

Farmington Observer & Eccentric

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By superintendent

Millage victory forecast

By RON GARBINSKI

Area voters will decide the fate of Farmington School District's teachers and programs when they cast their ballots in Tuesday's special millage renewal election.

Tomorrow's election will determine whether the district will receive four mills of operating revenue, or, if the millage fails, lose \$19 million for next year.

This four-mill renewal won't increase area residents' tax rates because, if the millage is renewed, taxpayers will be paying the same amount they paid last year.

But the important question in this renewal election is whether residents want to continue the level of education now provided in the district, Farmington administrators said.

If the millage passes, operations would

Make your voice heard. Vote on four mill renewal on April 6

remain at approximately the same level at which they are now.

But if the renewal fails, teachers' programs and overall operations would have to be reduced.

Polls will open at 7 a.m. Tuesday, April 6.

WHEN THE polls close at 8 p.m., Farmington school administrators should have a good indication where the district stands in relation to next year's operating budget.

This year's budget totaled \$2,187,752. Expenses for 1976-77 are estimated to be \$2,148,264, according to school officials.

"So we need this millage renewal if the

district is to maintain its quality of education in the community," Supt. Martin Van Arneyde said.

"I feel optimistic that the millage will pass," he continued last week. "I already have attended 12 meetings concerning the millage, and most of the concerned residents in attendance felt the district would be successful in renewing the four mills."

"I have faith in the residents of Farmington and believe they will come through for the district," Van Arneyde explained.

"I would like to see about 10,000 voters show up at the polls for Tuesday's election," he continued. "But whether or not they show up depends on several factors,

including the weather and their interest in the millage.

In last year's millage increase election, the district put two propositions before Farmington voters.

PROPOSITION ONE was to increase the millage four mills and proposition two called for only a two-mill increase.

Because 7,137 residents voted yes on proposition one while only 5,047 voted no, the district increased the tax rate four mills.

Proposition two was approved by almost 6,000 votes. But since proposition one was approved, it became effective last year, school officials said.

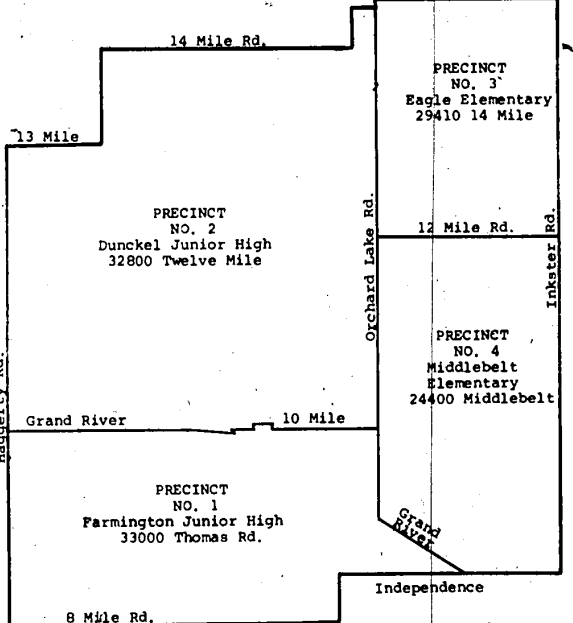
More than 12,210 Farmington voters turned out for last year's millage election. For Tuesday's election, district officials are hoping that a majority of the district's more than 22,500 registered voters go to the polls.

The Farmington Schools have divided the district into four precincts for school elections.

Polling places are at Middle Belt Elementary School for those residents living in the southeast section of the district, Eagle Elementary for residents in the northeast, Dunckel Junior High for voters in the northwest section, and Farmington Junior High School for voters in the southwest portion of the school district.



With expressions of relief, Charles Duquet (left) and his brother, Allen, discuss last week's holdup at the Kramer Jewelry Store, in Farmington. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)



Farmington area voters should note the location of schools where they may cast their ballots in tomorrow's Special Millage Renewal Election. The Farmington School District's precincts are different than regular election polling locations. Farmington schools have divided the district into four precincts which will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., Tuesday.

