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Increased fuel and salaries boost school's bottom line

By MARY GNIEWEK

Employee salaries, gasoline prices, more funds for athletics and special education and the hiring of 14 middle school teachers account for most of the \$2.7 million hike over the current Farmington Public Schools budget.

The preliminary 1980-1981 budget approved by the board of education this month is \$33,628,430, of which \$27,758,829 will be paid by taxpayers in the school district.

A breakdown of the 1980-1981 budget shows that:

- 87.6 percent of the budget will pay salaries and fringe benefits to school employees.

Administrators' salaries range from \$29,139 for a high school administrative assistant with no previous experience to \$32,139 for someone in the same position at the top of a seven step scale.

High school principal salaries range from \$37,257 to \$40,257. Other administrative salaries fall between that range. Twenty-three of 38 administrators fall in the middle range: earning

from \$30,139 to \$38,257.

Seventy percent of the 700 Farmington school teachers will be at the top of the union pay scale in September. That's \$23,552 for teachers with bachelor's degrees, \$27,156 for teachers with master's degrees.

- Transportation costs will rise \$110,476. Already school Finance Director William Prisk feels the \$1,232,778 allocation is too low because of soaring gas prices and will be hiked before the final budget is adopted by the board of education in October.

- A \$41,270 increase has been granted for athletics to accommodate the new middle school intramural-interscholastic sports program and expand high school programs.

The district will hire a new girls' volleyball coach, expand the boys' soccer program at Harrison and North Farmington high schools, add an assistant coach for girls' track, a diving coach for the district, a football coach in the high schools, basketball for girls and boys in ninth grade and a girls' reserve baseball team.

The sports budget is \$301,124.

- SPECIAL EDUCATION costs will rise \$662,883 to pay for 11 new teachers, 13 gifted education aides and 11 speech correctivists in an expanded program that will cost taxpayers \$513,686.

- The middle school curriculum does away with study halls for sixth, seventh and eighth grades. That's why 14 new teachers will be hired. The \$3,837,610 budget is \$565,064 over the current high budget.

- Moving ninth grade to high schools will account for a \$1.1 million hike there to \$5,378,747. Removal of sixth grade from elementary schools brings a \$537,848 reduction in its approved \$5,462,918 budget.

- Community education enrichment programs net a \$34,019 hike. The biggest part of that \$77,699 budget is an expanded preschool program at Fairview Early Childhood Center in Farmington Hills, open to all 3-5-year-olds in the three-city school district.

- To keep up with inflation, student supply allowances have been hiked 12 percent. Furniture and equipment allowances have doubled.

- A \$3,100 hike was okayed for student activities, which include forensics, band and yearbook. That budget is \$16,850.

THE TAX RATE will be set after assessment data is finalized for Oakland County in late April or May. A lower levy than the current 36.28 mills is expected because assessments have risen as much as 40 percent in the district and new homes have been added to the tax base.

The district, which includes Farmington, most of Farmington Hills and a small portion of West Bloomfield Township expects to lose 570 students in September. Expected student enrollment for 1980-1981 is 11,977.

Last year, Farmington residents paid 65 percent of their tax bill to operate the schools. The southern portion of West Bloomfield that belongs to the Farmington district paid 72 percent.

Of 57.22 mills levied in Farmington Hills, \$9.28 paid for the operation of Farmington schools.

Death knell rings for zoning

By STEVE BARNABY
Farmington editor

In a matter of minutes it was over — RCE-1 zoning was wiped from the books.

Adopted as an ordinance just a little more than two years ago, the ordinance which allowed senior citizen housing to be built at a height of 60 feet had been the center of controversy since first proposed.

The Farmington Hills Council chambers had been packed countless times with residents who protested the height. Council members had been threatened with recall for supporting it.

Three council members in last year's election were defeated because of their support for the ordinance and accom-

panying senior citizen housing plans.

But Monday night the Hills council ended the controversy in a 5-2 vote. Only council members Jan Dolan and Earl Opperthauser supported retention of the zoning concept.

