

Body  
therapy



Best  
of ID

Diablo boosters  
come to town, 3A

# Farmington Observer

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## farmington FOCUS

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**MASSACRE** remembered.  
Norman Lee of Farmington recently attended a reunion of the 285th Field Artillery Observation Battalion in Lancaster, Penn. This unit was involved in the incident known as the "Massacre at Malmedy" during the World War II German winter offensive in December 1944. One of B Battery were captured by a German Panzer Spearhead, disarmed and machine-gunned while standing with hands raised. Eighty-three were killed. Seventeen survived, all were wounded. Lee was a technical sergeant in Headquarters Battery.

**NOTE** the correct number to call.  
The Farmington Hills Fire Department will provide and install a free smoke detector to residents who own and occupy a home in the city. To request a smoke detector, call 473-9541. The wrong number was listed in the city's September newsletter.

### QUOTE of the week

"I'm not here to be mean-spirited, but... we are not going to be impressed by studies alone. It's going to have to be bricks and mortar."

— Attorney General Frank Kelley, in light of state-threatened sanctions against Farmington and other cities that discharge raw sewage into rivers and streams like the Rouge.

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**Reminder**

Your Observer Carrier will be stopping by this week to collect for the month. Please have the money ready and be sure to get your receipt. It's worth a \$2.00 discount on the next classified advertisement you place in your hometown newspaper.

# School bond issue defeated

By Casey Hane  
staff writer

A \$27.25 million bond issue to build a westside elementary school and early childhood center and to renovate school facilities districtwide was defeated by 218 votes Monday. Nearly 5 percent of Farmington Public Schools' registered voters went to the polls.

A total of 1,164 voters cast ballots in favor of the measure, while 1,382

voted in opposition. A majority of voters in all precincts, except Precinct 2 (O.E. Dunkel Middle School voting area), defeated the measure.

THE ISSUE had become hotly contested during the past two weeks, as Richard Headlee, Farmington Hills Insurance executive and author of the Headlee Tax Limitation Amendment, appeared at a school board meeting to denounce the use of bonds.

The district should have used surplus funds, or money from a capital account, to build the new school, Headlee said. Operating money should be used to do any necessary building improvements, he said.

He did say he felt the new elementary school was necessary, however.

Of 2,568 ballots tallied, 22 were declared invalid because of voter error, according to Betal Duschinske, who supervises elections for the 10,700-student district.

SCHOOL OFFICIALS have not decided whether they will try again for more bond money; district reaction to the election is expected at a school board meeting Tuesday, Sept. 27, according to board president Jack Cotton.

The school board began discussing the proposed bond issue last January, as opposition mounted to shifting boundaries for elementary students in the district.

A new elementary school was recommended by a citizen panel charged with studying alternatives for overcrowding.

The bond issue would have allocated \$7 million for the new elementary and early childhood center, and another \$20 million for building renovations and improvements. School officials said safety measures, including asbestos abatement, would have been among the improvements.



Election inspector Edith Mersback places a ballot in the box Monday night at the Farmington Training Center voting precinct.

## Farmington Public Schools

\$25.25 million for capital improvements  
Monday, Sept. 19, 1988 — local precinct breakdown

Precincts	Yes	No
1. Farmington Training Center	327	388
2. O.E. Dunkel Middle School	408	395
3. Warner Middle School	199	238
4. East Middle School	191	265
5. Absentee votes	39	96
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,164</b>	<b>1,382</b>
Registered/active voters, 51,851; actual number of voters, 2,546; turnout percentage, 4.9.		

## Defeat pleases Headlee but disappoints officials

By Casey Hane  
staff writer

Farmington school officials said they were disappointed with Monday's bond issue defeat and are considering polling the electorate to determine voter desires and reasons for the failure.

And as they look at various options to a continuing elementary overcrowding problem that still exists in the district, one official warned there was an "enrollment time bomb" waiting to explode in 1990.

