

## Letters To The Editor

# Councilman Supports Schools' Tax Request

## EDITOR:

Citizens opposing the Farmington school millage proposal should carefully consider the relationship between community stability, property values, and school funding.

A stable and well balanced community requires a steady influx of new residents to replace those moving out. Newcomers to the suburbs have a choice of many areas to live—and excellence of schools is a prime factor influencing a housing decision.

When skilled, well paid newcomers choose to move to West Bloomfield, Southfield, or Livonia because those

schools offer programs not available in Farmington, our property values will decrease, and decay of our older neighborhoods will accelerate.

Our financial problems here in Farmington are not entirely of our own doing. Due to new building developments and increased property valuations, Farmington taxpayers will pay an additional \$800,000 in school taxes for operation next year over this year, even without a millage increase.

Because of this enhanced taxing position, the amount of state returned aid will decrease proportionately

leaving us a net increase of only \$400,000 to operate our schools next year. This is only a three per cent increase over this year's \$15.5 million budget and hardly keeps pace with the current rate of inflation.

The problem is further compounded by an additional 300 students coming into the system next year. Over 200 of these are the result of the closing of Our Lady of Sorrows High School.

When one considers the annual cost of education in the Farmington schools is over \$900 per pupil, and state taxes for one year to make the present value of a home by possibly \$1,000 seems like a good investment to me.

JOHN H. RICHARDSON, D.V.M.

apparent why we are in a financial dilemma.

THE MILLAGE increase we are being asked to approve is for only one year and it is my hope and belief that by next year our legislators in Lansing will devise a more realistic state aid formula and our local school officials will reevaluate the priorities and further "tighten their belts" to live within the present millage without seriously detracting from the education of our children.

My patience is growing thin, and I can in no way condone the recent actions of some of the members of the Board of Education or the apparent lack of judgment on the part of administrators in setting spending priorities.

We cannot, however, permit animosity created by this divisiveness and lack of cohesion to detract from quality education for our children here in Farmington. Excellent schools cost the taxpayers dearly—but so do decreasing property values and changing neighborhoods. School millage proposals must be supported on this basis alone—and I urge opponents to think very carefully before voting no again.

Fifty dollars in additional taxes for one year to enhance the resale value of a home by possibly \$1,000 seems like a good investment to me.

JOHN H. RICHARDSON, D.V.M.

Dr. Richardson is a member of the Farmington City Council.

## Aren't Voters Speaking Loud Enough? Reader Asks

## EDITOR:

The history of our Federal government is that as it grows in size and power it becomes less sensitive to the wishes of the public. The heartbeat of the electorate is listened to through a stethoscope hundreds or thousands of miles long and the sound is barely audible.

Lately we observe that the volume on the hearing aid of our local politicians is turned way down. We used to think that we could speak loudly enough and in such close proximity that we could at least attract the attention of the local public servants.

So many times in this day and age the wishes of the citizens are made known through referendums, public hearings, personal contacts, etc., but these wishes are unheeded. Now, if we can't convince those whom we elect even at the local level that we

are sincere, informed, intelligent and concerned about what they are doing, then all is lost.

If we citizens don't take the time to become informed, to keep politics under surveillance, and then to vociferously express our opinions, we deserve the fate which befalls us.

### Appreciates Confidence

## EDITOR:

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the people of Farmington for their support during our recent campaign for the presidency of the United States Jaycees.

Although we were unsuccessful in the campaign, it could hardly be called a loss after finding so many friends in the Farmington community who came to our aid and who worked with us and helped us in this most difficult election.

As Dedo and I plan our future in Farmington, we will continue to be inspired by your confidence in us and continue to lend whatever support we can toward making Farmington a better place in which to live.

PAT NAWAK  
Farmington

### Dog Lovers Aren't Loved

## EDITOR:

I know this is an old complaint but needs revising from time to time. It's the dog lovers that let their pets bark and sometimes all night.

It might be "music to their ears" but the rest of us need a good night's rest in order to get up early and make a living. Worse yet, we live in a valley which echoes all the barking.

Many residents are disturbed as there are two large apartments in the area plus many single homes. They may be dog lovers but certainly not people lovers. Hopefully, Valley View Drive dog lovers will read this.

SLEEPLESS  
Farmington

## 2 Enjoying YFU Visits

Two Farmington girls are enjoying an interesting summer at far corners of the earth as exchange students of Youth For Understanding (YFU).

Carol Ditzhazy is visiting in Greece and Nancy Ayres is staying in Japan as Farmington representatives abroad.

The girls are each struggling with complex foreign languages with familiar terms like Kentucky Fried Chicken and Coke the bright spots in their daily lessons.

Both girls, however, have had a new taste treat (ocotopus) plus an old favorite, watermelon.

