

In Clarenceville Schools deserve 'yes, yes' vote

Farmington Hills residents living in the Clarenceville School District will be making a decision on two ballot proposals as well as voting for trustees in the annual school election Monday, June 12.

Both ballot proposals are aimed at collecting money to repair the district's aging school buildings and to upgrade technology available to students. The bulk of the money is for building renovation and repair.

Proposal One is to borrow just less than \$4.5 million at an annual cost which will require 2 additional mills for 10 years. Proposal Two is a sinking fund generated by collecting an additional three-quarters of a mill (0.75) which over 10 years is expected to generate a total of just more than \$2 million. Both proposals will generate a total of \$6,546,099.

The Farmington Observer recommends a "yes" vote on both ballot proposals because Clarenceville's buildings are at least 40 years old and in need of major renovations to prevent blight, to make the buildings safe, and to gain greater operating efficiencies.

The total projected renovation and technology improvements costs more than \$6.7 million.

Examples of scheduled work are asbestos abatement, barrier-free projects, re-roofing, heating and ventilation improvements, electrical and plumbing repairs, window replacement, science labs, replace student desks, paving parking lots, chalkboard replacement, replacing doors and updating emergency systems (fire alarms, etc.).

The money also will be used to purchase student-oriented technology for each school building in Clarenceville.

Clarenceville's last bond issue was in 1971. As a result, debt millage has been reduced from 0.7 mills in 1976-76 to a tenth of a mill (0.1) this year and through 1995-96.

Clarenceville had a building and site half-mill levy that got wiped out by Proposal A.

Proposal A also wiped out the 41.9 mills

Clarenceville collected in 1993-94 and replaced it with the 6 mills paid by all districts in Michigan and 1.2578 "hold harmless" mills that maintains the same spending per pupil Clarenceville had before Proposal A.

What does this mean for taxpayers? In 1993-94 the owner of a house valued at \$80,000 and assessed at \$40,000 spent \$6,676 in school property taxes. After Proposal A that same property owner paid \$290.31 in school property taxes with the levy of 7.2578 mills.

Approval June 12 of Proposals One and Two will result in a millage increase of 2.75 mills or \$110 a year more for the next 10 years. If both proposals pass, the owner of the \$80,000 house will pay a total of \$400 a year compared to more than \$1,600 in 1993-94.

The Clarenceville Board of Education, acting on the advice of its bond issue steering committee and administration, has come up with a very responsible approach. The paying off of past debt and the subsequent expiration of millage makes the 2.75 mills very affordable to residents.

Borrowing money over 10 years instead of 25-30 also drastically reduces the amount of interest that must be paid.

For specific information on the physical needs at your neighborhood school, or for the entire district, attend one of these open hearings: 7 p.m. May 9, middle school learning center; 7 p.m. May 17, Grandview Learning Center; 7 p.m. May 22, high school learning center; or 7 p.m. June 1, Botsford Learning Center.

The Farmington Observer believes Clarenceville has made its case on the need for the money. We believe the proposals represent a responsible, fiscally conservative approach that provides an option most residents can afford. In fact, voters cannot afford to say "no" on either proposal. And so we urge our readers in Clarenceville to vote "yes" on Proposals One and Two on Monday, June 12.

Congratulations, '95 All-Stars!

Wait until you meet them, this Observer Academic All-Star Team representing the Class of 1995.

This is the 11th All-Star Team we have fielded since we began this very important event 10 years ago.

It was 1985 when then-Redford Union Principal Robert Schramke offered up the idea of presenting a team of students from our suburban high schools who would be acknowledged for their academic achievements.

At the time we had high school All-Star teams for every sport and season. Schramke thought our brightest high school students should have their shot as well.

Our first three teams were confined to the front page of our feature section. It was 1988 when we published our first special section devoted to Academic All-Stars. And we are grateful to those local universities — for the past two years it has been Madonna University — that have taken their turns supporting it.

Selection has always been based solely on the numerical combination of grade point average and either SAT or ACT scores, whichever is higher. Scoring is done by a committee of the Michigan Association of Secondary Principals from throughout our circulation area and headed by Larry Boehms of Troy High School.

Stevenson High School Principal Dale Collier has been a member of the committee since the Observer launched this project in 1985. Our special thanks to him for sticking

with it all these years.

This 1995 team of students is among the most scientifically oriented we've seen. Indeed, 11 of 12 say they'll go into either engineering, science or medicine.

One thing they all have in common is outstanding academic achievement coupled with unparalleled extracurricular involvement. They are lettered athletes, musicians, club and class officers.

Their applications are very thoughtful, as they write of their career goals and of their supportive and loving parents and the special teachers who have motivated them thus far.