Meanwhile, Farmington Hills insurance executive Richard Headlee

appeared elated with the news that the \$27.25 million bond issue was turned down by voters.

"It's apparent that the taxpayers and the voters studied the issue. They probably ended up with the same questions I had," Headlee said Tuesday. "We all have to recognize that, ultimately, we're all in the same boat."

Farmington deputy superintendent Michael Flanagan said Tuesday "the first thing is, we've got to get over the disappointment."

School officials had made no contingency plans if the measure was defeated and will now go back to the

drawing board to look at options, he said.

"Nothing's changed in terms of what we have to get done," he added.

FLANAGAN SAID the district would consider several options, including:

- going back to voters again, probably this winter, to try for additional debt millage.
- rediscussing elementary school boundaries in light of the defeat.
- consider authorizing additional operating millage to handle the facility improvement portion of the money.

Please turn to Page 2



Michael Flanagan  
deputy superintendent



Richard Headlee  
opposed bond issue



Logjams restrict the self-cleansing of the Rouge as it passes through the Farmington area.

## Farmington warned about Rouge sewage pollution

- Greater EPA involvement urged, 4A
- Who faces possible state sanctions, 4A

By Casey Hane  
staff writer

The state Department of Natural Resources last week issued warnings to Farmington and 65 other communities that pollute waterways with raw sewage.

The cities may face state-ordered sanctions if they don't clean up the sewage, which is dumped into the waterways through combined sanitary and storm sewer systems. In Farmington's case, sewage is being dumped into the Rouge River.

The city of Farmington is in the midst of a sewer study, which is expected to be completed by early November and will give the city an idea

of the costs and options for dealing with the problem, according to Farmington assistant city manager Robert Schultz.

"The DNR's been talking about it for a long time," he said. City engineers told him. "They weren't surprised."

Schultz also said other communities are working on the problem. "From what I hear at... meetings."

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## Pernick says vehicle fee doomed

By Mich Perlberg  
staff writer

A lack of leadership from elected officials, beginning with county executive Daniel Murphy, has probably doomed the chance that voters will approve a \$25 vehicle fee that would raise \$300 million for Oakland County's overcrowded road system, according to the leading Democrat on the county's board of commissioners.

"The reason it will be defeated is that the elected officials haven't had the guts to go out and develop the money to spend it on the roads," said Larry Pernick, D-East-Field, during an interview Monday with Observer & Reminders, editors from Oakland County. "It's never been

important to get elected than to solve the problem."

MURPHY, THOUGH, said he was not endorsing the proposal on the Nov. 8 ballot because it is a "bad tax" that falls unfairly on those who can least afford it.

"You take a person who only drives a mile a year, and you charge them the same as a trucker," said Murphy, who said a tax on gasoline is a fairer way to pay for road improvements.

"I don't think anybody expects to a gasoline tax if they use their car," said Murphy, who unsuccessfully sought state legislative approval for a county road tax on gasoline.

\$25 vehicle fee, which is what Oakland and up to six other Michigan counties will attempt to do this year, pending voter approval.

Road officials estimate that the fee would generate about \$300 million over 18 years in Oakland County or less than a quarter of the \$900 million necessary to pay for a "wish list" of needed projects as identified by cities, villages and townships in the county.

IN THE Monday interview, Pernick said the county needs to use the method provided by the state.

"There is a demonstrated need for funding in Oakland County," said Pernick, who heads the minority Democrats' caucus on the county

board. "There is no other source. There may be qualms, but this is all there is."

Pernick said that if the county is going to encourage development for the sake of jobs and tax base, it is obligated to find money for adequate roads.

The road commission's managing director, John Grubbs, was not as critical as Pernick but he said he was disappointed by the lack of support from elected officials.

"We're disappointed in the response of the local officials who have decided not to endorse it," said Grubbs. "The fact of the matter is growth is going to continue in Oakland County."



Larry Pernick  
county commissioner