Mrs. Dolan and Opperthauser are the only members of the present council who were members when the ordinance was adopted in 1977.

Councilman Joe Alkateeb, whose political career has been built on opposition to RCE-1, expressed pleasure with the council's action.

"I'M NOT ASHAMED to claim victory," he told his council colleagues.

"The people didn't want it," he said, referring to last November's advisory question where voters rejected the concept by a 60 percent majority of those voting.

"It (RCE-1) was a sour note in a beautiful symphony which is Farmington Hills," he said.

Alkateeb said his opposition to the height was justified, claiming that 60-foot buildings for senior citizen structures would have allowed 60-foot buildings for commercial purposes.

"It proved to be economically unsound and unfeasible," he said, adding that only one piece of property had been zoned RCE-1 and nothing had been actually built under the zoning designation.

But Opperthauser disagreed with Alkateeb's assessment.

"We ought to have RCE-1 on the books," he said. "We have buildings al-

ready that high (60 feet) in Farmington Hills."

The Holiday Inn, Orchard Ridge campus and Botsford Hospital all are structures which are 60 feet high. They were allowed by variance.

"It is an ill-advised council that will withdraw this ordinance from the books," he said. "It's a travesty."

Opperthauser said that another council could readopt the ordinance and that the council should give itself the leeway to examine alternatives.

"But to remove the ordinance is to say we won't be tempted to look at the ability to do it (look at alternatives)."

"Maybe there are only a couple of other sites available for this type of zoning. But this gives us the chance to look at it objectively and intelligently."

A human relations job

New chief ready for action

By MARY GNIEWEK

Three weeks brand new on the job, Farmington Public Safety Director G. Robert Seifert is trying to get his feet on the ground.

Signs of the transition are everywhere; his city hall desk is too neat; he talks to officers in a polite, friendly, yet unfamiliar manner.

And literally, he's still living out of a suitcase.

"To make changes right away can be disruptive," said the former Gaylord police chief.

"I think the transition period is stressful for an organization. But they've continued to provide the best services possible."

"It will be awhile before they feel comfortable with me."

Seifert, 35, took over the department March 3 to fill the post of Daniel Byrnes, who resigned last Oct. 12.

"I'm trying to familiarize myself with this organization and the community," said Seifert, dressed in a blue suit and smoking a cigar.

"Basically it's a people-oriented business, whether it's public safety or a police department. The function of human relations is the common thread in law enforcement."

Because his wife and two children are still in Gaylord tending to job and school respectively, as well as the sale of the family home, Seifert is living at the Botsford Inn and looking for an

apartment with a six-month lease.

"IN SOME WAYS, it's been an asset. I have more time to commit on a daily basis without my family here," he said.

He has spent 55 to 60 hours a week on the job since his March 3 arrival.

Framed pictures of his wife and children are about the only props in his office, except for a blue chief's hat that sits on top of a filing cabinet.

Though he detects a similar sense of community between Farmington and Gaylord, a community of 3,500 residents in the northern Lower Peninsula, the size and structure of the police departments are different.

In Gaylord, he spent nearly four years as chief of a 10-member force he

describes as traditionally rural. The Farmington Public Safety force has 22 officers, seven civilians and 14 reserves.

The public safety aspect means fire protection as well as police work. Police officers are certified firefighters.

"I have a lot to learn about fire responsibility," said Seifert.

"The fire marshal is in charge of fire service so the quality won't suffer. My primary job is administration and I feel comfortable with that."

"I think there's a period of adjustment on the part of the organization as well. It's a challenge for them to be comfortable with what you expect."

SEIFERT IS AN advocate of planned change, so don't expect any sudden policy changes.

"I'm a subscriber to the organization development model which speaks to a planned systems approach," said the former criminal justice teacher.

When he gets settled, he'll probably teach community college courses in law enforcement, something he's done in the two previous towns where he's been employed in police work: Gaylord and Ann Arbor.

Seifert views Farmington as a stable suburban community, well established, fiscally sound, and well run.

