

Community Corner

This week's question:

What are you doing New Year's Eve?

We asked this question at the Crossroads A&W in Farmington.



"I'll be baby sitting my granddaughter Colleen."
— Joyce McBride
Farmington Hills



"I'll be down in Florida. We have the same bridge group that's met for 20 years."
— Walter Zessin
Redford Township



"I'm staying home and having a quiet dinner with my husband Dale."
— Caroline Smith
Southfield



"We're going skiing near Gaylord. We've done it the last four or five years."
— Carolyn Gorton
Livonia



"I'm staying home. We usually have snacks and entertainment at my senior residence, Farmington Place."
— Vesta Lloyd
Farmington



"I'll be home. My son James will be here from Oklahoma. He's in the service down there."
— William Madry
Farmington Hills

Schools eye timing of millage renewal

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pealed to board President Jack Cotton, who said it would draw more interest with fall school opening and other activities.

But other trustees said they were concerned about a September date because of conflicts with primary and general elections in the fall and the impact of state ballot proposals.

"I think in an election year, our

election would get lost," said Susan Rennels. "We won't know what's going to happen on all those state ballot questions."

Jack Inch said he was concerned about September because of upcoming negotiations with the district's teachers, who are currently working under a one-year contract approved this year. That contract expires in August.

"What if we don't have a settlement or what if the settlement is

viewed as excessive?" Inch asked other board members. In either case, it would be a "tough renewal to sell," he said.

Superintendent Michael Flanagan said the September option would offer a "high interest" level and leave the option of a follow-up in case a state ballot proposal in November negatively impacts the district. But a winter election would allow the district to "take better stock of what's happened in November," he said.

To hold an election in mid-September, the school board must make

a decision by July 22, Barrett said.

The finance committee also asked Barrett Tuesday if he could begin providing interim financial reports to the board, such as statements of revenue and expenditures and possibly three- and six-month balance sheets. They also requested a breakdown of percentage of expenditures for a number of instructional items.

Barrett, new to his job this year, said he would put together a working report with those details, saying it would likely take a different format than the annual audited accounting report.

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