

# Farmington Observer

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Twenty-five cents

## Blanchard gets mixed reviews from locals

By M.B. Dillon Ward  
staff writer

Governor James Blanchard's proposed 36-percent state income tax increase is drawing mixed reaction among Farmington area officials and residents.

State Sen. Jack Faxon, D-Southfield, so far, is "very impressed with the governor," and said the tax hike is necessary to "demonstrate that Michigan

can pull itself out of this economic dilemma with its own resources."

Faxon's district includes both Farmington and Farmington Hills. State Rep. Sandy Brotherton, R-Farmington, "absolutely will not support a permanent state income tax increase."

"If we are forced to raise the income tax to get us through this economic crisis when demands for social services are high, then OK. But when the economy

turns around and revenue is up from normal sources, whatever taxes are enacted must stop or be phased out," said the veteran legislator.

Blanchard is asking for an increase in the state income tax from 4.6 percent to 8.2 percent. The increase includes a .25 percent debt surcharge, a special tax expiring when the state debt is erased.

He also has called for \$225 million in across-the-board cuts from the state

budget, as well as the abolition of 30 boards, commissions and programs.

Farmington City Manager Robert Deadman, who characterizes Blanchard's proposals as "tough medicine" said the governor isn't being realistic about trimming the budget.

"Holding across-the-board cuts isn't the realistic way to do it. As an administrator, that's not normally the way we go about it. Certain services get priority," said Deadman.

He named the prison system and mental health facilities as areas unable to withstand further cutbacks.

Deadman said Michigan has been guilty of "Chinese bookkeeping" for "a lot of years." The state faces an \$800 million debt owing to deferred bills accrued over the last seven years.

The state has been flirting with disaster, according to Deadman, in good times and bad by spending more than it's taking in. The state changed its fis-

cal year and borrowed from funds because it had trouble back in the mid '70s, he said.

"They're playing games and doing all the things cities aren't allowed to do. We have a requirement under state law of a balanced budget. Certainly, if we manipulated accounts we would have been taken to task a long time ago."

Please turn to Page 4

## More food available for hungry

Qualified persons who last week missed the free cheese distribution in the city of Farmington Hills can pick up their cheese from 10 a.m. to noon Tuesday.

The five-pound blocks are being distributed to Farmington and Farmington Hills residents who can provide identification and proof of unemployment, such as an unemployment card or food stamps or, if employed, proof of income, such as a pay stub. Income limits based on family size will be used to determine eligibility.

Since Dec. 20, an emergency food center has been in operation at city hall. More than 300 of approximately 13,000 eligible area residents have received donated food from the city's special services offices.

Nearly 400 cheese bricks will be distributed.

Anyone wishing to donate or receive food may call 474-6115 for more information.

Last week, the Bonaventure Roller Rink collected more than 1,000 cans of food which it has pledged to the city's food drive.

## City seeks volunteers

If you were turned down by the Farmington Board of Zoning Appeals the last time you wanted some property rezoned, or if you're the kind of person who would enjoy having a say in what appears on cable television, you may be interested in some governmental openings.

The city of Farmington is seeking to fill positions on its Board of Zoning Appeals and cable access committee. Anyone who is a qualified and registered elector and who has resided in the city for three years is eligible. The zoning board meets the first Wednesday of every month to hear appeals concerning property use and rate on variances.

The cable committee, which will work with public access television committee members from Farmington Hills, Novi and Metrovion cable television, has two openings.

City Manager Robert Deadman said the new committee, which "probably will meet quite often," will work with budgets allocating money for public access television in coordination with the not-yet-hired executive director of the public access system.

Committee work will involve contact with special interest groups including the school system, churches, libraries, the performing arts and senior citizens.

Those interested in applying should write a letter to Farmington City Clerk Josephine Busbey at 2360 Liberty, Farmington 48024 stating their specific interests. Include a brief resume.



Beautiful structures such as this one, Our Lady of Sorrows Roman Catholic Church in Farmington, are nice places to worship, but expensive to heat. Parishoners find it is costing more and more money to keep their church buildings warm.

## Fighting demon cold Houses of worship aim to keep warm

By Mary Klemic  
staff writer

Occupants of religious buildings in Farmington and Farmington Hills are answering the call to conserve energy. As energy costs rise, officials of a number of churches and synagogues have attempted a wide range of solutions, from turning down thermostats to initiating extensive renovations to save energy.

