

Injured hawk receiving aid

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comes, Odendahl will release the hawk to the wild.

"I keep them as short a period of time as possible. With a broken wing, it will be about two weeks. I try to take the birds back to where they came from," Odendahl said.

HARR, who works frequently with Odendahl, set the bird's wing in a plastic splint. The veterinarian also used a plastic pin, which will remain in the bird's wing when the splint comes off.

It's an understatement to say the hawk is only tolerating the human intervention in its daily care and recovery. But that's just how Odendahl prefers it.

"I don't want any bird to be anywhere near tame. He's pretty high-strung and we make an effort to keep it that way," said Odendahl, who gave the hawk injections for the first five days of convalescence to ward off infection.

Before returning to the wild, the hawk's wing will be X-rayed to be sure it is healed. The hawk also will have to practice flying and Odendahl wants to be sure it can fly with his more than three-foot wing span before releasing him.

"I hate to turn a bird loose if he can't fly far," Odendahl said. "The hawk is like an eagle. It just floats on air waves. It can soar for 1/2 hour to 45 minutes without flapping its wings."

Odendahl, the bird lover, and Harrison, who stops for every animal he finds, both agree that people should do much more to protect wildlife. "Man to me has to learn to

share the space he's got for other things. It just appeals me," Odendahl said. Harr could not be reached for comment.

"They (birds) are quite interesting. If you watch these birds day in and day out, and you're not fascinated, something's wrong with you," he added.

AS MUCH as both men would like to see more people become involved in helping and saving wildlife, both caution people how to approach injured or sick animals and birds.

Harrison used the proper technique in approaching the injured hawk. He wore gloves and when he had him in hand, put his coat over the bird. He also called fellow employee Derek Dennis for help. "You really can't touch a bird in the wild," Odendahl said. "He (the hawk) can sever the arteries in your wrist."

The hawk's talons are made for swooping down close to the ground and picking up a small mammal, a favorite dietary mainstay for the hawk. Though a hawk cannot contract rabies, the virus may remain on its talons — something to keep in mind when trying to touch a wild bird, Odendahl said.

With excellent eyesight, the hawk uses man to his best advantage. Hawks like to fly — actually soar — near highways because small animals are frightened by the nearby traffic and run away. "If you see him as a dot in the sky, he can see a mouse on the ground. He looks for motion," Odendahl said.

Big WL bond vote is Monday

Polls will be open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday. Farmington Hills residents who live in the Walled Lake school district vote at Precinct 2, Maple Elementary, 7389 W. Maple, West Bloomfield.

By Carolyn DeMarco
staff writer

Voters in the Walled Lake School District will decide Monday on a \$47.8 million bond issue to build several new schools and renovate older buildings.

The 15-year bond issue, administrators say, is needed to build new schools to accommodate rapid growth. Aging, inadequate buildings also need to be updated so students are offered equal educational facilities.

The election comes only a short time after taxpayers received new assessments, mailed out last month in each of the nine communities which comprise the Walled Lake district. The district includes the northwest corner of Farmington Hills.

Superintendent James Geister commented on that timing in an interview last week.

"No one is happy with rising assessments, but it beats the alternative. There is a cost to having things appreciate. . . . Nobody likes taxes to go up. We were concerned about the assessments, but we need to be open operating a new elementary school in 1990. We couldn't wait."

IF APPROVED, the bond issue

will mean the property tax increase to the owner of an \$80,000 home with a state equalized value of \$40,000 would be \$55 in school taxes, up from \$50.5 to \$97.0.

If the average, estimated 50 percent "circuit breaker," or Homestead Tax credit were figured in, the net tax increase would be more like \$32 per year, said assistant superintendent for finance Linda Moskalik.

Improvements planned include construction of two elementary schools, tentatively one in West Bloomfield and one in Farmington Hills; a bus garage/district maintenance facility; and a purchased or leased warehouse. The money would also be used to buy any necessary land for the Farmington Hills school and the funds needed to make all Walled Lake Schools equal to the newer facilities.

IF THE proposal passes, bonds will be issued and building begun in this three-phase timeline:

• June 1989 — Purchase land. Begin one new elementary, bus/maintenance facility and renovation at elementary schools.

• June 1990 — Begin new junior high school. Begin Western High School and Central High School renovations.

• June 1991 — Begin a second elementary school, purchase or build a distribution center, renovate Clifford Smart Jr. High.

Elementary enrollment in the district has increased 600 students in the past two years. Enrollment is ex-

pected to grow by 337 in 1989-90 and 367 in 1990-1991.

THE MAJORITY of the new growth in the sprawling district is along the eastern corridor of the district, which is the western side of Farmington Hills and West Bloomfield and into Novi.

The greatest support for the bond issue in campaigning has come from those areas, Geister said. "It is most focused on the eastern side of the district, the edge of Novi, Farmington Hills and West Bloomfield, the area where the development is. Other areas are on the threshold, but they can't yet point to new houses."

New housing developments constructed or planned in the Maple Elementary School enrollment area (which serves West Bloomfield and Farmington Hills residents) from 1986 through 1992 show 2,204 new single-family units and 4,746 units. As a short term solution, Maple Kindergarten will be bused to Lion Lake Elementary in Wixom next year.

Less intense growth is being experienced in the other elementary areas that serve West Bloomfield residents — Oakley Park, 656 total new units; Twin Beach, 2,336; and Kelth, 385. Several schools have had additional classrooms constructed as a stopgap solution.

THE EQUITY PROGRAM to improve schools includes:

- All elementary — create or upgrade media centers.
- Smart Junior High — build an adequate media center, renovate the locker rooms, add counseling rooms and fine arts classrooms and upgrade the athletic facilities.
- Western High School — add a career center, renovate fine arts classrooms and the girls' locker rooms, and add energy conservation alterations at entrance.
- Central High School — address immediate needs of media center, cafeteria and music rooms. Look at future use as a junior high school because of limited potential.

The \$47.8 million bond issue is a pared-down version of a \$70 million plan recommended by a needs assessment committee. "Their ideas were thoughtful," Geister said. "We have to consider how to meet those needs. Perhaps we will need another bond issue in three to five years."

Items recommended by the subcommittees that will not be covered by the bond issue include continued enrollment beyond 1992, conversion of Walled Lake Junior High School for alternative education, community education, senior citizen facilities and administrative offices, and elementary school gyms.

Botsford affiliate names Beauchemin acting chief

Greg Beauchemin was named acting president and chief executive officer of Community Emergency Medical Services (CEMS), a medical transportation service and affiliate of Botsford General Hospital.

The announcement was made by Gerson Cooper, president of the Ziegler Health Care Corp. and Botsford General Hospital.

"This interim appointment recognizes the outstanding contribution Greg has made to CEMS," said Cooper.

"Confirmation of his appointment is expected at the next meeting of the CEMS board."

Beauchemin joined CEMS in August 1982 and, most recently, served as vice president and chief operating officer. Before joining CEMS, he served as general manager of Amcare.

In 1979, Beauchemin received his bachelor's degree from Madonna College, Livonia. He is pursuing a master's degree in business administration at Madonna.



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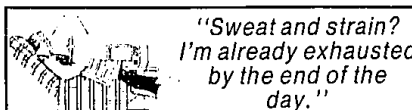


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