

Farmington Observer

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Twenty-Five Cents

Some citizens to pay more in Farmington

By Joanno Mallazewski
staff writer

Farmington taxpayers will pay more local taxes this year, even though the proposed 1984-85 budget includes a recommendation to maintain last year's tax rate.

"As an average, people will be paying more," said City Manager Robert F. Deadman.

The culprit is an increase of approximately 2.6 percent in the state equalized valuation (SEV) of residential property in the city. When commercial and industrial property is taken into account, however, the city's total SEV jumped about 4 percent, Deadman said.

That means that if city officials adopt the \$4.9 million 1984-85 budget based on last year's 11.74 mills, the rate is applied against a greater property assessment, driving up local taxes.

Taxpayers can offer their opinions about the proposed budget at a public hearing at 5 tonight. The public hearing is required by state statute because the city will receive approximately \$45,000 more in revenue because of the increase in SEV.

Council must adopt the annual budget by June 4, according to state law.

Although city officials recommend levying last year's 11.74 mills, the distribution of the rate between the city's operating budget and debt service will be somewhat different than in 1983-84.

Little more than \$199,000 left in the city's total surplus, he added.

Besides a proposed Detroit Edison rate increase of 38 percent that will have about a \$20,000 annual increase on the city's budget for the street lighting, the city's share to the 47th District Court also will increase, Deadman said.

The city's share to the court is expected to jump from 18.8 percent to 19.47 percent because of the result of additional court cases generated by Farmington residents and the Department of Public Service.

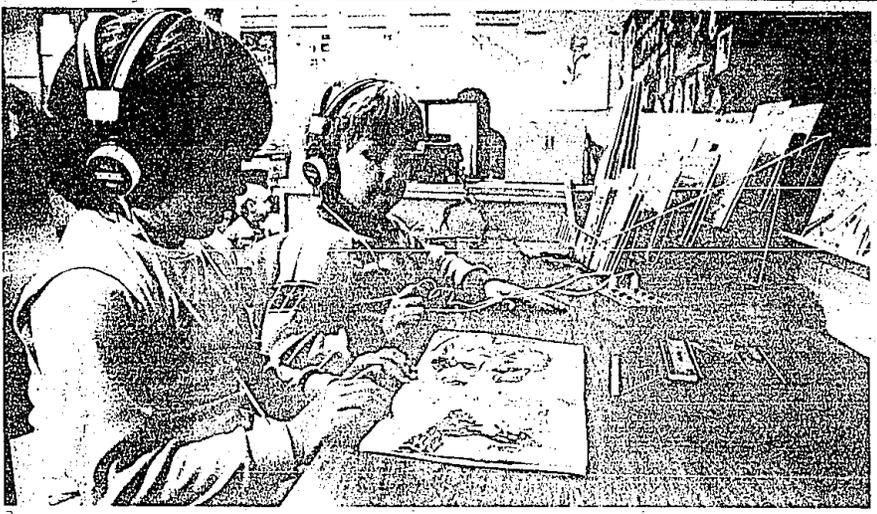
PROJECTS THAT city officials have targeted for 1984-85 include:

- A proposed two-year improvement program for the city's recreational facilities. Although a grant has been applied for through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the city will have to match the project's cost with \$100,000. City officials have budgeted \$50,000 to cover the cost of the 1984-85 improvements.

- Oakland County Road Commission will widen Farmington Road at Freedom Road to provide a left turn onto Freedom Road. Although city officials have developed a local street repair program, the improvements will be delayed until there is enough revenue in the city's highway fund to pay the debt service on a bond issue that would be required to finance the repairs.

- The Bel-Aire subdivision sanitary drain system will be started this year and work will be completed on the Old Town storm drain. Also planned is an extension of the city's water system on Raphael Street providing additional fire flow for fire protection in the school administration complex, Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church and the 47th District Court building.

- Capital equipment purchases planned for this year include the replacement of three patrol cars for the Department of Public Safety. The Public Services department plans to purchase a leaf trailer with an attached leaf vacuum. New lawn and road maintenance equipment is also planned for purchase.



Preschoolers Patti Dixon (left) and Christopher Gruba listen to a story during a "quiet-time activity" at the Fairview Early Childhood Center.

Tots learn to develop skills

By Jean Adamczak
staff writer

Brightly-colored walls and child-sized furniture make Room 12 at Farmington's Fairview Early Childhood Center especially attractive to 3-year-olds.

Room 12 is "home" for Fairview's Preschool Developmental Program operated by the Farmington Public Schools.

