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Road millage sought by Farmington Hills

By STEVE BARNABY
 Farmington editor

With the myriads of questions on the Nov. 7 ballot, Farmington Hills Public Services Director Ralph Magid is afraid the city's one mill tax question will be all but forgotten by voters.

At stake, says Magid, is a road paving program which would make life a lot more comfortable for the suburban community's commuters.

The upcoming ballot will include a one mill tax levy which will raise approximately \$50,000 annually for ten years.

If passed, the millage would deal with ten projects along the city's major mile roads. More importantly, money will be allocated for the widening of Orchard Lake between Twelve and Fourteen Mile.

The problem, according to Magid, is that of the \$1 million budget he has to work with. "It is used for local road maintenance. Only \$237,000 is relegated to major road construction.

Adding to the present situation is that monies received from the state's gas and weight taxes for such projects is based on the city census at time of incorporation five years ago. And while the state sticks with its outdated census count, the population grows as does the cost of improving roads.

Among the projects eyed for improvement are:

- Halstead, between Eight and Nine Mile.
- Nine Mile, Haggerty to 1/2 mile easterly.

- Eleven Mile, Halstead to Drake.
- Drake Road, Eleven Mile to Lyman.
- Drake Road, Thirteen Mile to Fourteen Mile.
- Thirteen Mile, Drake to Haggerty.
- Halstead, Twelve Mile to Fourteen Mile.
- Fourteen Mile, Tenhill to Inkster.
- Inkster Road, Thirteen Mile to Northwest.
- Orchard Lake Road, Ten Mile to Twelve Mile Road.

But the Orchard Lake project will tie up \$700,000 for the next two years, which will disallow any of the other projects to be completed unless, of course, the millage is passed, says Magid.

Subdivision developers are doing their parts, says Magid, by pledging \$251,000 in shared cost for paving some of the major mile roads in front of their developments.

"This obviously benefits the developer indirectly in the sale of his homes but the public is one that actually receives the direct benefit of paved roads, allowing safer and more expeditious travel and less wear and tear on cars," says Magid.

If the major roads go unpaved, warns Magid, there will be a continuous drain on the road fund to just keep the roads "glued" together.

"This ultimately drains funds away from such other vital areas as ditching and drainage improvements, patching and replacing older existing asphalt and concrete roads."

But if the city is unable to provide its share of funding, the developers'

participation will have to be passed up, he says.

Generally, the developer will participate only the initial year the subdivision begins to sell homes. The developers aren't interested beyond this time and if the city chooses to wait, these matching funds will be lost, says Magid.

For a resident who owns a home with a current market value of \$40,000 local taxes will increase \$20 if the one mill is passed. For a person owning a \$20,000 home the tax will be an additional \$10. A person owning an \$80,000 home will fork out an additional \$40.

"This is a worthwhile investment if you consider not only relieving the wear and tear on your car traveling on gravel roads, but also the significant safety upgrading provided by paving, widening and constructing passing lanes," says Magid.

'This obviously benefits the developer indirectly in the sale of his homes but the public is one that actually receives the direct benefit of paved roads, allowing safer and more expeditious travel and less wear and tear on cars.'

—Ralph Magid
 Public Service Director



Relief in sight

This continual mess at Orchard Lake and Thirteen Mile could be alleviated, according to Ralph Magid, of the Hills Department of Public Services, if voters would approve the one mill request on the Nov. 7 ballot. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)



An embossed mummy mask is one of 222 pieces of pre-Columbian Peruvian gold on display at the Detroit Institute of Arts through Dec. 10. Because of the work and financial support of Founders Society members, it has been possible to bring more major exhibits like Peru's Golden Treasures to the museum. (Staff photo by Dick Kelley)

At Art Institute

Renaissance spirit takes hold

By CORINNE ABATT

The renaissance spirit which has taken hold in Detroit has spread to the Detroit Institute of Arts. Optimism about the museum is at its highest level since the museum was opened.

The faith in the future stems in part from the dramatic increase in individual and corporate memberships in the Founders Society and in state, federal and foundation financial support.

The question now isn't whether the museum can stay open, as it was a few years ago, but how to move it up from a ranking of about fifth in the country behind the Metropolitan Museum of Art, The National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. and the Cleveland and Boston museums.

A five-year plan for upgrading has been developed which will culminate in the museum's centennial celebration in 1985.

Spearheading much of this concentrated effort is Norman Weston of Birmingham, Founders Society president.

Weston, vice chairman of National Bank of Detroit, has been re-elected to the position each year for a number of years.

"I love the job," he said. "It's a fun and interesting—one of those volunteer jobs that is possible to do because of the excellent museum staff."

The Founders Society's relation to the museum and the Arts Commission, appointed by Mayor Coleman Young to run the museum, is unusual.

The museum is owned and operated by the City of Detroit. The Arts Commission, headed by Lee Hills, newspaper publisher, sets policy, hires the director and staff and oversees operations.

Weston described the Founders Society as "an eleemosynary (charitable) organization—tax exempt—which has substantial endowments and substantial income from memberships."

FOUNDERS SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP is presently number about 15,000 with corporate memberships up from 70 to 340 in three years.