Its main building, which seats some 400 persons, was built in 1961 and was added on to in 1972. The building has five furnaces — two oil, two gas and one electric — and eight sections of 18-foot windows on one side. Senior pastor George Ramsey said it costs between \$25 and \$27 just to bring the heat up in the sanctuary.

Ramsey said the church has put in double-pane windows and been fully insulated. Meetings were shifted so less rooms would have to be heated.

"We have dealt with the (energy problems) we can deal with," he said. "There was a property committee designated to be looking at energy all the

time. Some have gone to special seminars and some of that knowledge came back." Ramsey added that the church is still contending with a foyer that has windows on either side.

PASTOR CLYDE THOMAS of the Seventh Day Adventist Church in Farmington said the high ceiling in the 18-year-old, two-level building has presented some energy challenges that the congregation has tried to meet.

"We're careful of what we do," he said. "We had three and a half meetings the other night, and hold them all on the same level."

The church is also in the process of installing ceiling fans to circulate heat, he said, and may put in a cylinder on an upstairs door to keep the cold drafts from descending. Modular structures that will be used as schools will eventually be completely reinsulated, Thomas added.

Thomas and Father Seamus Ryan, pastor at the Church of St. Fabian in Farmington Hills, agreed that storm windows are expensive.

"It would take us 40 years to get (the cost) all back," Ryan said.

The energy obstacles at the 25-year-old St. Fabian's are "too many windows" and a lack of insulation in the walls, according to Ryan. He said the parish has converted to an automatic heating system that turns on and off at certain times of the day, and is insulating walls and the roof.

"We tried to get some government funds (for energy)," Ryan said. "We didn't get the grant but we did some of it ourselves."

AUTOMATIC HEATING is also being used at the Birmingham Temple

in Farmington Hills, according to temple bookkeeper/secretary Sonia Garfield.

Pastor Lee Tyler of the Salem United Church of Christ in Farmington said the church has taken action to conserve energy over the last three years. The original building was built in 1902, and was added on to in 1923 and 1958.

The energy action taken includes insulating the 180-person capacity sanctuary and putting storm windows over stained glass and other parts of the building. Its heating system enables the church to control which of its four zones are heated. Ceiling fans will also be put in, Tyler said.

Belle Hargreaves, secretary at Trinity Episcopal Church in Farmington Hills, said storm windows and ceiling fans were installed in the one-story building, which is 27 years old. Its thermostats are kept at 68 degrees, among other changes, she said.

"All committee meetings meet on the same night," Hargreaves said. "They used to meet whenever they wanted to."

She added that the congregation has supported the energy-wise changes. "If they get a little chilly, they take their coats in with them," she said.

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN Church in Farmington Hills keeps its sanctuary thermostats at 68 degrees during worship services and in the low 50s when the room is not in use. It also has thermopane windows and combines meeting times.

"Ours is a relatively new building and because of that we were able to incorporate (energy-saving) in the design of the building," said William Krueger, church council member and property committee chairman. The

sanctuary is 3 years old. Abernethy said changes are being made in church design, but not always for energy's sake.

"If there are changes coming about, it's a way the individual congregations desire to have their ministry," he said. "For example, instead of having a clergyman up on a podium in front, it is more intimate."

Gordon Merritt, a partner at Merritt and McCallum Architects in Farmington, said religious buildings are now better insulated. Also, they have fewer and more strategically placed windows, more temperature control and a "lower profile," he said.

"They enclose a less volume of space. Each room is on a separate thermostat so you only heat the room you need," Merritt said.

Abernethy said a United Methodist church in Highland was not partially underground. But the energy-effectiveness of such a move is unknown at this time, he said.

The professor cautioned that some religious items may be adversely affected by the building's temperature. "Some equipment you would not want to get too cool, such as a pipe organ," he said.

Tom Stanton, director of Michigan's Energy Administration Clearinghouse, said a "church energy conservation package," with information provided by Michigan Consolidated and the National Council of Churches, among others, is available by calling, toll-free, 1-800-292-4704.

He said 21 communities, not including Farmington and Farmington Hills, are working on an energy management program in which some churches are eligible for a walk-through building audit.

## Center launches drive

The Farmington Community Center's 1983 Annual Fund Drive will begin with a reception at 8 p.m. Monday, January 31 at the center, 24705 Farmington Road.

