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School millage vote Tuesday

By SUSAN AVERILL

FARMINGTON—Voters will decide the fate of two school buildings, the traditional six-hour high school day, and several in-school and extra-curricular programs and activities when they mark their ballot in Tuesday's millage election.

On the ballot are two requests for

maintained and the lunch program would be restored to the elementary schools.

Approval of the four-mill levy would add three vocal music consultants to the elementary school program and provide funds to improve the language and science programs.

The testing program for grade school children also would be restored.

(See PRECINCT MAP, Page 7)

millage. Proposition I asks for a levy of four mills for general expenses, to bring the district up to its 1973-74 operating level.

Proposition II requests two mills, conditional upon the defeat of the four-mill proposal, to keep the schools at their present level of operation.

Both propositions have a 10-year time limit, and would expire in 1984.

A defeat of both proposals would mean a shutdown of one elementary school, and the premature closing of Farmington Junior High School. The six-hour high school day would be cut to five hours and the B-1 (extra-curricular) schedule would be further trimmed.

PASSAGE OF the two-mill proposal would keep both schools alive and retain the six-hour senior high day. All other present programs would be re-

FOUR MILLS would provide funds on both elementary and secondary levels for the restoration of field trips and outdoor education. It would restore everyday cleaning and would provide funds for after-school use of the buildings by the community.

On the high school level, it would restore B-1 cuts and class offerings cancelled during the past year.

Millage failure would force the closing of one elementary school, and officials are reviewing Longacre, Middlebelt, Fairview and Highmadow to determine which would be most suitable.

Scheduled to be closed in the 1976-77 school year, Farmington Junior High's premature closing would require the transfer of 600 students with staff. Millage defeat also would force boundary changes for the schools.

Administrators said the closing wouldn't be as drastic the next year because of an expected enrollment decline of 500 students.

Students at the high school level would be limited to a five-hour day, resulting in fewer course offerings and larger classes. Independent study and conference periods would have to be scheduled at the end of the school day.

Some school officials are worried that a five-hour day would not allow enough leeway for students to fail a class and still meet the requirements for graduation.

A FIVE-HOUR day would allow students to accumulate 15 credits toward graduation. Requirements stipulate 14 for graduation, and failure of one class would bring students dangerously near the brink, they said.

Earlier in the year, budgetary concerns caused the end of field trips and outdoor education programs, and without extra millage, officials said they will not be able to offer the programs next year.

Without additional millage, buildings will continue to be cleaned every other day in both elementary and secondary schools.

Courses cut during the past school year would not be reintroduced, and there would be no funds available for after-school use of buildings by community.

Several area organizations have endorsed the millage proposals, including the Farmington Area Jaycees, the Farmington-West Bloomfield League of Women Voters, the Farmington Chamber of Commerce, The Farmington Observer & Eccentric, the Farmington Education Association and the Farmington Democratic Club.

	Keep Farmington Junior High open	Keep elementary open	Continue senior High 6-hr. day	Reinstate school lunch program	Fund field trips and outdoor education	Reinstate everyday cleaning	Restore cuts in extra-curricular (B-1) schedule	Restore cut classes	Funding for community use of buildings	Improve elementary language and science programs	Improve elementary art and vocal music departments
4 Mills											
2 Mills											
No Mills											

Tuesday's vote will decide whether these schools and programs will be kept and improvements made.

FAAC tallies final clinic figures

By JUDY OWEN

from the Farmington-Farmington Hills community.

The problems were varied. Patients sought medical aid for venereal disease, pregnancy, drug-related problems, mononucleosis, hepatitis, respiratory infections and other problems.

One elderly man came to the clinic periodically to have his blood pressure taken. A woman sought assistance after she had been bitten by a dog.

And there were a number of youths who sought medical attention for parasites.

IN ALL, THE clinic served 378 patients from 35 communities from as far away as Monroe and Windsor. The operation of the clinic was financed completely by a grant from the National Institute of Drug Abuse

"It is significant that they (the professionals) were willing to stick with it."
Betty Arnold, FAAC director.

(NIDA) through the county's department of substance abuse.

In late January, NIDA tightened its regulations and drew up new criteria requiring that free clinics provide complete physicals for each patient who came in for treatment.

But there were neither funds nor facilities for the physicals.

THE FINAL blow came when the clinic was unable to renew its malpractice insurance policy.

At times, the clinic was the target of criticism from city officials in Farmington and Farmington Hills.

the two communities that contribute money toward the operation of FAAC.

While none of these funds were used to operate the clinic, some of the officials kept a wary eye on the clinic's treatment of minors.

The clinic served youths and persons who, because of financial problems or other reasons, did not want to consult their family physicians. Some left donations as payment.

"We had professionals in the community who were willing to give their time and who worked very hard," Ms. Arnold said. "The crew we had was dedicated to the free clinic concept."

"IT IS SIGNIFICANT that they were willing to stick with it," she said. Counselors were on hand to talk to the patients.

Ms. Arnold cautions against measuring the clinic's success by the number of persons that it served.

It took some time for the clinic to become established and for word of it to get around. Then there was a relocation in September which closed it for a couple of weeks.

Bad weather caused other closings on Tuesday nights.

Just when the word had spread and people were aware of the medical service, the clinic was closed for good, she said.

FAAC STILL receives calls regarding free medical services.

"We get calls daily," Ms. Arnold said. Depending on the case, the clinic will make referrals to other free clinics which have managed to keep their doors open.

Persons seeking information on venereal disease, pregnancy or birth control are referred to the Oakland County Health Department or Common Ground in Birmingham.

Other free clinics still operating are Center Point in Groesbeek, Shelter in Warren and YES Teen Center operated by Planned Parenthood in Detroit.

Tax credit cuts costs

FARMINGTON—You could receive 70 per cent back of what you pay in millage levy, say various engineers and CPAs in the city.

Farmington automotive engineer Albert Darton says he figures that with state and federal deductions, taxpayers could receive as much as a 70 per cent return, or as he puts it, "70 cents on the dollar." The state would then make up the difference between that and the 30 per cent paid by local taxpayers, he said.

Surprised citizens have urged the

"Yes, Kids Count" committee to present this information in their public programs, but co-chairman Dick Wallace is reluctant.

"We're not giving tax advice, but we do want people to know this aspect of the millage levy," he said. Such presentations, however, were either too simplistic or became tangled in complications of individual exceptions.

"Every case is different. Details can get complicated, so anyone wanting precise information for their own case should go to an expert," he said.

Field fires investigated

A rash of field fires and a report that youths are believed to have set one of them have led police to suspect arson. Since April 15, eight field fires and one dumpster fire have been reported. All but two occurred in the northern section of the city. Blazes have been extinguished at 4896 and Orchard Lake Road, 30134 Briarton, Twelve Mile and Halstead roads, 34316 Thornbrook, Birchwood and Mayfield, North Farmington High School,

Coffax and Farmington roads, Hegarty between Thirteen and Fourteen Mile roads, and Fourteen and Middlebelt. A witness to the Middlebelt blaze reported that youths had been seen starting the fire. There have also been a number of fires in abandoned homes and in an apartment building which was under construction. (Photo by Craig Newman)

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Just a note

Just a note to remind you that your Observer & Eccentric carrier will soon be collecting for April issues of your hometown newspaper. Please pay him 50¢...you'll be assuring yourself of a continuing insight into the happenings within your community.

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