

WL voters approve \$47 million bond issue

By James Radebaugh
staff writer

Residents in the Walled Lake School District surprised many observers Monday when they voted to approve a 15-year, \$47.8 million bond issue, the district's first in 22 years.

The vote, coming on the heels of the overwhelming defeat March 6 of a \$65.8 million proposed bond issue in the Birmingham schools, "dethroned" school officials, who said it

points a new direction toward renovation and improvement for the Walled Lake schools. The bond passed by a 55-45 margin.

The vote also reflected the influence of increased housing development in West Bloomfield Township and Farmington Hills, where the bond proposal received its greatest support.

"We believe our voters are making a statement about the direction they want education to take in the community," Superintendent James

Geisler said Tuesday. "They're saying that quality education is a priority here."

SCHOOL OFFICIALS proposed the bond issue to raise money to build three new school buildings, renovate existing buildings and to build a bus/maintenance facility to begin in three phases over the next three years.

A fluctuating millage rate imposed to pay the bond debt is expected to cost the owner of an \$80,000 home about \$65 more each year in

school taxes, up from \$905 to \$970, over the life of the bond debt, according to district officials.

School officials, assuming an 8 percent a year increase in property values in the district, said they expect the millage needed to pay the debt to peak at 2.989 in 1991 when all three phases of project have begun. They said they expect the rate to fall to a low of 1.16 in the 15th year.

The district's voters approved the bond issue by 367 votes, according to

unofficial counts. A total of 3,697, or about 7.3 percent, of the district's 50,000 registered voters cast ballots; 2,027 were in favor of the proposal, 1,660 were opposed.

THE DISTRICT, which includes all or parts of nine communities, needs to expand its facilities to accommodate a rising student population expected to result from extensive housing development primarily in West Bloomfield and Farmington Hills.

The proposal was approved in five

of the district's nine voting precincts, four of which, the first, eighth, seventh, and fifth precincts, are located in or serve the children of West Bloomfield and Farmington. The fourth precinct, on the far western edge of the district, also showed a majority of support for the bond proposal.

The district's voters last approved a bond issue in 1967 to fund the construction of Western High School. The last millage increase was passed in 1983.

Concealed weapon leads to charges

Two men face concealed weapon charges after a loaded handgun was found in their car following a routine traffic stop March 15, police said.

According to a Farmington Hills police report:

At 11:45 p.m., officer Al Soderlund saw a 1989 Olds Cutlass westbound on Grand River crossing lanes, then pass through his lane, causing him to brake. The car then turned north onto Oxford.

When Soderlund stopped the car, the driver got out and approached the patrol car. When asked for his license, the driver said he didn't have it. But he said he lived nearby and asked the officer to follow him.

Meanwhile, the back-seat passenger got out. But before Soderlund could order him to do so at gunpoint, the man got back inside. The front-seat passenger then slid into the driver's seat and drove off.

Officer Gary Brandemuhl, responding to the scene, spotted the car passing him on Oxford. He turned around and activated his overhead lights and siren.

Brandemuhl pursued the car on Independence into the east parking lot at Botsford Terrace Apartments. There, the car stopped on the lawn and the two occupants bailed out.

Brandemuhl and officer Bill Maf-

fessoli found one man on the second floor of an apartment building and another outside the building.

BACK ON Oxford, Soderlund arrested the driver. A loaded clip for a .10 mm semiautomatic pistol was found in his pocket.

Each of the three men had a bumper. Two had large amounts of cash.

The car was equipped with a cellular phone. Four Halloween masks were found in the trunk. A loaded .10 mm semiautomatic pistol was found on the back seat, according to the police report.

Arrested March 16 before District Judge Margaret Schaeffer of Farmington, Charles Edward Robinson, 19, and John Leonard Bryant, 18, stood mute to charges of carrying a concealed weapon, punishable upon conviction by up to five years in prison. Innocent pleas were entered in their behalf.

Schaeffer set cash bond for Robinson at \$5,000 and cash bond for Bryant at \$5,000, 10 percent of which can be posted.

Deante Carstus Davis, 21, was charged with fleeing and eluding, a high misdemeanor punishable upon conviction by up to one year in jail. He also stood mute and an innocent plea was entered. Cash bond was set at \$5,000.

No foul play in young man's death

Unless the autopsy points to something else, police believe a 28-year-old Farmington Hills man whose body was found behind a grocery store Saturday died of natural or accidental causes.

