

Millage passes, by 83-17 percent margin

Voters approved the Farmington Public Schools tax renewal by a hefty margin 3,453 (83 percent) to 703 (17 percent), and the Oakland Community College tax proposal passed locally with a yes vote of 3,181 (77 percent) and 924 (23 percent) no votes.

The local renewal, which will generate \$48,981,000 in 2002, re-instates an 18-mill levy on non-homesteaded properties and a 13.7352-mill levy on homesteaded and qualified agricultural properties for a period of five years. A homesteaded property with a market value of \$213,400 (\$108,700 state equalized value) will pay a total of approximately \$1,800 in local and state taxes for schools.

The OCC levy, 0.8 mills for 10 years, passed county-wide and is also a renewal of the exist-

ing tax. It is estimated to raise \$34 million in its first year, 2002.

Superintendent of Schools Bob Maxfield was pleased with the outcome.

"You never know," Maxfield said. "We think people are pleased (with the school system), and we thought we had a strong base of support. The result of it failing would be devastating."

He wondered, though, why 700 people voted no. "There are always people who are concerned with taxes in general."

School Board President Frank Reid said he was pleased with the result of the vote. "The support was overwhelming. The message must have been well received."

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Reid complimented Christian for her strong dedication and advocacy for the schools. "I'm glad Pam will be part of the team. I think she will make a solid member and a strong contribution."



Frank Reid

Monday's turnout was 4,219 of 60,375 registered voters — a voter turnout of almost 7 percent.

Reid, a manager of engineering operations for Johnson Controls Automotive Systems Group in Plymouth Township, received 2,327 (32 percent) of the votes, followed by Christian, a stay-at-home mom and active school volunteer who is a trained child care nurse, with 1,909 votes (26 percent).

Attorney Phil Neuman placed third with 1,308 votes (18 percent). Next was John Goshorn, a planning and distribution manager for recreational and commercial sales at Ford Motor Co., who received 716 (10 percent); Pam Charleston-Lyons, a counselor at Avondale High School, 676 (8 percent) and Terence Elsey, a senior systems analyst for Henry Ford 622 (7 percent).

Candidates speak

Neuman, who was the subject of both negative letters and a

negative campaign, expressed gratitude to those who supported him. "I'm grateful for all the people who voted for me. I started with nothing. I'm disappointed that we were not successful."

"I had a good feeling when I was out there at the polls. The votes just weren't there. I would have liked a different outcome. I'm pleased I could present some issues like the school start time and the budget."

Board member Priscilla Brouillette, who sent out a letter calling Neuman's method divisive and demoralizing and who

called him a candidate with destructive instincts, came up to Neuman after the vote results and said: "No hard feelings?"

Neuman said later he wished Brouillette had taken the time to talk with him before she sent her letter.

"I don't know how much that negativity affected the outcome," Neuman said. "It doesn't erase what was done. I can hold my head high."

Goshorn said he found the campaign challenging. "I learned a lot, it was a great experience. I enjoyed meeting people and sharing ideas."

However, he also said he was discouraged that the board

"anointed" Christian, and charged, "They hand-picked her. They should let the voters decide."

Christian and Reid were both endorsed in Brouillette's letter, as well as one set to supporters by Cathy Webb.

He also advocates combining school election in November with other elections to increase interest and response at the polls.

Elsey said he had a lot of fun. "It was worthwhile doing."

He also said he was displeased that Christian's letters were posted at the front counter of North Farmington High School. Elsey said he received no response from Maxfield's office when he called about it, and he wondered how long those fliers had been there.

Christian was recruited by the board to run, he said, because of her ability to say, yes, Elsey said.

He thought the Michigan Education Association's endorsement of both Reid and Christian held a lot of weight. "The MEA determined this election," he said. "Think about it. The endorsement meant something. Those people are voting their jobs. I'm my own person."

Though Elsey liked Neuman, he didn't like the fact he was connected to Farmington Hills Councilwoman Vicki Barnett. Barnett, Mayor pro-term Barry Brickner and former Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi endorsed Neuman.

Elsey thought: "Are we really trying to get a Democratic influence on the board?"



Pam Christian

City leases dog park idea due to cost, clean-up concerns

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Two years ago, dog owners with a dream of having a dog park in Farmington Hills trotted up to city council and asked that the city look into making their dream a reality.

Now, the city's response, in no uncertain terms, is that there is no funding or space for such a park in the city. In addition, anyone proposing a dog park needs to answer the big question: Who's going to clean up the doggie doo?

"There is no funding, no spot to put it and no one to enforce the rules," said Paul Jacobes, chairman of the Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Commission, who spoke at a Council study session Monday.

But just as a dog pet doesn't give up in its efforts to please its owner, the park supporters plan to keep "dogging" this issue.

"I think because we live in Farmington Hills and because there are so many people who want a dog park, I don't think we should just drop (the subject)," said Margaret Masuzawa, who wants an open place for her Labrador retriever, Sunny, to run.