The recurring theme the students find most helpful is a supportive environment encouraging independent thinking and a belief of being able to achieve whatever they put their mind to.

Congratulations to the 1995 team: Nancy Lin of Churchill High School, Sara Chakel of Stevenson High School, Gregory Ayres of Catholic Central High School, Julie P. White of Churchill High School, Jason Pawlowski of North Farmington High School, Benjamin Sommers of North Farmington High School, Christopher Cortellini of Plymouth Canton High School, Casey Moothart of Plymouth Canton High School, Benjamin Mumma of Catholic Central High School, Timothy Harden of Stevenson High School, Daniel Mawby of John Glenn High School, Carolyn Owen of Farmington High School, and Sara Andersen of Ladywood High School.

ARKIE HODKINS

HODKINS



LETTERS

'A good guy'

Your April 24 cover story on Officer Jim Madigan of the Farmington Public Safety Department was a real joy to read. It is refreshing to read about one of the real good guys in our community.

My father was Gene Sorge, well-known Farmington runner and resident since 1957. Tomorrow is the third anniversary of his death.

During his battle with cancer, I had to call 911. There was a lot of turmoil and confusion as to his condition, etc., until Officer Madigan arrived.

Officer Madigan came in like a wave of calm over the situation. He took charge in a strong yet gentle way. I shall be forever grateful for his presence.

Your article was a nice pat on the back for one of our finest.

Let's all be thankful. I know I am.

Laura Gale Mauck, Farmington

Maybe an award?

We will be electing a new mayor for the city of Farmington Hills. We all know who the politicians are. Now we need to know if we have someone available in our city who can become a good leader if given the chance.

Politics as usual is very costly and, as you know, is rapidly changing and losing popularity in our country.

We are in need of good leaders who can act in the best interest of the people beginning at the City Hall level of government.

Acting as a good citizen, I am requesting information regarding the new mayor's deadline, salary, mayor's responsibilities, etc.

I want to see a foundation develop that will be for a city grant to be given to a person for public campaign funding, an award to encourage good leadership in our city. I'll donate the first \$10.

I hope you like this idea and will help me promote it to the city with a good news article to that effect.

I will be willing to work in any way I can to make this happen for our city.

Margaret L. Prucha, Farmington Hills

No leadership

Thanks for exposing Clark Durant's recommendation of Michael David Warren (Philip Power column, April 20). It

sounds as though he has ideas outside of the mainstream for Michigan schools.

I would like to mention another concern I have to someone who has access to the media, and that is the current lack of leadership in Michigan concerning the Michigan Militia as it relates to the Oklahoma affair.

My main points are that the Oklahoma affair is one of the most profound events in this country's history. It is even bigger than the shooting of President Kennedy.

No matter how much conservatives denounce the whole affair, it still was committed by a right-wing fanatic or fanatics.

Like it or not, things have changed in this country. I have heard nothing from John Engler denouncing the Militia. His lack of a statement even to this effect does not give much reason to have a lot of faith in his ideas of state and local control.

Lastly, I would ask everyone in the conservative camp: What would your conversations have sounded like this week on talk radio and in the media if the bombing had been caused by a left-wing extreme environmentalist or animal rights movement?

Sarah Jetta, Rochester Hills

Sky isn't falling

The sky is not falling. Antarctica's move to its present position took 100 million years. The average world temperature increased possibly 1 degree from the time man started keeping records in the last century until 1940. It has not increased since then.

An average temperature of 32F on the Antarctica coast during warm months doesn't say much for its interior regions, or for the winter months. Ice has always melted in the summer and frozen in the winter. Seasons are like that. This doesn't mean the sky will fall.

I did not estimate the oceans would rise 200 feet. This was a figure I challenged when published in Popular Science and National Geographic. My estimate is 0 feet. Tides will do as they please without consideration of wildlife or ecology.

Dick Landback states, "They will melt. The oceans will rise 22 feet." I would rather watch science fiction on television. At least I get to see pretty girls involved in the play acting.

Dick is right about one thing. I don't take him seriously.

Hank Borgman, Farmington

COMMUNITY VOICE

QUESTION:

Why is volunteerism important to society?

We asked this question at the May 1 volunteer reception at the Farmington Hills Senior Center.



"What kind of a world would it be without volunteers? Somebody has to do it."
Eleanor Burton
Farmington Hills



"It gives you something to do makes you feel like you're needed, too."
Michel Mene
Southfield



"Government can't pay for everything."
Jeff Stewart
Farmington Hills



"It makes people more caring when they volunteer."
Mary Form
Farmington Hills

The Farmington Observer

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— Philip Power