

Pucks to portfolios:
Farmington Hills resi-
dent John Ogrodnick
recalls his days as a
member of the Detroit
Red Wings.



SHARON L. KEMPER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Former Red Wing takes stock in second career

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

He's retired from hockey, but John Ogrodnick still finds the checking relentless. The former Detroit Red Wing can't take his eye off the computer screen. Stock prices fluctuate before him. CNBC drones on a nearby TV in his office at Kemper Securities in Plymouth. "It's a little down," Ogrodnick says. "The dollar is taking a beating."

He played 14 seasons (1979-93) in the National Hockey League, including nine with the Red Wings. He was a five-time All-Star while scoring 402 goals and 627 points.

Ogrodnick will play with the Detroit Red Wings Alumni against the Canton fire and police unions in a benefit at 7 p.m. Friday, March 31, at the Plymouth Cultural Center Ice Arena.

Proceeds will go to help Canton resident Greg Unger, 14, who has cystic fibrosis and is scheduled to undergo double lung transplant surgery. Tickets are available at Canton Fire Station No. 1 at 128 Canton Center, (313) 981-1118; and Fire Station No. 2 at 41500 Warren, (313) 454-4655.

"No slap shots," said Ogrodnick, whose hallmark blasts from the top of the circle were the Wings' lone offensive weapon in the bleak early '80s.

Off ice, Ogrodnick began tinkering with stocks 12 years ago. Along the way, he made some money and lost some.

Before Black Friday in 1987, Ogrodnick had accumulated a

substantial profit — up to 300 percent on some stocks. He didn't sell, though, and took a hit. Lesson one.

He delved into the market further when he was traded to the New York Rangers. When he returned to Detroit during the 1992-93 season, he roomed with Jimmy Carson, who is another market enthusiast.

After he retired, Ogrodnick plied his business acumen with league Detroit Falcons. His tenure lasted three weeks.

"I wasn't offered a lot of money," Ogrodnick said. "I was offered a percentage of the team with the idea I'd be trying to make the team profitable."

"I came to realize the team's a long way from being profitable."

He's been at Kemper Associates for six months. His office is adorned with photos, recalling All-Star appearances and NHL career stops.

Ogrodnick lives in Green Valley Estates with his wife of 12 years, Bettyanne, and two children, KelseyAnne, 11, and Breanne, 5. KelseyAnne goes to Gill Elementary and Breanne goes to Montessori.

He's one of several of former NHLers to settle in the Farmington area, with others including Dennis Hextall and Phil Myre.

He attends the Wings' games

at Joe Louis Arena with clients. Name recognition helps, but it doesn't guarantee business.

"You have to know what you're talking about," Ogrodnick said. "You're dealing with people's money."

He has a handful of hockey players as clients. His game plan is simple: Go for small gains that will accumulate in the long run.

"I enjoy this," he said. "Hockey is fun and great when you are playing a lot. When you're towards the end of your career, and you're not playing much and sitting on the bench, it's not much fun."

Staff writer Tim Smith contributed to this story.

'No-nonsense' plan puts 2 tax votes on June ballot

BY MARIE CHESTNEY
STAFF WRITER

The Clarenceville Board of Education Monday approved what one trustee called a "no-nonsense approach" to repairing aging school buildings and to bringing technology into the district's four schools.

If approved by residents in the June 12 election, the two-tax-question approach unanimously adopted by the trustees will raise \$6.6 million over the next 10 years.

It's crucial that both tax questions on the ballot pass because both work hand-in-hand to raise the money needed to do the most-needed repairs and renovations, said board President Dale Weighill.

"This is like a puzzle, where one piece fits with the other," Weighill said. "When the bond issue was defeated in 1991, the board had to come up with a no-nonsense approach. If we did that, the people would accept it. And we have done that."

The two questions on the June ballot are:

■ A 2.10-mill bond issue that would generate \$4.4 million over 10 years and cost taxpayers about \$2.4 million in interest charges.

■ A 0.75-mill sinking fund that would generate \$2.1 million over the next 10 years and cost north-

ing in interest charges.

The \$6.5 million raised by both proposals is significantly lower than the \$19 million, 30-year bond issue for repairs rejected by voters in 1991.

Trustee Linda Brandemuhl said she is "thrilled" both proposals will run for a shorter period of time and will not cost taxpayers a lot of money in interest. "It's a no-frill bond issue."

Trustee Ron Silye praised the 21-member committee, many of whom are parents, which came up with the two recommendations. "They did a top-to-bottom review of what schools need. They put together short- and long-term requirements for the district."

When the committee began meeting two years ago, said Trustee Gary Garrison, the task to come up with a plan seemed formidable. "When they first started, they were as far from this as you can possibly get."

If the bond issue passes, Clarenceville will buy equipment and do the most-needed repairs with the \$4.4 million generated by it.

If the \$2.1 million generated by the sinking fund tax passes, Clarenceville could space out the rest of the repairs over the next 10 years. It also will have the money

to pay for emergency needs, such as a new boiler or roof.

Over the next 10 years, with interest added, the 2.10-mill bond issue will cost taxpayers about \$6.8 million.

The trustees are especially pleased that this figure is nowhere near the \$39 million in interest taxpayers would have paid over 30 years if the 1991 bond issue had passed.

"There's also no interest paid on the sinking fund," Weighill said.

If both proposals pass, Clarenceville taxpayers will pay 2.85 mills more in taxes. For a house worth \$30,000, this amounts to another \$84.50 a year. For a house worth \$50,000, this amounts to another \$142.50 a year.

School officials say the ballot contains two different proposals because the state does not allow districts to buy technological equipment with money from a sinking fund.

But a sinking fund alone, they said, would not give Clarenceville enough "up-front" money to accomplish what needs to be done within the next three years. That's why both proposals must pass, they said.

OBITUARIES

FRANCES WARING

Ms. Waring, 95, of Livonia died March 21 in Botsford Hospital, Farmington Hills.

Born in Brantford, Ontario, Canada, Ms. Waring worked for Burroughs Corp. She retired in 1965.

Survivors include her sister, Emma Atkinson; several nieces and nephews; and a friend, Eva Lemile of Farmington Hills.

Services were held in Canada. Burial was in Mount Hope,

Brantford, Ontario. Arrangements were made by the Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington.

HAROLD E. ALDRICH

Mr. Aldrich, 73, died March 24.

Born in Farmington Township, Mr. Aldrich graduated from Farmington High School in 1939. He served as a military policeman in the U.S. Army from 1942-1945. He retired in 1980 from Federal Screw Works in 1980.

Mr. Aldrich served the Farmington Township Fire Department and Farmington Hills Police Department for more than 30 years.

Survivors include his wife, Ila; daughters, Connie Qualman, Gale Stoner, and Keri Blake; son, Howard of Munising; six grandchildren; several nieces and nephews.

Arrangements were made by the Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington.

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