"We're pretty much ruled out foul play. It's just a matter of what actually caused his death," said Inspector Ernest Miller of the Farmington Hills Police Department.

An employee of Andy's Market, 22595 Middlebelt, discovered the body of Lee Michael Rudofski, lying

face down, on route to the dumpster at 11:05 a.m. Saturday.

A bottle containing a clear liquid and a bottle of orange drink were found nearby.

Rudofski was pronounced dead at noon.

The exact cause of death won't be known until toxicology tests are complete in a few weeks, an Oakland County Medical Examiner's spokesman said.

"We're going to wait until test re-

sults are in before we take any further action," Miller said.

RUDOFSKI was fully clothed. He was wearing a jacket and gloves. A winter hat was found nearby. Miller theorizes that the man's death might be related to exposure. The body was found the morning after the St. Patrick's Day Ice storm.

Rudofski, who lived in the 11 Mile-Middlebelt area, was last seen alive by a friend Friday night.

Survivors include his parents,

LeRoy and Audrey Rudofski of Farmington Hills; three brothers; one sister; and a grandmother.

The Chicago native worked as an engineer analyst for Chrysler Corp.

A Mass was celebrated Wednesday at St. Alexander Catholic Church, Farmington Hills. Burial was at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield.

The family asks that memorials be made to St. Leo's Soup Kitchen or the Salvation Army, both in Detroit.

obituaries

SOO CHUNG SUNG

Mrs. Sung, 75, of Farmington Hills died March 2.

Born in Seoul, Korea, Mrs. Sung was a seamstress.

Survivors include her husband, Wook, sons, Ki S. Ki H and Ki Ho; daughters, Ki S. Suh and Yang Neo Yoo; one brother, eight grandchildren.

Services were March 6 at the

Lambert-Vermuelen Funeral Home, Plymouth. Burial was in United Memorial Gardens, Superior Township.

WILLIAM P. DWYER

Mr. Dwyer, 68, of Lake Orion, formerly of Farmington, died March 20.

Mr. Dwyer was a retired salesman for Kent-Moore Inc.

Survivors include his daughter,

Deborah Corey; sisters, Peg Davidson, Mary Lou Fredrickson, Anne Thiede and Judy Robinson; brother, Thomas; one grandchild.

Services were March 22 at the Plafey Funeral Home, Rochester, with the Rev. A. Chandler Hadley of First Congregational United Church of Christ officiating. Cremation was in White Chapel Crematory, Troy.

Memorials may be made to the Alzheimers Disease and Related Disorders Association.

Recognition program proposed

Farmington Hills city councilman Aldo Vagnozzi is expected to ask the council Monday to consider a recognition program for homeowner and neighborhood associations active in the city.

"What I am proposing is that the various associations be invited to

make a brief presentation to the city council about the history of their neighborhood, accomplishments and goals," Vagnozzi said.

The Council of Homeowners Associations of Farmington Hills could be asked to coordinate the presentations, including scheduling.

Audience members needed

About 25 audience members are needed for the Channel 12 cable access talk show, "Detroit Live," expected to be filmed in August at MetroVision studios in Farmington Hills.

The entertainment show will feature Paula Blanchard, vice president

of Casey Communications Management Inc., Robert Dyke, a film producer and director and comedian Kelly Montelhi.

Interested residents are asked to call Mary Calderone at the cable commission office, 473-7268. The deadline is Friday, March 31.

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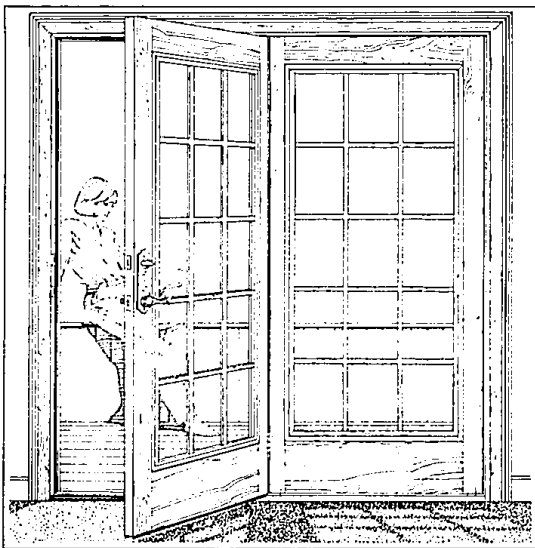
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