"It's managed to avoid the pitfalls of other suburban communities. The leadership is progressive. There's excellent cooperation and coordination."

His perception of the department is still developing.

"It's pretty early to make general statements. It's had a good reputation over the years," he said. "It seems to be very service oriented, very human relations oriented."

"Every organization has its own way of doing things. You have to determine what needs to be done."

Though he hasn't taken much time to do anything else yet, Seifert admits to being an avid golfer, a would-be runner and a Michigan State University sports fanatic.

He has a bachelor's degree in police administration from MSU and this is his 10th year in the law enforcement field. He began his career as a line officer in Ann Arbor in 1970.



Haline Frizzelle, for years a Reagan stalwart, believes the long wait for conservatives to reach power is soon at hand as presidential hopeful Ronald Reagan leads in the delegate count. (Staff photo by Randy Bors))

Staunch Reaganite is no latecomer to Republican camp

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

Ten years ago, Ronald Reagan supporters were more the butt of jokes than serious political speculation.

But staunch Reaganites like Haline Frizzelle of Farmington Hills stood by their man.

As Reagan managed to deal with his movie cowboy image to emerge as a contender for the Republican presidential nomination, Mrs. Frizzelle could proudly say she wasn't a late comer to his camp.

As campaign coordinator for the Reagan's efforts in Michigan's 17th district, Mrs. Frizzelle is hopeful for her candidate and the conservative movement.

"Everyone talks about being a conservative as if it was some kind of disease," she said, sitting in the kitchen of her medium-sized Hills home.

The kitchen is her command center for her efforts on behalf of her candidate. A pile of papers stacked into folders and accompanied by a small hill of pencils is on the table in easy reach of the kitchen phone.

Mornings are spent calling supporters and potential supporters to rally more for the cause. A college student calls about the Reagan campaign. A campaign co-worker calls.

THE PHONE keeps on ringing and Mrs. Frizzelle keeps on talking about Reagan and the conservative solution to America's dilemma.

"It's self-preservation," she said of the slow move toward conservatism.

"They realize they'll go down when the country goes down," she said.

She likes Reagan's nationalistic stance and casts a wary eye on liberals in both parties.

"His policies are more for this country," she said.

"Everyone is for international interests but not to the extent they (liberal movement) are."

Reagan's support of the free enterprise system, tax cuts and the Shah of Iran appeal to her, too. But more importantly, she wants someone who she feels can rally together the country's various factions.

"He can rally the country together. He has that going for him," she said.

"Youth should be waving the flag instead of wearing it on their pants."

While cautioning that she doesn't always agree with Reagan ("he's not a god") she sees his campaign as a shot in the arm for conservatives.

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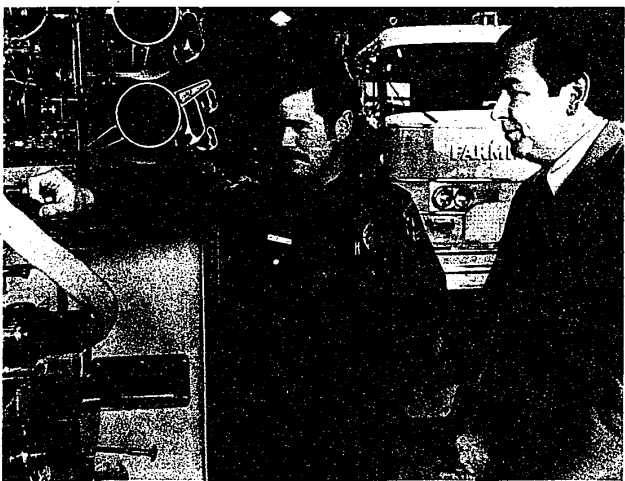
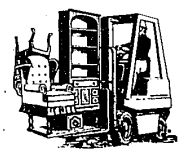
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Examining a piece of the Farmington Public Safety Department fire unit is (from left) Norm Maddison and the new department director Robert Seifert. (Staff photo by Randy Bors)