"The children come here very excited and eager to go, almost rambunctious," said teacher Bonnie Gregory. "They like to meet their friends here."

"Now in its third year, the program attempts to give selected preschoolers a year of development before kindergarten. Sessions run from September through June.

Children are screened at a spring evaluation, using a "placement tool" called the Gesell Developmental Exam.

'It is important to give children a strong concept of self confidence.'

— Bonnie Gregory
Fairview teacher

"The Gesell Exam allows the parents and us (the teachers) to look at children as they are developmentally, and determine their readiness to handle kindergarten emotionally, socially, physically, as well as intellectually," said Fairview Supervisor Mary Lou Somerville.

"All children are not ready for a kindergarten experience merely because they have attained the age of 5 by Dec. 1," said Somerville.

"This has nothing to do with potential or intelligence. Simply, it means a child may need another year in which to develop the skills necessary

for a successful school start."

THE PROGRAM gives children a "gift of time" enabling them to learn and develop for a year before starting kindergarten, Gregory said, adding that parents are encouraged, not required to enroll their children in the program.

"It is important to give children a strong concept of self-confidence before they go into kindergarten. At this age they are willing to try anything, and everything is a success to them," Gregory said.

A typical two-hour session at Fairview includes a variety of activities aimed at emotional, social, physical and cognitive development.

During a "free activity time" children have their choice of playing with puzzles, water play or sand playing in the large sandbox.

Each child also works on an individual project centering around a particular theme for the week or day. "Story time" also centers around

the theme and is a quiet time for the children.

"We stress the literature factor, talking about the author and encouraging the children to talk about the story as much as possible," Gregory said.

Other activities include a daily gym period to help develop motor skills and a listening time when children listen to a story on cassette tapes using headphones.

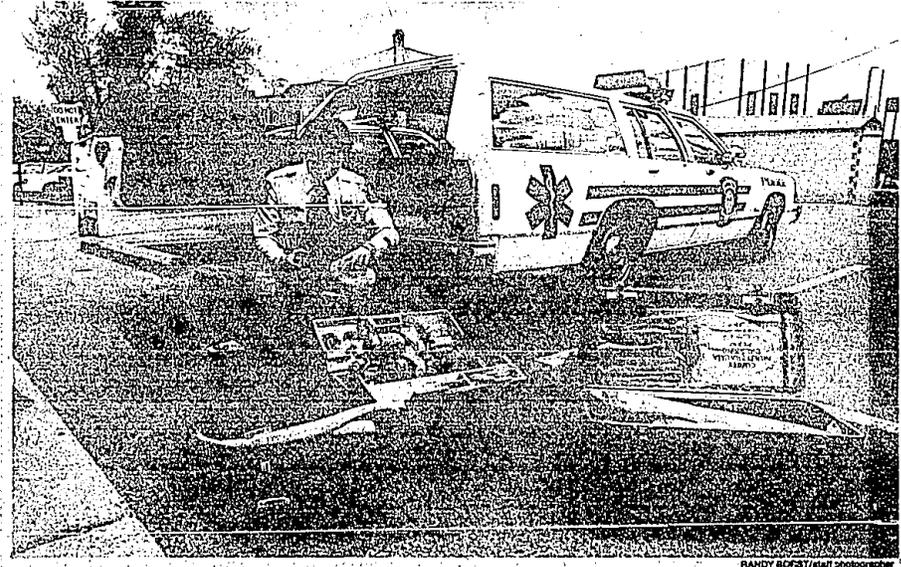
BUT THE children's favorite activity is "snack time" when they all gather around a miniature table and chairs eating a snack provided by a different parent each day.

"The parents volunteer to bring in nutritional snacks and the children learn table manners, social behavior and good eating habits," Gregory pointed out.

Although the program is important,

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If somebody's hurting, he's trained to help



Pete Amato of the Farmington Public Safety Department checks the gear which goes in the city's Emergency Medical Technician wagon.

By Jean Adamczak
staff writer

If you can't find a doctor, look for Pete Amato. He's the next best thing.

Amato, who holds the rank of commander in the Farmington Public Safety Department, recently finished a 12-week training period to become Farmington's only state-licensed Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT).

"An AEMT is really a doctor's eyes and hands in the field," Amato said. "They must know both basic and advanced emergency medical procedures."

An Emergency Medical Technician

'AN AEMT is really a doctor's eyes and hands in the field.'

— Pete Amato

(EMT) provides emergency care for victims up until the time an advanced care unit such as an AEMT or ambulance responds.

Amato points out that in a life-threatening emergency the most important element is time.

"If you call us we will have a unit there at the scene in two minutes. Time

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