School election seeks 4-mill renewal

A special school election has been scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 10, to ask voters of the Farmington Public Schools to renew 4 mills for 10

The renewal gives the district au-thority to continue to operate with

32.5 mills approved in the 1986-87 budget; a millage renewal election does not ask for new millage or raise property taxes. Farmington school loard members set the special election date during a Nov. 11 meeting. "It's legitimate; it's a renewal," Deputy Superintendent Michael Flanagan said. "We've virtually always had special elections for mil-

lage renewals."

The election is being held this winter so district budget preparations can begin March 1 and so that the school election doesn't conflict with elections scheduled by other governmental units. The schools also cannot use election equipment in the fall, and since most other elections are held in the spring or summer, the

winter date seemed appropriate.

"WE DIDNT want it competing with city millages," Flanagan added." It was a deliberate move on our part not to take away from their elections." During a dispute with the elections." During a dispute with the elections." During a dispute with the reference in flanancing proposal last February, the school district made a commitment to support the city's road millage efforts, and the district didn't want to conflict with city plans, Flanagan said.

In the Farmington school district, a mill equals about 31.4 million. Countywide each district automatically receives 9.34 mills. The balance of district millage — in Farmington's case 27.73 — is voted by the public, Flanagan sale rationing mills plus and different 1.3 mills the district levies for debt, the total millage levied is 33.8. The debt levy has been reduced since 1977 when it was 3.8 mills.

FAININGTON'S MILLAGE is broken down into small locrements, which the public votes on regularly, unlike some districts that vote millage renewals in larger increments. Officials are asking for renewal of only four of the 27.75 mills this year. Next year, voters will be asked to renew 5.7 mills, he added. "The bottom line is if they vote yes, the millage rate will stay the same," Flanagan said. "If we don't renew it, we can't levy it."

To explain how 1 mill is spent, he To explain how I mill is spent, he said the district employs 1,400 people, including 700 teachers, and educates more than 10,000 students. "It's just the way a community in a democracy allows us to continue our programs."

Farmington Public Schools begins the budget alanging process in earlier

Farmington Public Schools begins its budget planning process in early March. It needs the millage informa-tion to determine how much can be spent and where it should be distrib-uted.

Emergency details to be aired

A local cable television emergency system was approved Nov. 3 by the Farmington City Council.

It is designed to alert local communities of life-threatening disasters over the cable network serving the cities of Farmington, Farmington.

It was developed through the locatelle company, Metrovision of Oakland County.

The system became operational last September and tests on the litare

ernment with an additional tool to alert our cilizens of emergency situ-nitions." Deadman said in his report. Although the system will use only audio initially, a plan is being de-vised to alert watchers visually as well, Director of Public Safety Frank Lauboff added. Farmington would use the system for emergencies, including chemical spills and some weather emergen-cies, officials said.

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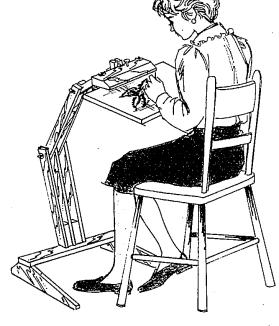
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