Jacobes said cost is the biggest prohibitive factor. The estimated cost of land would be \$100,000 per acre in Farmington Hills.

Councilwoman Vicki Barnett suggested making the dog park a regional one — by placing it in West Bloomfield, Novi or some other neighboring community, but still making it close enough for Hills residents to take their pooches.

"I happen to be very supportive of a dog park," Barnett said. She suggested a joint meeting between Hills and West Bloomfield parks and recreation commissions. West Bloomfield Township is considering a dog park proposal.

City Manager Steve Brock said the city will contact other municipalities that either have or are considering dog parks and then put people in contact with Hills residents who support a dog park. The city would also help facilitate community meetings about the issue.

But dog park proponents would have to do fund-raising and provide a good maintenance plan. "It would have to be self-policing," Brock said. "That has worked in other places with dog parks."

This means users would be

■ **There is no funding, no spot to put it, and no one to enforce the rules.**

Paul Jacobes
—Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Commission

responsible for cleaning up the messes their dogs leave behind. Dog owner and park proponent Jess Elson said self policing has been very successful at other dog parks.

"The people that want these parks love their animals," he said.

Brock said some of the costs for setting aside and maintaining a dog park might come from increasing dog licensing fees.

Councilwoman Cheryl Oliverio said she was concerned a dog park might become a dumping ground for unwanted pets and about whether dogs might fight with each other.

Other communities with dog parks include Mt. Clemens, Orion Township, Clinton Township and Warren. Birmingham is discussing a dog park as part of its five-year plan.

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"I've heard other people talk about her," Dunn said. "I really don't know a whole lot about any of the people running for board."

Naomi Levine, a Forest Elementary voter, supported Phil Neuman. "I believe what he stands for," Levine said. "He's very dedicated to the cause."

Kathie and Jerry Skell supported Christian and Neuman at Dunckel Middle School. "I read the women voter's information," Kathie said, referring to a guide published by the League of Women Voters.

Parents of nine children, the Skells also supported the school millage renewal.

Some voters had also heard about the controversy over a platoon/teaching method at Forest Elementary, where students

have three or four teachers. This was a concern for candidate Phil Neuman, a Forest Elementary parent, and the discussion ranked some teachers, administrators and board members.

"I love it," said Cheryl Vincent. "My son has it at Dunckel Middle School. The students have just three teachers as opposed to a different teacher for each class. It gives the teachers a chance to get to know the students. They keep them throughout the year."

Kathie Skell had a different view. "They really need a relationship with that one person," she said. "They have to fall in love with that teacher to learn...The little guys really need that one special person."

Candidate Terry Elsey spoke with voters at Longacre Elementary, near his van which sported the words, "Quack like a duck."

That was based on a comment made by candidate Pam Christian at the PTA Council Forum May 24, Elsey said.

"She said there are some people in this campaign who are making a lot of noise like ducks. They are going around quacking and there are some of us soaring like eagles."

"They came around to me, finally, and I said, 'Well, we have two choices here. You can go with the eagles roosting halfway up the mountain, or you can go with the ducks, quacking all the way to the top, the people who have been there. I can quack and make a lot of noise but I can take you to the top. I know the way.'"



Voter registration: Debbie Callan picked up her ballot from Mary Jo Tintinham at Forest Elementary. At 4:45 p.m., 430 voters had done their civic duty at Precinct 6.

Hills resident Weiss receives prestigious Tzedek Fellowship from Hillel foundation

University of Michigan graduate Rachel Weiss of Farmington Hills has received the prestigious Tzedek Fellowship from Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life.

Weiss will work in Hillel's International Center in Washington, D.C., for the 2001-2002 school year.

"Every year, Hillel is fortunate to be able to choose Fellows from among the most outstanding college graduates," explains Hillel President and International Director Richard M. Joel. "Rachel not only exemplifies Hillel's commitment to excellence, but will make significant contributions to Jewish life on campus throughout her year as a Fellow."

Rachel graduated from the University of Michigan with a

degree in History and Organizational Studies and a minor in Judaic Studies. She received Class Honors and Dean's List while at Michigan, and also attended the Rothberg International School at Hebrew University for a term.

Rachel volunteered at the Nonprofit Enterprise at Work, where she researched and executed a new Informational Technology program for non-profit organizations in Ann Arbor and helped plan the group's sixth Annual Nonprofit Excellence Awards.

She served as an intern and paralegal for the General Counsel of the Bingham Financial Services Corporation, and, in 1999, was an intern at the White House in the White House Millennium Council.

During her time at the White House, she designed and implemented a new program called Millennium Green, coordinated millennium-related special events for the United States and played an integral part in the Deputy Director's staff.

Rachel served as an intern for the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit, the Vice-Chairman of the Hillel Governing Board at the University of Michigan, and the Greek Jewish Council Chair.

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