

Farmington Observer

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Twenty-five cents

Hills ponders tax increase

By Joanne Malliszewski
staff writer

Farmington Hills taxpayers will be dipping deeper into their pocketbooks to pay a 1.26 mill increase in local taxes if city officials adopt a proposed \$14.3 million 1983-84 budget.

Because the state equalized value (SEV) of property in Farmington Hills dropped almost one percent, and faced with a 5.7 percent anticipated increase in next year's expenditures, Farmington Hills officials are recommending an overall 1.2675 mills (per \$1,000 of assessed value) increase. That would hike the current 7.8255 mills to 9.0930 in 1983-84.

So if you own a \$100,000 home assessed at \$50,000, your city taxes in 1983-84 would run approximately \$454 if the increase is approved.

Taxpayers who want to comment or ask questions about the recommended millage increase may attend a public hearing at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 31, in the Farmington Hills City Council chambers. The budget is expected to be adopted Wednesday, June 8.

THE DROP in SEV this year can be traced back to last year when a 6-percent factor was added to residential assessments, said William Costick, Farmington Hills assistant city manager. So this year, based on sales market studies, assessments were rolled back.

And although the anticipated 5.7 percent increase in expenditures includes approximately \$236,000 in local road improvements, City Manager Lawrence Savage indicates that about \$369,000 in reserves will be used to balance the 1983-84 budget. That holds true even though state shared revenues are expected to increase about five percent because federal shared revenues simultaneously will drop about \$100,000.

"This then, is essentially a minimal, no-growth operating budget," Savage said.

"We really have made an effort to keep our expenses down," said Costick. "But we do have a lot of capital needs."

'We really have made an effort to keep our expenses down. But we do have a lot of capital needs.'

— Bill Costick
assist. city manager

So the proposed millage increase can be broken down into several components: a new one-mill levy for capital improvements; a .269-mill increase in the city's debt levy; and a .2506-mill increase in the city's operating levy.

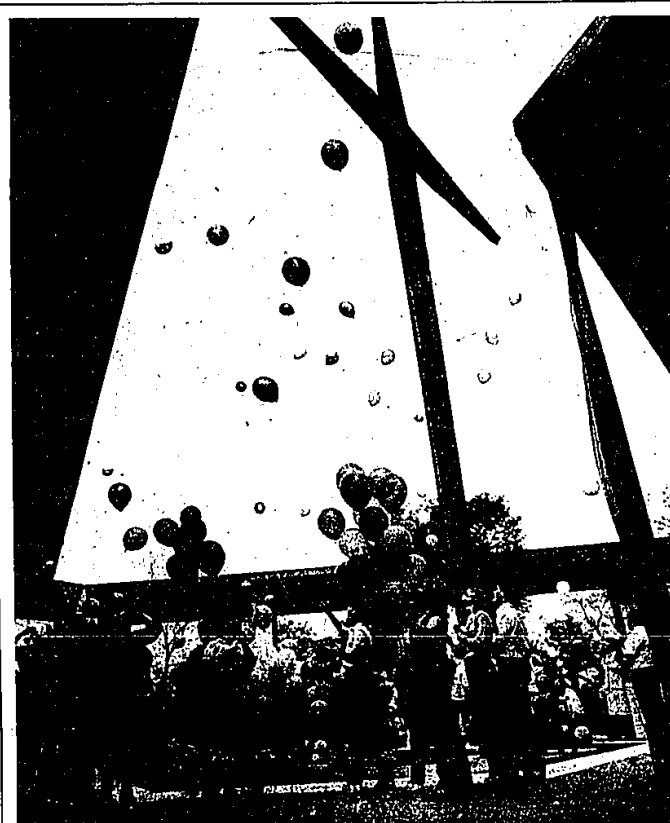
The proposed one-mill levy for capital improvements stems from a recently presented six-year capital improvement plan for Farmington Hills which lists projects in priority of need such as drainage, public buildings, roads, sanitary sewers, equipment and parks and recreation facilities.

In 1983-84 city officials want to spend \$2.1 million on capital improvements. But the proposed one-mill levy garners only \$944,000, so another \$1.2 million in reserves as well as \$40,000 in interest from city investments would be added to the pot.

IF THE budget and capital improvement plan are approved, the \$2.1 million would be spent on the long-planned Caddell Drain Project (Red Roof Inn area), jointly funded with Oakland County and Farmington; other miscellaneous drain improvements; a \$1-million installment on improvements for the police department headquarters; and a second option payment on the Spicer property on Farmington Road, between 13 and 14 Mile. Improvement plans for the police building also will be discussed at the May 31 city council meeting.

"Actually, the development of a multi-year capital improvement program, including a capital budget, represents a

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Balloons filled the air at the Peace Gathering sponsored Saturday by Our Lady of Sorrows Roman Catholic Church in Farmington.

RANDY BOST/Staff photographer

Church stages peace meeting

By Joanne Malliszewski
staff writer

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If you noticed hundreds of balloons floating above Farmington Saturday, they were a message from about 50 participants in a peace gathering at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church.

"Imagine your balloon is filled with the spirit of peace," Mark Springer, Our Lady of Sorrows new worship coordinator, told those holding the pink and red balloons.

"Instead of missiles of war, let's send forth our balloons of peace," he said, as some 1,200 helium-filled balloons rose in the air.

