

today's  
**hot line**  
Vol. 83, No. 11 44 pages, 4 sections

**what's inside**  
*Another Retirement*

After 20 years of serving the Farmington Community as chief librarian, Mrs. Mildred Droege is retiring to devote more time to her favorite pastime — reading. The story of Farmington's Madam Librarian is one of devotion, a gift to the community which will not end upon retirement. Page 3A

*Hall's Last Works*  
Curtis H. Hall chaired his last meeting as Farmington Township Supervisor Monday night and the board had a busy night by taking such action as approving the first written contract the township has ever had with its police department. A report on these moves is given inside. Page 7A

*Liberated Elves*  
Postmen may have been getting a lot of deserved credit in the past, but this week the Farmington Enterprise & Observer passes on some good deeds performed by 13 "postwomen" who have volunteered as Santa's elves. Page 4A

*Voting, Working*  
The 18-year-old vote may have lost at the polls last week, but the issue of rights — and responsibilities — is very much alive in state government. Tim Richard has an exclusive report on the Governor's Special Commission on the Age of Majority, which is looking at work laws at the moment. Page 5A

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## Farmington Private Schools Will Still Share Services

Farmington public schools will continue sharing auxiliary programs and services with private and parochial schools despite passage of Proposition C (parochial). Supt. Roderick Smith told the Farmington school board Monday night. "We may be sued," he said, "but until there is some statement or an order from the state attorney general's office, we will continue to share services with private schools in the area."

DR. SMITH said Farmington public schools share remedial reading, speech correction and social work services with St. Fabian Catholic Elementary School and Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Elementary and High School. He said officials from Our Lady of Sorrows High School expressed concern over the possibility of losing these services.

But Dr. Smith assured them shared programs would be effective "at least until the end of the semester and probably until the end of the school year, as long as they are held on a public school site."

The ultimate decision of how many, if any, shared services remain will be determined in the courts, according to Dr. Smith.

Aldo Vagnozzi, trustee and head of the board's legislative committee, told the board and about 30 spectators that "opponents of Proposal C went way overboard in predicting the end of services, warning about more taxes, and all the rest."

He said Attorney General Frank Kelley indicated some programs would be dropped, but that "we'll keep doing what we're doing now (sharing services) at least until Dec. 15."

The new amendment by law is scheduled to go into effect 45 days after adoption by voters on Nov. 3.

ABOUT 120 parochial students now enrolled in certain classes at Farmington High School would be affected if shared services are cancelled, Dr. Smith said.

Vagnozzi also labeled the defeat of a county tax proposal that would have hiked the ceiling on property taxes levied by the county, another three mills to a total of 18, a "warning sign."

He said people "naturally" voted down a property tax increase as a means of increasing school funds that would come through the county tax allocation board. "Voters must be kept informed, and we must try to involve them in all our actions so they'll know what they're voting for," he said.

IN OTHER board business, members tabled a recommendation to approve a teacher contract agreement for 1970-71 on the grounds that all "technical" difficulties had not been resolved.

They voted to delay approval of the proposed agreement between the school district and the Farmington Education Association in lieu of further discussion.

The board also authorized the architectural firm of T. H. Jahr and Associates to begin development of a fifth junior high school at Northwestern Highway and 14 Mile Road. Plans provide for a school for 800 students.

Funds for the structure will come from \$4 million worth of bonds recently sold to the Bank of the Commonwealth.



**BOND BARN BURNS** despite the efforts of 25 volunteer firemen in Farmington Township who spent seven hours Friday morning trying to bring the blaze under control. The old barn at 13 Mile and Orchard Lake Road was "a total loss," according to owner Howard Bond. (Evert photo)

## Firemen Battle Blaze, Lose To Hay And Straw

One of the oldest landmarks in Farmington Township, known locally as the "Bond Barn," burned down Friday morning despite a seven-hour effort to save it.

Chief Thomas Weisheit, head of the volunteer Fire Department, said about 25 men from fire stations two and four arrived on the scene at 13 Mile and Orchard Lake Road about 10:55 p.m. Thursday.

"It was already blazing from every part when we got there," he said.

"THERE WAS HAY and straw in the barn that was hard to control. It just kept burning from the bottom up and we couldn't seem to get at it."

He said the last firetruck pulled back into the station about 6 a.m. Friday. "We had plenty of help and plenty of water, but that straw just kept on burning."