How jewelers survived a harrowing experience

By CORINNE ARATT

Handcuffed and lying face down in the back room of his jewelry store, Kramer 3120 Grand River, Friday evening, March 26, Allen Duquet figured he was going to make it out alive.

His brother, Charles, who is in business with him, wasn't so sure.

"They were so rough, so calm—real pro," Duquet says of the two gunmen who took \$189,000 in money and jewelry. "I thought they wouldn't take a chance on a murder rap."

He was right. They didn't, but maybe not for the reasons that went through his mind at the time he was on the floor.

"Two suspects are now in custody in Canton, Ohio. A warrant has been issued for a third and a fourth, whom Duquet calls 'the master mind,' is still at large."

Charles Duquet was in the store alone about 7 p.m. on the evening of the robbery. His brother had stepped out for a few minutes to pick up a prepared sandwich. Neither of the men like to be alone in the store.

When the brothers were marched to the back room at gun point and handcuffed, Charles says, "It kept going through my mind that we weren't going to make it."

The brothers recall those moments on the floor. Allen says he knew things were going to be all right and Charles says, "Shut up. All they're gonna do is kill you."

Allen remembers telling the gunmen the handcuffs were too tight and the grill was over. "Shut up or I'll blow your brains out."

Now, looking back, the brothers and police officers both believe that it was the fear of a murder rap that deterred the gunmen but three more customers who drifted into the store causing more action than the gunmen were prepared to deal with.

They had ten pairs of handcuffs counting on only the brothers being there. The next person to come in was Michel Wiatraco of West Bloomfield.

He was taken to the back room where his hands were tied with rope. And the gunmen went back to the store to continue the robbery.

Allen says, "When the one handcuffed man asked for my keys so he could lock the front door, then he came back to us, which key fit the door. I had the handcuffs on so I couldn't pick it out. I just sat and indicated which one it was. He wanted to lock the door to keep customers out."

That lapse of time was beneficial because soon a couple George Slater of Livonia and Debbie Nagel of Redford walked in.

When they were brought to the back room, Charles remembers Miss Nagel shouting when she caught sight of a gun. "The brothers were also tied with rope and they were told to lay face down on the floor."

THE DUQUET BROTHERS each say they didn't see the four suspects of another robbery until they were murdered in River Rouge with each other's minds.

In the case of the unexpected delay, the two suspects entered only one case of jewelry. The most valuable in the store but Allen says the original plan included much more.

"They didn't even bother with the other cases of watches at the cash register," he says.

Although the victims were warned by the gunmen to wait five minutes before they would get off an alarm, Charles says, "Allen didn't wait a second. No wonder did they leave then he was on his feet to hit a butler."

This estimate that a policeman was in the store within a minute, a witness sitting in a car outside the store, Nancy Wacker of the beauty salon nearby, said she was happening. After wondering

(Continued on page 7A)

WHEN ALLEN RETURNED, his brother was in the center of the store, away from the counters and the silent burglar alarms, waiting on a customer.

Allen was immediately aware that a man followed him into the store, that he was about 40 and wearing a very peculiar looking black wig. He asked to see pocket

O&E edition gives cops aid

The Observer & Eccentric is a partial responsibility for helping to put some of the loose pieces of that March 26 Farmington jewel robbery into place.

Three suspects were arrested by Stark County Sheriff's officers in Canton, Ohio, shortly after the robbery on charges of receiving and possessing stolen property.

A copy of the Observer & Eccentric was slipped on the car seat was the immediate link to the Farmington heist.

Allen Duquet of Kramer Jewelers says it might have been weeks or longer before the investigation between the two eyes was made without the newspaper to pinpoint where the accused thieves had been recent.

He suspects the alleged robbers probably bought the paper to get acquainted with the area.

Duquet drove to Canton, Ohio, the Sunday after the robbery, identified the suspects and the portion of the jewelry that has been recovered.

Cops probe youth alcohol problem

By RON GARBINSKI

Two Farmington Hills juvenile officers working undercover have proved that there is a problem with youth and liquor in the Farmington community.

