

the farmington

enterprise & observer

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School Board Sets Aug. 23 For New Millage Election

By MARTHA MAHIAN
Farmington Schools will make another attempt to secure additional millage at an Aug. 23 special election but the amount to be sought and for how long a time is undetermined.

The board, abbreviated by the resignation of Gary L. Lichtman and the absence on vacation of President Richard H. Peters, voted 4-1 to set aside Aug. 23 for a millage election.

Only newly seated trustee Mrs. Elizabeth Brennan, who campaigned on an anti-millage platform, voted in opposition.

The board will seek an additional 4.5 mills for one year, in place of the 4.5 mills for four years which voters turned down June 14.

At the instigation of Trustee Aldo Vagnozzi, the board ruled to ask school board attorneys to explore ways whereby senior citizens now participating in homestead tax exemption might be exempted from paying an additional school millage.

Because of summer vacations, voter turnout for the August special election is expected to be smaller than the record 7,300 who turned out in June. However, it will include 18-year-olds balloting for the first time since the newly passed 26th U.S. constitutional amendment giving them the franchise.

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Trustee Ronald W. Emmitt described the June election as "not a true non-hysterical cross section of the voters."

Trustee Mrs. Kathryn Stirling said she believed that "perhaps not made clear enough" to voters the need for additional millage.

"I can't believe that the people want less than a good education for the young people," Mrs. Stirling said. "I can't believe that they don't want extra-curricular sports or music. I think we failed to communicate to the electorate."

Richard Frankel, chairman of the finance subcommittee, says his committee would favor another millage proposal being placed on the ballot providing the board reaches a firm agreement with teachers before the election.

The election should be cancelled, Frankel told trustees, if a firm agreement cannot be obtained from the Farmington Education Association (FEA), sole bargaining agent for Farmington teachers.

If the millage fails again on Aug. 30, the committee recommends that the board puts into effect all the cuts detailed necessary if the \$1.5 million in new income is not forthcoming.

"We feel there is no justification for recessing bargaining in July," Frankel has told the board. "It is imperative that negotiations reach the point before the election that the community knows the actual amount of the bill and where the millage will actually be spent."

The committee agrees teachers deserve a cost-of-living increase. Frankel continued, and wants the levy limited to two years or less.

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CRITICALLY INJURED — Farmington Township firefighters had to cut apart the wrecked auto to get the injured out after a head-on collision Saturday, July 3, at about 12:30 a.m. on Orchard Lake Rd. just south of Barlow. Taken to Botsford General Hospital in critical condition were Lisa M. Trebble, 16, of 33651 Oak Pt. Circle, Farmington, and John S. Wright, 19, of Birmingham. Witnesses report the auto driven by Miss Trebble was weaving across the center line and driving with headlights turned off as it was heading south on Orchard Lake after turning from 13 Mile. Police are investigating the accident. (Ralph Evert photos)

today's hot line

Vol. 83, No. 78 40 pages, 4 sections

City Denies Cluster

The City of Farmington has voted to deny a controversial rezoning for cluster housing but has left the door open for another request. At the same meeting, the council voted to spend \$15,000 to widen the intersection of Orchard Lake and Shiawassee.

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21 Days Left

There are only 21 days left before the beginning of Farmington Founders' Festival days July 29-31. A full report on the festival is given including an accounting of some new activities planned for this year.

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The Plumpickers

Daniels Den continues its discussion of the Farmington Board of Education but has switched the topic from that of open meetings to a closed caucus. Inside the Den discusses the picking of plums and the pruning of a limb.

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Open Space

How much real farmland and open space is left in Wayne County? The Wayne County Planning Commission's exhaustive study sheds some light. For the first of a four part series, see Regional Affairs.

Page 12B

Money Saver

Can government get a \$300,000 job done for \$17,500? Some county officials and concerned volunteers think so. It's all about helping save the Rouge River. W. W. Edgar has the story.

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IS YOUR OBSERVER PILING UP AT HOME?

You're on vacation. You've just hit the open road. You've taken care of all the details at home — the cat's at the neighbors, the fish are with Aunt Martha, the milk man said, "Have a great time!", and the television is unplugged. The only thing you have to worry about is what you're going to do with the pile of Observer Newspapers that will be waiting for you when you get home.

WHY WORRY?
If you forgot to tell your Observer Carrier to hold your hometown newspaper until you are home again, just call 261-3800 from the next rest stop. A friendly circulation staff member will take care of this last-minute detail.

Police Pay Negotiated

Negotiations have been completed with Farmington Township patrolmen with the settlement calling for a pay increase of about \$700 a year for most officers.

The settlement has been made between Farmington Township and the Farmington Township Police Officers Association (FPOA), with members voting to ratify the contract.

Supervisor Earl Teepley, who met in a series of formal sessions in his office with POA representatives, announces that a base pay of \$12,500 has been agreed upon.

liement, Teepley, said the \$12,500 salary compares with Livonia officers' pay of \$12,700 and with City of Pontiac patrolmen who will soon be getting \$13,000.

"Farmington Township is unique," the supervisor says. "Some of our officers have suffered a pay cut to work here because they prefer the more pleasant and safer working conditions in Farmington Township to that of other areas."