There were no injuries.

**OWNER HOWARD I. BOND**, of 2956 Ardmore, Farmington Township, called the fiasco a "total loss."

He said his father had built the barn in 1900 on 300 acres of farmland, but that it hadn't been used for farming in 15 years and was left vacant over the past two years.

Bond said his father enlarged the original structure in 1914. "The timbers in that barn were about the only things worth saving," he said. "They were large hand-hewn timbers about 16 x 16 feet."

Bond, also Quakerstown Village attorney, told the Farmington Enterprise and Observer he had just finished having the place cleaned up.

A house next to the barn has been vacant for over a year since a lightning struck a transformer, blowing the electrical system throughout the house.

He said the Farmington Township Police Department had been helpful in keeping trespassers off the property, although he mentioned someone had painted a large inverted v-shaped symbol on the side of the barn.

He said he was unable to estimate the amount of damage "in terms of dollars and cents."

Farmington Township Police officers said they are still investigating the cause of the blaze.

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## Cityhood Request Will Be Frozen

A Farmington Township petition asking for an incorporation election will remain frozen in the vault in Lansing for the time being.

The petition, filed by the Future Farmington Association (FFA), will not be acted upon until a lawsuit filed by the township is either resolved or withdrawn.

The Farmington Enterprise & Observer has learned that the State Boundary Commission will not place the incorporation request on its agenda while the lawsuit filed by the township against the commission is still pending.

**JAMES HYDE**, executive secretary of the Boundary Commission, reports the commission has been advised by its legal counsel that it cannot act upon the township incorporation request while the court appeal continues.

Joseph T. Brennan, on behalf of the township board, has a lawsuit pending before the Michigan Court of Appeals asking a reversal of the boundary decision made previously by Oakland Circuit Judge Frederick Ziem.

Farmington Township Police officers said they are still investigating the cause of the blaze.

HYDE said the township board has so advised the commission chairman has so advised the members.

**HACKNEY** is having consultations with Brennan, says

Continued on Page 4A

## Board Delays Vote Certification

Certification of vote results for last week's general election in Farmington Township has been delayed and may have to go to Oakland County for formal certification.

The Farmington Township Board of Canvassers met Friday night but could not agree on certifying the Nov. 3 vote.

The canvassing board, composed of two Republicans, two Democrats, and a non-partisan chairman, met Friday and heard comments from those in the audience concerning charges of election irregularities.

**AFTER THE HEARING** was concluded, the forms to certify the vote were signed by the two Republican members — Tom McMillan and Mrs. Margaret Downs.

The two Democratic members of the canvassing board declined. If the Democrats do not sign within 14 days of the election, the vote tallies will be sent to the Oakland County clerk's office, and the county will be asked to certify the vote.

The election process has been questioned by Democrats who attest that proper steps were not taken when it was discovered the voting machines were not functioning properly.

Voting machines in city and township had not been reset from the August primary, thus preventing voters from spitting the ticket by pulling levers in races where there was a multiple choice in voting.

The "multiple choices" are those races where voters were to vote for two from a field of four or more candidates. Affected were the township trustees race, State Board of Education, and university board seats.

**McMILLAN TOLD** the Farmington Enterprise & Observer that the sole purpose of the canvassing board was to determine if the votes cast Nov. 3 were correctly added and reported on the tally sheets.

McMillan said he checked with the county clerk on the role of the canvassing board and Friday night Township Attorney Joseph T. Brennan read from the state election laws.

"The role of the canvassers is strictly a clerical one to check the mathematics of the tally. We are not a judicial agency and cannot go beyond checking the accuracy of the tally," he added.

"We are not empowered or equipped to do anything more than ascertain that the votes were accurately tallied and reported."

**DR. BURTON LEVY**, unsuccessful Democratic candidate for township trustee, was represented before the canvassing board by attorney Paul Dietz.

Dietz said he asked the canvassers to delay certification until the board could determine exactly what its authority is and what alternatives are available.

"Harm could have been realized by certifying the vote Friday night," said Dietz, "but little harm can be realized by delaying."

"It is obvious there was a real mess in this election, so why not hold off on official certification?" Dietz asked.

**DIETZ SAYS LEVY** has contacted the state attorney general's office and secretary of state's election division to see if the machine malfunctioning and subsequent "irregularities" were grounds to set aside the election.

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