Since January, the two officers have spent eight nights surveilling party stores around the city.

The results of their work has been 30 juvenile arrests.

Twenty-three were arrested for drinking, five for possession of stolen vehicles, 18 for minors in possession of alcohol, eight for furnishing liquor to minors, four for contributing to the delinquency of a minor and

two for consumption of liquor on school grounds.

"A problem definitely exists when it comes to alcoholic beverages and juveniles in the Farmington area," Det. Capt. Ron Conway says. "To prove the point, we started checking party stores around the area to see who was selling liquor to minors, and we had some eye-opening results."

Officers Larry Doyle and Richard Murphy worked the street about four hours per night for the eight days.

Another four hours each evening were spent writing arrest reports and contacting the courts.

"WE WERE sitting right next to some of the juveniles in their parked cars and watched money change hands in the party store parking lots," Murphy explains.

"In another case, we followed someone for about one mile down a dirt road, after he had left the store, before he stopped and made the transfer of beer for money," Doyle adds.

"Through our work, most juveniles know it's difficult to buy beer in Farmington Hills on Friday nights," Murphy continues.

The officers feel that their night surveillance has cut down on drunk juveniles in the community.

"We're keeping an eye on the problem," Murphy says. "We want parents to be

more aware of what their children are doing, where they are going and who they will be with."

"Alcoholism in youth is on the increase and more juveniles are using alcohol now than drugs. What we want to do is show other juveniles in the community what can happen to them if they are caught drinking," Murphy continues.

Because the officers have cited a local party store in the center of the store, away from the counters and the silent burglar alarms, waiting on a customer.

Allen was immediately aware that a man followed him into the store, that he was about 40 and wearing a very peculiar looking black wig. He asked to see pocket

"ONE PROBLEM in the party stores is that employees don't check to see if a person keeps coming back in and buying more beer," he continues. "They should check the second time the person comes into the store to see if he isn't selling the beer to some juveniles outside."

The officers have referred one party store violator to the state liquor commission and have begun to eliminate conditions at several stores where flagrant drinking by minors was allowed to occur.

"It has been quite effective the short time we've been working the party store watch at night," Murphy says. "When these juveniles see that they won't be able to buy beer through the Hills area, then they'll be forced elsewhere."

"We're beginning to put a hammer on this situation ahead of time. When arrested" (Continued on page 7A)

Youth nabbed in car chase

Farmington police apprehended a 17-year-old youth early Sunday morning, March 28, after a high speed chase through Farmington and Livonia.

Wayne Baumgartner of Livonia was arrested last week before 47th District Court Judge Margaret Schaeffer on charges of driving while under the influence of liquor, driving on a suspended license and fleeing arrest.

A Farmington patrol car involved about \$1,000 damages in the Sunday morning chase, a police official said.

About 1 a.m., Officer Greg Wilson observed a motorist, who appeared to be

drunk, driving westbound on Farmington Road.

Wilson pulled the vehicle over at Grand River and, as he got out of his patrol car to talk with the motorist, the driver sped northbound on Farmington Road.

Wilson got back in his car and pursued the motorist through several Farmington subdivisions, police said.

While Wilson was pursuing the speeding vehicle, the driver applied his brakes and the patrol car crashed into the rear of the fleeing vehicle, causing extensive damage to the police car.

THIS MOTORIST then fled westbound of

Grand River toward Gill Road, driving in the eastbound lane against traffic.

Wilson tried to force the motorist's car off the road, but the front fender of the patrol car hooked onto the speeding car, forcing both cars off the road, police reported.

Wilson's car stalled and the driver gained some distance on the officer before finally being stopped by another officer, Vince Ziegler, who had joined the high speed chase.

Baumgartner was arrested at Seven Mile and Farmington roads in Livonia.

He was released last week on \$100 personal bond and a preliminary hearing is scheduled for today.

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WHAT A LIFE!

Marty Koehnrahn, a dice pockey at one of the Farmington area local casinos tells what that often dreamed of life is really like. To see what he has to say, turn to page 2A.