

School officials seek renewal of millage

By Joanne Mallizowski
staff writer

In addition to choosing two new school board members, Farmington School District voters will be asked to renew authority to levy four mills for 10 years when they go to the polls in the regular school election June 10.

The four mills are part of the district's 37.29-mills operating tax levy

previously approved by voters.

Even when school officials don't plan to use all the authorized millage, they request a renewal, Superintendent Lewis Schulman said. When another four mills expires next year, voters can expect a similar request for renewal.

The request for renewal does not raise the authorized tax rate. If the district is operating below the authorized rate and needs more money in the fu-

ture, it can raise taxes up to the authorized rate.

ALTHOUGH VOTERS have authorized 37.29 for operations, the district's 1985-86 \$49.7 million budget is based on a total 34-mill levy (32.5 mills for operations and 1.5 mills for debt).

The taxes voters pay is based on the levy, not necessarily on the authorized rate. Consequently, renewing the four mills does not mean voters will be paying a higher tax rate this year.

The highest operating tax rate levied in the district was 36.28 mills in 1979-80, Schulman said. This does not include the 3.4 mills levied for debt in that year.

Since that time, the rate has continued to drop, with the lowest levy of 31.80 for operations in 1983-84. In 1984-85, the operating rate was increased to 33 mills. These figures do not include the millage levied for debt.

But since 1977, when the debt levy was 3.8 mills, it has decreased to 1.5 mills in 1985-86.

City, Red Cross hold blood drive

The city of Farmington Hills and the Red Cross are sponsoring a bloodmobile visit from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday in the city council chambers.

Those who wish to donate blood may make an appointment by contacting Laurie Hall in the Special Service De-

partment offices at 474-6115, Ext. 287, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays.

The city offices are located at the intersection of Orchard Lake and 11 Mile Roads.

Helen Ditzhazy

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and involved. I feel I would represent fairly, the parents with children in school and the many whose children are now grown, but who have the larger community concerns about the education we are providing families with.

How would you attempt to contain public education costs?

I would attempt to contain public education costs by making the most of the opportunity to, after study, recommend dropping marginal programs. I would also take cognizance of increased property values which provide more district revenues and save money long-term by making certain that building maintenance and programs are kept at levels desired by the community. Finally, after staff, administrative and citizen input into the plan, I would urge the board to consider levying a lower millage rate if it appeared the budget, with 5 percent contingency, could be balanced.

What are your feelings about Farmington Hills' proposed use of the Tax Increment Financing Act (TIFA) along the 12 Mile commercial corridor?

I am not certain the Tax Increment Financing Act (TIFA) could be called upon to solve the problem along the 12

Mile commercial corridor. There is a serious problem there because of office growth. The growth is hampered by such two-lane arteries as Drake, Highland and Haggerty roads. It would be nice if the state would help, but that may not happen.

To use TIFA, a situation of declining property values must exist. That is not the case with this property. TIFA freezes assessed values. Any increments would not go to normal recipients such as schools, but could be used to upgrade roads and provide an additional interchange for expressway use. Considering the community as a whole, the schools and city could benefit in the long run if using TIFA along the 12 Mile commercial corridor was legal and possible financing for a specified period of years.

If elected, what would be your immediate goals as a school board member?

If elected, some of my immediate goals would be to work with a board/administrative committee to examine the possibility of involving all staff and administration in Effective Schools, Effective Instruction training. It would also be a goal to re-evaluate the roles of our three high schools in providing equal access to each program offered

in the district.

How do you perceive the role of school board member?

I perceive the role of school board member as that of policy setter, scrutineer of financial reports, questioner, resident representative who applauds and encourages the citizenry to support a broad spectrum of program opportunities for students from prekindergarten and latch key through adult education. I also perceive the role as, with the full board, giving direction to the curriculum of the district.

In your opinion, what issues will be facing the school district in the next four years?

In my opinion, during the term coming up, board members will be hiring staff from teachers through consultants, specialists, administrators and even the superintendent. The newly signed contract makes Farmington an attractive draw. Declining high school enrollments provide "super-creativity" possibilities for some new programs and possibly different configurations. Continued concerns for maintenance and cost effectiveness will, I believe, loom large on the horizon. Involvement of more of the "two child in school" in innovative ways will also be an issue.




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Albert Zolton

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The Attorney General's opinion has been rendered.

If elected, what would be your immediate goals as a school board member?

My immediate goal as a board member would be to foster a greater balance between education and training, to look for more cost containment measures, and to continue to exercise the kind of fiscal and financial responsibility and integrity already evidenced by the board.

How do you perceive the role of school board member?

The role of a school board member is one of leadership — establishing sound policies and overseeing their implementation, always keeping in mind that the taxpayer is footing the bill.

In your opinion, what issues will be facing the school district in the next four years?

Proper use of monies realized in the sale of board properties, resolution of state guidelines relative to special education, wise utilization of grant funds for gifted programs, and the possible changes in curricula as our state and nation move from an industrial-based economy to one that is more service-oriented.

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Special EVENTS

VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NUMBERING PROGRAM

Have your Vehicle Identification Number etched on your car windows during this free program sponsored by AAA, Hudson's and Westland Center. This service is being offered in an attempt to stem the tide of automobile thefts throughout the Tri-County area. June 5 - 9. Wed thru Sat, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, 12 to 5 p.m. Parking Lot 3.

SALUTE TO THE TIGERS

A display of original pastel portraits, by Rinaldo Minervini, of the 1984 Tigers, including the players and coaches. Mr. Minervini will be available for autographs during the exhibit. Sunday, June 9 thru Sunday, June 16, Center Hours, Central Court.

MICROWAVE SEMINAR III

Third in a series of three seminars by Larry Janes, No-Nonsense Chef on Channel 7, on microwave cooking. Chef Janes will demonstrate meats and desserts. Complimentary coffee and rolls will be served. The Seminar is free but reservations are necessary. Call 425-5001. Tuesday, June 11, 10 a.m. and 7 p.m., Auditorium.

BASEBALL AUTOGRAPHS

In honor of Father's Day, Jim Northrop and Gates Brown, both previously with the Detroit Tigers, will be at Westland to meet their friends and sign autographs. Instant photos will be available. Jim Northrop - Friday, June 14, 4 to 6 p.m. Gates Brown - Saturday, June 15, 1 to 3 p.m., Central Court.


ROSE SHOW

The Detroit Rose Society will hold its Annual Spring Show in Westland's Central Court. A wide variety of blooms will be judged on Saturday and displayed through Sunday. June 22 and 23, Center Hours, Central Court.

WESTLAND BEAUTY PAGEANT

Westland Center, The Detroit Free Press and the City of Westland Summer Festival Committee are sponsoring the 1985 Miss Westland Beauty Pageant. The Pageant is the first activity planned for this year's Annual Summer Festival. Contestants must be residents of Westland, single and between the ages of 17 - 20. Applications are available at the City Hall or the Westland Center Management Office. The deadline for entering is June 14. The Pageant is on Saturday, June 29, at 7 p.m. Central Court.

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