"Our department is well paid, well equipped and well staffed. We provide a service and the township is going to pay them for it."

Later, however, she said she still felt there were areas where school expenditures could be cut back without additional millage.

Prodred by Mrs. Stirling to be more specific as to where such cutbacks could be made, Mrs. Brennan suggested teachers aides, noon aides and "that type of personnel."

"I know these have to be negotiated," Mrs. Brennan said, "but if we have to make a choice between reading, writing and arithmetic and music," she would give up the music.

Mrs. Brennan, secretary-treasurer of Our Lady of Sorrows school board, said Catholic schools had given up music and that parents accepted it and had paid for their

In announcing the settlement, Teepley said that the POA is considering an informal program of a "sick leave bank" which would operate much like a blood bank.

Each of the township's 40 officers could donate two of his sick days to place a total of 80 sick days in a bank to be used by a fellow officer who has used up his sick days. Thus, an officer seriously injured or ill over a long period could use some of the 80 sick days in the bank when necessary to avoid losing pay days.

IN ACCEPTING the contract, patrolmen agreed they would accept any layoffs necessary in order to receive the \$12,500 base salary.

"Should it become necessary to lay off some of the men, as has happened in other cities," says Teepley, "in order to pay the amount asked for, the officers have agreed they would not object to layoffs of some of them."

In an interview story the week after her election, Mrs. Brennan said she is not associated with the recall drive and, in fact, was in the hospital undergoing surgery when the campaign was launched.

She admitted pride in being president of Citizens United for Farmington Youth, an ad hoc committee, but disavowed any connection with the group heading the recall drive — Farmington Parents for a Responsible School Board headed by Dr. Donald Kenney.

AFTER PUBLICATION of the new trustee's disclaimer, a document was delivered to

Peacock Found

City of Farmington police officers spent the Fourth of July winding up an array of stray animals, including a wild peacock which has since taken up residence in the Detroit Zoo.

On July 4 city police rounded up two stray dogs, one loose horse and a stray coon in addition to the peacock.

The call of a peacock on the loose was made by Robert Bedore of 21031 Laurelwood, Farmington, who told police the bird was in his neighbor's yard causing a disturbance.

A difference of opinion exists whether Mrs. Elizabeth Brennan, elected trustee on the Farmington Board of Education on June 14, is involved in the campaign to recall four members of the board.

In an interview story the week after her election, Mrs. Brennan said she is not associated with the recall drive and, in fact, was in the hospital undergoing surgery when the campaign was launched.

After taking the peacock to the station, the city made arrangements to donate the bird to the Detroit Zoo. Zoo officials report this was the fifth peacock turned in to the zoo in a week's period.

It was a full-grown peacock with a tail when fully fanned, of about four feet.

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CAC Urges Haste On Negotiations

The Farmington Board of Education has been asked to have negotiations with teachers completed before asking voters to approve another millage proposal.

The request came from the finance subcommittee of the Citizens Advisory Council (CAC) and is now being studied by trustees who are expected to set a special millage election for Aug. 30.



Richard Frankel, chairman of the finance subcommittee, says his committee would favor another millage proposal being placed on the ballot providing the board reaches a firm agreement with teachers before the election.

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Denial Prompts Indication That Trustee Is Linked With Recall

This newspaper which showed that at least Mrs. Brennan's household was very active in the recall drive.

The document is a six-page position paper distributed by CUFY, the group Mrs. Brennan heads. Attached when distributed was a yellow sheet entitled "How You Can Help!"

The first paragraph read: "Sign a recall petition. Simply call any one of these numbers and leave your name and address and one of our workers will visit your home with a petition."

Four phone numbers were listed below, including the phone number listed for Mrs. Brennan's residence at 23965 Drake, Farmington. Other phone numbers belong to Dr. Kenney, Alan Case, and Walter DeMattia. DeMattia is executive secretary of CUFY.

A second paragraph

suggested another step Farmington residents could help in fighting the education program: "Invite a group of parents to your home for a one-hour daytime information session. On any weekday, Monday through Friday at 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m. or 1 p.m. (when the children are at school) a team can visit your home and put on a program.

"Program consists of a 15-minute explanation of the position; a short sound narrated film strip exposing 'SIECUS'; and a question-answer period." Two phone numbers were then listed to call for reservations, both numbers for the Brennan's residence with the second belonging to Joyce Brennan, a daughter.

candidates"; or make financial contributions.

Checks were to be made payable to Farmington School Board and mailed to the residence of David Gaylor of 32218 Hull, Farmington.

This is the flyer which said any surplus funds at the end of the campaign would be given to the Farmington Jaycees for its hospital fund. The Jaycees do not have a hospital fund and obtained legal services to insist the CUFY would not use the Jaycees name in the future without permission.

When told by the Jaycees the organization did not have a hospital fund, DeMattia then stated surplus funds would be given to the Farmington Community Center.

Mrs. Brennan's phone number is unlisted but was checked by cross-reference lists to ascertain the phone numbers on the recall flyer were listed for her residence.

OTHER SUGGESTIONS were: to obtain signatures for the recall; vote on election day ("We will notify you of our