With its income, the Founders Society supplements salaries of director and curators, assumes the responsibility of putting on exhibits and buys paintings and artifacts for the permanent collections.

Through the city, the Founders Society is responsible for the administration of money from the state.

As he explained the various functions of the Founders Society, Weston said wryly, "It's a very confusing set-up, but it works."

THE INCREASE IN STATE FUNDING has been dramatic. From about a half million dollars per year in the early years when state monies were first allocated, the sum has grown to \$1.1 million for 1977-78. The museum's total budget last year was \$12 million, the difference coming from the Founders Society, the city of Detroit and the income from performing arts programs.

Boris Sellers, Birmingham resident, and museum staffer who is responsible for grant applications, said that in 1975 grants ran between \$30,000 and \$50,000 a year. In three year's time, the total has increased to more than \$2.5 million.

Plans for the future include further expansion in outstate exhibitions and programs—show on the road, children's programs, lectures, puppet shows and actual displays of the museum collections.

Sellers mentioned the many fine works of art now stored for lack of display space, and how these could be circulated on a statewide basis in traveling collections.

In the museum itself, the graphics areas are being expanded, textile display areas have been improved, the Kresge Court is being renovated with a \$650,000 grant from the Kresge Foundation, and the Asian art section, formerly one of the museum's weakest, is being upgraded.

The appointment of a part-time curator of Asian art, is considered a giant step in improving this collection.

Sellers noted, "We have one of the finest American art collections in the United States."

He also said that to bring major world exhibits to the museum there is a need for such behind-the-scenes

changes as improved climate control and security.

While the Detroit Institute of Arts, for instance, ranks among the top three in the country care and preservation of collections, to maintain this position improvements in equipment and size of staff will have to be made, he said.

With 11 acres of floor space, the Detroit Institute of Arts is second in size only to the Metropolitan Museum of Art. However, because of this size, caring for the facility and the collections it houses, is a major undertaking.

THE OPENING OF THE Italian gallery last year is considered a major improvement, and Founder Society members are proudly awaiting the 1981 debut of new graphic arts galleries and at a later date the development of an outdoor sculpture garden and cafe.

The Founders Society considers establishing funds for improving collections, one of their major responsibilities and strong emphasis has been placed on this in the last few years.

In addition to being a cultural force which reaches almost a million people yearly at its home base and another 300,000 through its outreach programs, the museum with its \$12 million budget is big business.

Unlike the Cleveland and Getty museums which are heavily endowed, it is dependent upon state funding, grants and individual contributions and the economy which controls these.

Family remembers Clayton Goers

When Clayton Goers first entered Farmington Township politics, the roads were cared for by local highway commissioners and farmed grassed space now covered by subdivisions.

While long-time residents of the area will associate Goers, who died Oct. 4, with the township era, his family will remember him as a man intensely interested in his duty to the community.

"He really didn't travel much. He never left Farmington, really," said his eldest son, Clayton Jr., 48. "He was wrapped up in his work."

Although friends could entice the senior Goers into going on an occasional fishing trip, his time was taken up with work rather than divided by a hobby, according to his family.

"He was dedicated to his work and his family," said Goers. "He was a fair person. He was firm but had compassion for people."

"I respect him for being a hard working man throughout his life," he added.

In 1928, he and his wife Ellen were married. They met while she was visiting an aunt in Farmington.

"I visited my aunt, met him and fell in love. I didn't want to get married," remembered Mrs. Goers.

"I had a good job then. But I never regretted it. I was 24, almost 25, and he was 32. And we lived to see five great-grandchildren and 14 grandchildren. It was wonderful."

In 1927, she saw her husband elected highway overseer for Farmington Township. In 1929, he became highway commissioner.

"There wasn't any primary. There was one party. He was elected in a caucus. They passed the hat in the old town hall and named him the highway commissioner," she remembered.

There were four overseers who worked with four highway commissioners. Each looked after his own section of the area's roads, which were divided into four sections for administrative purposes.

DURING HIS FIRST term with the highways as an overseer, Goers replaced Joseph Graham in the position. Then Graham recaptured the office in 1929.

Goers and Graham competed for

highway offices until the county took control of the roads.

In 1942, after operating a small trucking firm in Farmington, Goers returned to area politics when he was elected Farmington Township treasurer. He was the first township treasurer to work from an office in township hall.

In April 1942, there were 11,224 people in the township," said Mrs. Goers.

"Officials collected the taxes in the bank and the supervisors collected their taxes at home."

By the time her husband retired in 1957, Farmington Township had grown to 45,000 persons. Rural lands gave way to subdivisions but Goers didn't oppose the change.

Services for Goers were conducted on Oct. 7 at the Ever-Rock Funeral Home in Farmington Hills. The Rev. Carl H. Schultz, retired pastor of Salem United Church of Christ in Farmington, conducted the services. Burial was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

He is survived by his wife Ellen, 74; sons Clayton Jr., 48, and William, 48; a sister, Mrs. Leon (Evelyn) Forbes, 14 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

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How old to drink?

That was the question recently as students and adults debated the merits and demerits of raising the legal drinking age back up to 21-years-old. To see what the participants' opinions were, turn to page 7A.