Saturday's "Call to Peace" at Our Lady of Sorrows kicked off annual "Peace Pentecost" activities, which culminated in a prayer for peace and peace party at Southfield's St. Bede's Catholic Church.

Participants traveled in a "Pathways to Peace" motorcade between the two churches.

Local Peace Pentecost activities were especially timely this year because of the recent release of the controversial U.S. bishops' letter on war and peace.

Bishop Thomas Gumbleton, one of the primary authors of the pastoral letter, was expected to speak at Our Lady of Sorrows Wednesday evening.

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Ross tells audience Industrial age is dead

By Joanne Malliszewski
staff writer

Americans should accept the death of their industrial economy with its renowned mass production system and get on with building a future based on skilled labor and sophisticated technology, said Douglas Ross, the new Michigan Youth Corps director.

"We have ceased to be a major manufacturer," Ross told about 30 men and women Monday at a symposium on the quality of life in the 1980s, sponsored by the Birmingham Temple.

Even if Americans tomorrow begin producing 11 million cars and sustain that level for 12 months, Ross said, one-half million workers still would be unemployed.

"We have to reach the last stage of accepting the loss of our industrial economy. We have to accept the fact

that it's gone," said Ross, former Oak Park state senator.

High-volume mass production supported by unskilled labor began dying in the 1970s, when corporate decision makers turned to cheaper labor in Taiwan and Malaysia.

"It's (mass production and unskilled labor) leaving all the developed countries," he said. "It is going to these places where labor is cheaper."

"To the extent that it involves unskilled labor, its never coming back."

SO NOW faced with a loss of our industrial economy, unskilled labor and mass production system, Americans have to change course from "capital intensive activity" to a "knowledge intensive economy."

"But how do we find our way through this transition?" Ross asked. "First of all we've got to stop the process of sub-

siding what is dying."

The former director of both Michigan Common Cause and the Michigan Citizens Lobby said, for example, that the federal government's loan to Chrysler in the late 1970s to keep the auto corporation afloat was "misguided."

"I would say the loan to Chrysler was a mistake," he said. "I don't think those kind of subsidies make long-term sense even though they appear to postpone some short-term pain. You subsidize people, not corporations."

Although Americans hesitate to let major corporations fail, we should let them fail to free up capital to create new jobs, Ross said.

Even though America still must maintain its manufacturing ability, it must be upgraded and sophisticated if

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Doug Ross: "They aren't as strong as they seem — not the UAW, not GM. They're getting weaker."

In synagogue defacing 3 teens charged

By Tom Bear
staff writer

The recent defacing of Farmington Hills' Adat Shalom Synagogue was a "spur-of-the-moment thing," carried out by three teen-age boys who've confessed to the crime, according to a police officer who was involved in their apprehension.

The suspects, all juveniles, were released to the custody of their parents after being charged with malicious destruction of property over \$100, according to police.

They were to have had a hearing in Oakland County Juvenile Court this week.

Farmington Hills Police said vandals using cans of spray paint defaced the synagogue, on Middlebelt north of 13 Mile, sometime on the night of May 14, a Saturday.

Swastikas, Ku Klux Klan initials, racial epithets and obscenities were

painted on the synagogue's outer walls. Sidewalks and street signs near the building were similarly vandalized.

One of the suspects lives in Farmington Hills; the other two reside in "another area community," according to Sgt. Richard Murphy of the Farmington Hills Police.

"No (police) department's had any contact with them before this as far as we know," said Murphy, who declined to release their names because of their juvenile status.

Murphy said a tip telephoned to police on the Monday following the incident led to the arrest.

"We followed it up and called them in," he said. "At that time, they readily admitted their part in the destruction."

"Allegedly, it was just a spur-of-the-moment thing. There's no indication that they belong to an organized group or anything like that."

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oral quarrel

What should be done to save Hills park?

Since the Farmington Hills City Council agreed to purchase the Spicer property and convert it into a recreational area, a legislative vote next week almost certainly will seal away the state funds intended for the buy. The money will be diverted to the newly instituted summer employment program.

The loss of state funds will thrust the burden back on council to figure out how to fund the parks program. They

could use your ideas. Today's Oral Quarrel question is:

WHAT IDEAS DO YOU HAVE TO FINANCE THE PURCHASE OF THE SPICER PROPERTY AND SAVE THE PARK?

To answer this Oral Quarrel, call us at 477-5498. You have until 1 p.m. Friday to reply. To see what ideas your neighbors have, look in Monday's Farmington Observer.

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Due to the Memorial Day Holiday, our offices will be closed Monday, May 30.

To place a classified ad in the Thursday, June 1st edition, please call Tuesday, May 31 between 8 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

Remember...

One call does it all!



591-0900
Use your MasterCard or Visa

Creative Living to join Observer

Premiering in today's issue of your Farmington Observer is a new section for our readers and advertisers. It's called Creative Living.

With the upturn in the real estate market in our circulation area, we felt the need to supply our readers and advertisers with a more readable, comprehensive real estate package.

All real estate-related advertising has been packaged together to provide the most concise shopping and buying guide available.

News in this section will include the latest information about the lively

arts and the trends that affect our lifestyles.

Anyone wishing to have items published in Creative Living should contact editor Corinne Abbott at 644-1100 Ext. 250. Advertisers can reach Dan Chevonec at 591-2300 Ext. 241.

To make sure your living is creative, read Creative Living every Thursday.

We welcome your thoughts and comments.

Dick Iaham,
general manager
Observer & Eccentric Newspapers