept their phone covered on a 24-hour basis, with Dolinski able to cover the 50-yards from their bedroom to the phone within one ring.

Typical of the heartbreak other parents are experiencing, the Dolinskis could have had their son on a plane bound for home last Tuesday, but a single piece of paperwork stood in their way.

"I'm glad to see the government opening up the adoption procedure," Mrs. Dolinski said. "I say more power to the people trying to adopt. The waiting is just miserable."

As of Thursday night, Mrs. Dolinski said she was sure her son was safe, and said she was reasonably sure he was not aboard the Air Force plane which crashed with 90 Vietnamese children aboard. But she was unable to see cables on Friday.

The waiting period also hits Mrs. Dreisbach.

"When we received our daughter, she was 24 months old," she said. "But it was so if she was just born in the way she has developed."

"Time means so much to these kids. By the time we received our Sonoma, she had already had pneumonia. The longer they are without a family, the sicker they get and the more behind in development they are."

Sometimes I think this isn't one of the considerations of the people handling the adoptions."

ANOTHER COUPLE Mrs. Dreisbach knows was recently notified they would be receiving a two-month old girl in a full-body cast.

"With all the waiting they've done, now they have to wait and wonder if she was on the plane that crashed or if she'll be coming on another plane."

Another Livonia couple, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Girard, are awaiting adoption news.

"We're not really sure where we are on the waiting list," Mrs. Girard said.

"We last received a letter on March 26, but it seems like it's been much longer than that. Everything's so hectic."

"We've adopted an American child but now they've told us that the doors are closed for adopting any more children, so we decided to go this route."

"I had almost given up until I saw the story on Millie Dreisbach in the Observer & Eccentric last fall. "When I saw her adopted child I was encouraged. But you get up and down on the issue continually. You never know what's happening from one moment to another."

"So for right now I'm collecting supplies to send on the plane and doing whatever I can," she said.

Sandy Howard has been trying to adopt an American child for 3 1/2 years.

"I was unable to get an American child unless it would have been a child with a large deformity or mental problems," Miss Howard said.

"So I asked myself why not take this child."

Working since July on this adoption, Miss Howard was notified two weeks ago that the agency had selected a 2 1/2-year old daughter for her.

"I really can't say whether or not the political situation in Vietnam helped to speed the selection," she said.

As to her decision to adopt she said: "I'm not married but I still have a great love for children. They're very precious to me they mean a lot to a person's life."

WITH THE political situation unclear in Vietnam, Mrs. Dreisbach said she had been questioned on the certainty of supplies being received by the South Vietnamese.

"The people delivering supplies know where to take them. The boxes are even labeled as to which orphanage they are to be sent."

"But if they do fall into communist hands, all we can say is that a needy child is a needy child. They all deserve to be taken care of."

Persons wishing to donate money for the chartering of planes for an orphan airlift can send contributions to: Agency for Internal Adoption, in care of City National Bank, Box 3228, Detroit, 48232.

While Mrs. Dreisbach said orphans would be going to families where adoptive home studies have already been performed, persons interested in adopting can write: Michael Hall, Adoption Service, 200 E. Capitol, Lansing, 48924.

## OCC will sponsor film festival contest

FARMINGTON HILLS—The Orchard Ridge campus of Oakland Community College (OCC) is holding its second annual film festival contest, open to all amateur filmmakers.

The festival has four categories: 8 mm silent, 8 mm sound, 16 mm silent and 16 mm sound. Each entry must be accompanied by a \$5 entry fee for those people who are not OCC students. There are no restrictions as to length, subject, color, black-and-white or number of entries.

The film judged best in show will win its creator \$100. The best color film in the show will earn the "Becrest Cup," with a camera or projector worth up to \$100 at the Becrest Camera Shop.

First place in each of the four categories will receive \$100, with \$50 for second place and certificates of merit for third through fifth places.

ENTRIES MUST BE postmarked by midnight Friday, May 23. Winning films will be shown to the public and awards will be made at the campus at 8 p.m. on Friday, June 13.

Judging the contest will be Larry Casavan, program director for Channel 7, WXYZ-TV; Lawrence Clamage, program director and production manager for WWJ-TV, Channel 4; Hugh Copeland, TV, weekend weathercaster; and Toby Dunningham, production manager and executive producer of sports programs for Channel 50, WKBD-TV.

Also judging will be Robert Handley of the Detroit Film Collective; Dave Keyworthy, director of advertising and press information for Channel 7; James L. Limbacher, audiovisual librarian at the Henry Ford Centennial Library; motion picture history instructor at Wayne State University and television teacher of motion picture history on WWJ-TV.

Dan McCosh, Oakland County business editor and West Bloomfield news editor for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, will also judge, as will Herbert Shapiro, proprietor of Becrest Camera, professional photographer and film columnist; Wallace F. Smith, actor, director, cinematography instructor and assistant professor of theater at the Orchard Ridge campus of OCC and William Walter, independent filmmaker and formerly of Video Feedback, an independent multi-media organization.



### Low rent district?

Oh, come now. Rents are not that high in Farmington Hills. But this sign near Twelve Mile and Orchard Lake roads seems to indicate someone thinks there will be a thriving market for less than adequate housing. Ac-

tually, the sign points to land farther down the road. But the "Now Renting" sign can cause a double take. (Photo by Mitchell Booth)

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