

Tuesday vote drives SMART's future locally

BY PAT MURPHY
Brazos Warren

With 20 communities poised to go to the polls Tuesday, SMART officials are concentrating on one goal: Reminding voters about what's at stake... the future of mass transit in Oakland County.

"We're not letting up," said Oakland Commissioner Lawrence R. Pernick, D-Southfield, who is state approval of the SMART tax hike is essential to the county. "I was out today (Friday) to remind voters, and I'll probably be out over the weekend."

The ballot has one issue. Should property taxes be increased by one-third of a mill to provide money for SMART (Sub-

urban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation)?

If approved, the annual increase would amount to about \$165.00 on a house valued at \$100,000. Identical proposals have already passed in Macomb and Wayne counties.

Those supporting the millage proposal... including Pernick and Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson... insist the additional operating revenue is needed to keep the transit system operating.

They admit SMART needs reorganization. But they insist SMART is vital to economic development as well as the elderly, the handicapped and the unem-

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ployed.

Those opposed to the millage proposal... including Oakland Commissioner Shelly Taub of Bloomfield Hills, Sue Ann Douglas of Rochester Hills and David Moffitt of Farmington Hills... insist SMART is mismanaged and wasteful.

They insist economic development and those dependent on mass transit would be better served if SMART dies, and a new system formed to take its place.

That would "make it possible

for private bus operators to make more efficient use of federal, state and locally collected taxes..."

Michigan Taxpayers United Inc., one of the few - if not the only - organization to try to mobilize opposition to the SMART proposal.

June West, SMART marketing director, Friday said the Committee to Save Regional Transit would be active over the weekend to - like commissioner Pernick in Southfield - remind voters about the election.

"We're confident," she said. "But we also know that we can't let up."

The committee - a coalition of businesses, labor organizations, law firms and the Southfield-Marine City of Chippewa Indians - raised \$312,125 on behalf of the SMART millage proposal, West said.

Among the organizations endorsing the millage are the Greater Detroit Chamber of Commerce, the Oakland County Chamber of Commerce, the Eight Mile Boulevard Association, the AFL-CIO, the Oakland County Democratic Party, Civic Searchlight and the Area Agency on Aging.

Polls open at 7 a.m. Tuesday and close at 8 p.m.

Communities scheduled to participate are Auburn Hills, Berkley, Beverly Hills Village, Birmingham Village, Birmingham, Clawson, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Ferndale, Franklin Village, Hazel Park, Huntington Woods, Madison Heights, Oak Park, Pleasant Ridge, Pontiac, Royal Oak, Royal Oak Township, Southfield and Troy.

Those not voting include Commerce, West Bloomfield and Bloomfield townships, Wixom, Walled Lake, Orchard Lake, Rochester Hills, Rochester, Bloomfield Hills, Lake Orion and Oxford.

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handful, he put a basketball in their mitts. He supervised an after-school basketball program for sixth- and seventh-graders at Pasteur Elementary in Detroit.

"It seemed to help," Seaborn said. "It was another adult they could talk to and some of them didn't have a father in the home. It sort of opened a door for them to come through before they could get into trouble."

Seaborn also started a multicultural exchange with Hunter and Nichols Elementary in Detroit. A similar exchange might be started at East Middle School, Seaborn said.

He spent 13 years at Pasteur Elementary in Detroit before becoming an assistant principal Fitzgerald Elementary in 1989.

■ 'It (basketball) seemed to help. It was another adult they could talk to and some of them didn't have a father in the home. It sort of opened a door for them to come through before they could get into trouble.'

Eugene Seaborn

Seaborn earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees from Wayne State University. He also has an Educational Specialist Certificate from there.

When he's not in the principal's office, Seaborn can be found at summer art fairs. He works with crushed stone, sand, clay, and acrylic paints.

His artwork has been on display at the annual Ann Arbor show as

well as New York and Chicago.

"It's a nice change of pace for the summer," he said.

Farmington schools' reputation precedes itself, Seaborn said. He's heard a lot of good things about Superintendent Bob Maxfield and the East Middle School teaching staff.

"I think I'm fortunate to come to a district like Farmington," Seaborn said.

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the first Wednesday. The center will be open through Aug. 9.

Over Hill and Dale

The Hill and Dale Garden Club of Farmington Hills will meet at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, June 8, at The Longacre House, 24705

Farmington Road.

New officers will be installed and refreshments will be served. For more information about the club, call Eileen Abbott at 478-7437.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 33411 Grand River, Farmington 48335; faxed to 477-9722.

School officials have also been told they may see a \$1.1 million reduction - or 25 percent - of its June state aid payment. School aid money - \$139 million total - would be used instead to pay the state's share of teacher retirement costs.

The state quit making pre-payment into employees' retirement fund, opting to pay as it goes.

School district to get less from state than expected

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

What the state promised, the state took away.

Farmington Public Schools will receive \$13 less per pupil than originally expected for the next fiscal year. State aid initially called for a \$166 increase in per student spending, which was the figure used to calculate the 1995-96 budget. Instead, districts will receive \$153.

That's unconstitutional, said a state supreme court ruling in a lawsuit brought by the Michigan Education Association. An appeal has been filed.

"The Supreme Court is not going to have time to meet to say yes you must pay into the fund," said state Rep. Jan Dolan, R-Farmington Hills. "The court did not order the state to pay into the fund."

ing 97 percent came from local property taxes.

Cannon has already presented the \$106 million operating budget to the Farmington Board of Education.

Included are \$1.3 million in new instructional initiatives. Those will not be affected, Cannon said.