Fund drive co-chairmen are appealing to families, individuals and community leaders to make this year's drive a success. The goal for 1983 is \$41,100.

The number of total contributors increased by 60 percent last year, according to Betty Paine, executive director.

"This kind of response shows that residents do want this organization to continue as a unique activities center," Paine said.

The center offers approximately 500 classes and workshops each year on such wide-ranging topics as fine arts, family health, home repairs, heritage crafts, cooking, horseback riding and ballet.

Fifty special events are planned throughout the year, including the newly formed Men's Club, concerts, tours, trips to theaters and historical sites, arts and crafts shows, a Christmas Walk, Santa's Luncheon and holiday celebrations.

The 100-year-old home may be rented. It provides a setting for weddings and receptions, holiday and graduation parties, bar mitzvahs, family parties and other special occasions. Individual rooms are also available for organization meetings and seminars, workshops and business meetings.

Some 200 members of the volunteer guild assist at the center during the year. The Second Edition, a resale shop located on the second floor, is operated entirely by volunteers. Others help with clerical work, registration, and planning special events and fund-raisers, and serve as hostesses and tour guides. Additional volunteers with good typing skills are needed.

The center is a non-profit organization, and doesn't receive tax money or United Foundation funds. Individual contributions and funds raised during the Corporate Fund Drive in the fall account for 25 percent of the revenue needed to maintain the historic home.

Additional funds are raised through such events as the Millionaire's Party, spring art auction, midsummer Silent and Live Auction, annual fashion show and fall luncheon.

Fifty percent of the operating income comes from revenue from classes and rentals. The rest comes from special events and contributions from individuals, businesses and community organizations.

All financial contributors are members of the Community Center and receive the monthly newsletter and invitations to special activities, and have voting privileges.

Fund Drive co-chairmen are Mary Jo and Robert Fezzy, Nancy and Robert Taylor, and C. Diana and Jervis H. Webb.

## Police investigate

## Foreign-made cars get a big bash

Several startled Farmington Hills residents walked out of their homes Wednesday morning to find their foreign cars smashed, and pushed from their driveways onto the lawn.

Eighteen-year-old Anne Horrigan of 27059 Arden Park Circle discovered what amounted to \$300 in damage to the right door and rear fender of her parked 1980 Honda Civic, and tire tracks across her front lawn.

Ara Basmajian, 28, of 27083 Arden Park Circle found her four-door 1982 Volvo on the grass at about 6:30 a.m. with \$1,500 damage done to left rear side.

At 25870 Branchester, \$1,000 damage was done to Thaler Mikho's two-door 1979 Subaru. Mikho, 34, found green paint in the damaged right door and rear fender area. Tire tracks traversed her lawn and driveway.

Linda Rae Merryman's 1979 Toyota Corolla was found damaged in a carport at 20772 Orchard Lake Road. Police said it appeared as though a vehicle had been positioned intentionally under the carport and rammed into the Corolla. The car was pushed sideways about a foot into the carport's two supporting poles.

Livonia's Sam Thompson told Merryman he saw a dark late model Ford pick-up truck "maneuvering into the carport and driving under the carport" at about 3 a.m. Thompson "didn't see the pick-up do anything, but thought it was suspicious," officers said.

A 1976 Datsun belonging to Allan M. Passerman received about \$1,000 damage to the right door and rear fender sometime Wednesday morning.

Passerman, 35, had parked the car in his circular driveway behind a Ford station wagon, which was undamaged. His Datsun had been pushed onto the

front lawn, on which tire tracks were evident.

Lori Malten of 25348 Arden Park Drive discovered \$1,000 in damage to her 1977 Toyota Celica. The right door and rear fender were dented. The Chevrolet Chevette that she had parked behind was untouched. The Toyota also had been pushed over onto the lawn.

Pieces of plastic, possibly tall light lenses, and glass were recovered as evidence by the police.


The matter is under investigation by Farmington Hills detectives. They currently are no suspects.

## what's inside

Community Calendar . . .	7A
Crackerbarrel . . . . .	8A
Editorials . . . . .	6A
Inside Angles . . . . .	3A
Obituaries . . . . .	2A
Oral Quarrel . . . . .	6A
Shopping Cart . . . . .	Section B
Sports . . . . .	Section C
Suburban Life . . . . .	5, 6B

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