Ironically, when explaining the state's increased role after Proposal A in the budget, Cannon said that "no surprises have yet emerged..."

She spoke too soon.

Multipled by more than 11,000 students, it's \$146,240 less than expected. That's the least of the district's worries, though.

"We have it covered," said Cheryl Cannon, assistant superintendent for finance.

School officials have also been told they may see a \$1.1 million reduction - or 25 percent - of its June state aid payment. School aid money - \$139 million total - would be used instead to pay the state's share of teacher retirement costs.

The state quit making pre-payment into employees' retirement fund, opting to pay as it goes.

If the court orders the state to pay up, Farmington school district would likely tap its \$21.7 million fund balance.

"That's why we have that rainy day fund: You never know what the state is going to do to you," Cannon said.

Farmington's fund balance is roughly 19 percent of its \$106 million operating budget. Auditors recommend districts set aside 10 to 15 percent.

"Who knows? This cut might bring us down to that," Cannon said.

State politics weigh heavier on Farmington schools than before. The district receives 63 percent of its money from the state compared to less than three-percent prior to Proposal A. The remain-

The \$13 drop in per-student allotments was because of a greater-than-expected amount of state tax refunds and a less-than-expected sales tax revenue, Dolan said. The \$166 figure given in January was an estimate; the \$153 figure was given in May.

Cannon estimated 15 percent for employee retirement costs, which are more likely to be 14.5 percent. Excess money will be shifted to cover the more than \$100,000 difference, Cannon said.

"This is what happens when you do budgets: There's a lot of estimation involved," she said.

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Dentistry in the 90s
by Herbert M. Gardner, D.D.S. & Martha P. Zinderman, R.N., D.D.S.
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Physical Therapy & Sports Medicine
by Richard W. Miller, Ph.D., A.T.C., M.S.
GETTING A GOOD FOOTHOLD
Any number of biomechanical abnormalities, ranging from foot-length discrepancies to severe pronation, can cause the feet to hit the ground improperly. As a result, painful conditions can arise which affect the hips, knees and feet themselves. To counter the alignment problems that lead to abnormal foot motion and structural imbalances, an orthotic may be prescribed. These custom-fabricated shoe inserts are individually fitted with the goal of providing the feet and body with a balanced platform. Just as a home with a solid foundation is less likely to suffer cracks in the walls and misaligned doors in its upper floors, a balanced stance will afford the legs and upper body with enhanced musculoskeletal integrity.

FARMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NOTICE TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF FARMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT, A CONSTITUENT SCHOOL DISTRICT OF OAKLAND SCHOOLS, AN INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN:
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that an annual/partial election will be held in the Farmington Public Schools District, County of Oakland, and State of Michigan, on Monday, the 12th day of June 1995, for the purpose of electing one (1) member of the Board of Education for a term of four (4) years ending June 30, 1999, for which position the following persons have been nominated:
Linda K. Ebborg
Jennifer Levis
Notice is further given that the following proposal will be presented to voters:
OAKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE MILLAGE PROPOSAL
Shall the limitation on the amount of taxes which may be imposed on taxable property in the Oakland Community College District be increased by eight tenths (8) mill (80 cents per \$1,000 of taxable value) for a period of seven (7) years, the years 1995 through 2001, to be used for all purposes authorized by law? If approved and levied, it is estimated that eight tenths (8) mill would raise approximately \$23,477,000 when first levied in 1995, resulting in an approximate increase for 1995 of \$48.00 for a home with a true cash value of \$100,000.
NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN, that the polls for said election will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Savings Time, and that the voting places will be as follows:
Precinct No. 1: Longacre Elementary School 34849 Arnold Street
Precinct No. 2: Wm. Green Elementary School 2940 Elmwood
Precinct No. 3: East Middle School 13000 Middlebelt Road
Precinct No. 4: Warner Middle School 30393 W. Fawcett Mile Road
Precinct No. 5: Woodside Elementary School 34773 Oak Forest
Precinct No. 6: Forest Elementary School 34544 Oak Timber Road
Precinct No. 7: Rutledge Elementary School 34801 W. Keweenaw Mile Road
Precinct No. 8: Oak Elementary School 31198 Oak Road
This notice is given by order of the Board of Education of said school district.
Board Approved: March 21, 1995
LUSAN LIGHTNER
Secretary, Board of Education
Printed May 10, June 1, 8 and 9, 1995

Arthritis Today
Joseph J. Weiss, M.D. Rheumatology
18520 Farmington Road
Livonia, Michigan 48152
Phone: (810) 478-7860
WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR YOURSELF
If and when you experience a painful or swollen knee, what can you do for yourself?
One response is to try the medications of a friend or relative with arthritis. Physicians discourage that approach. First, there is no such entity as arthritis. Over 100 different types of arthritis exist, each with its own therapy. The medicine fit for someone with rheumatoid arthritis may be ill suited to you. A second problem with trying arthritis medication are the side effects. Your hazard increases if you are on medicine already for heart, lung or kidney problems as arthritis drugs can interfere with the actions of therapies for these other problems. On your own, unwittingly, you may make a serious mistake in using another person's medications.
What you can do is to rest, by heat, then cold. To relieve pain, you can take therapy but not narcotic in nature such as codeine, percodan, or demoral. Instead, use the commonly available medication such as ibuprofen, acetaminophen, and naproxen. Never take more than the amount stated on the over-the-counter label. Remain active and use what movement hurts or helps your case.
If you improve on these measures, continue them. If you feel no better, or improvement stops, then seek medical attention.

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