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**JAPANESE TEA CEREMONY** — Three Japanese students staying in Farmington this summer performed a tea ceremony recently for the Rotary Club of Farmington. The ceremony is done on New Year's Day and at certain Japanese festivals. It is a historical ceremony with movements and style dictated by tradition. To qualify as "hostess" for the ceremony, a person must attend school for five years and become

licensed. The male participants are Gary Lightman, Farmington Rotarian, Wally Zembra, Southfield Rotarian, and the Rev. Hugh Stewart, Farmington Rotarian. The girls are staying in the U.S. under the "Experience in Living" program and are being sponsored in Farmington by the Farmington Community Center. (Evert photo)

## Farmington Socially Speaking

By KATHY ZISKA  
GR 4-7261

Mr. and Mrs. Greg Wilson of Farmington are the proud parents of twin boys, Tracy and Trevon, born on July 10. Both are five pounds, eight ounces and 19 inches long. Father is a public safety officer for the City of Farmington.

The Farmington Community Center now has a power loom to use for its weaving classes. The loom was donated to the Center by Mrs. Elise Avery, long-time Farmington resident and Farmington Township treasurer for 11 years. One of her consuming hobbies was weaving.

Dr. and Mrs. William Frederick of Wayne State University are now officially located in their lovely new home on Perry's Crossing in Rolling Oaks subdivision in Farmington Township.

The welcoming was made official with a friendly coffee hour in the morning given by the immediate neighbors and with a house-warming party attended by numerous close friends on Friday evening, July 23, to welcome the Fredericks to suburbia.

On Tuesday, July 27, a group of teens living in Canterbury Commons subdivision in Farmington Township put on a free band concert from noon to 5 p.m.

There were two rock bands, a bake sale, boutique, pop and hot dogs. The profits will be used to purchase trash barrels for the subdivision's park.

## wood creek farms

By ANNE M. PHILLIPS MA 6-6335

Dick and Pat McGrath are back from a delightful trip to our west coast. Saturday, July 31, they flew to San Francisco where they stayed at the Miyako Hotel in the Japanese Cultural Center.

This was a fascinating experience for the hotel operates both in complete Japanese style as well as American style with a Japanese flavor. Of course they had a room with beds in American fashion.

A niece of theirs was a June bride marrying a native San Franciscan. And those two young people drove them around for two days showing them the city as only a native can do.

ON MONDAY the McGraths rented a car and drove to

## Basics Over For Mathys

## FARMINGTON

Army Pvt. Paul J. Mathys, 24, son of Mr. and Mrs. John L. Mathys, 2139 Rockwell, Farmington, recently completed eight weeks of basic training at the U.S. Army Training Center, Ft. Campbell, Ky.

He received instruction in drill and ceremonies, weapons, map reading, combat tactics, military courtesy, military justice, first aid, and Army history and traditions.

Pvt. Mathys received his BS degree in 1969 from Wayne State University, and is a member of Theta Beta Phi Fraternity.

Sacramento to visit cousins. They were there two nights but only one day, but in that day they saw the city plus getting in a game of golf.

Wednesday morning they drove to Kings Castle on the north shore of Lake Tahoe for the WWM (Western Wood Moulding and Millwork) Convention. During the convention Dick found time to play golf and Pat did quite a bit of swimming.

Saturday noon, the convention over, they drove with friends who had also attended the convention, up to Klamath Falls continuing on Sunday to Pineville. Here Dick and Pat left their friends and drove on to Portland, Ore. via Mt. Hood - a beautiful, beautiful drive. They flew home Monday after two fabulous weeks of weather, no rain, not too hot, just perfect.

PAUL AND ERIK Rogind have also been to California, where they spent two weeks. They flew out July 24 and spent their first week attending a badminton camp at Pomona College in Claremont, Calif., which is sponsored by the American Badminton Association.

This was a very busy week of work but they enjoyed every minute of it.

Camp over, they went to La Jolla to visit old school friends from Highmeadow School. These boys had lived in Holly Hills until their parents were transferred to California.

While in La Jolla the weather was setting heat records.

They did a lot of swimming in the Pacific; they went to the

San Diego Zoo at Balboa Park; they went to the Scripps Oceanography Institute; and on a zoo safari where they drove in a car through a large area where the wild animals roamed free.

FOR THE return flight, they were at the Los Angeles Airport, traveling student fare so had to wait for available space. Erik was going up the escalator.

He was sure he saw Bob Hope also on the escalator. He had the courage to ask him if he were Bob Hope. With a big smile he acknowledged that he was.

At the top of the escalator Erik put his notebook in front of him, and he signed.

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## Farmington Sends Best

Four Farmington students who participated in the recent two-week 1971 All-State High School Band session at Interlochen, were recognized for their top ability.

The program at the National Music Camp draws top high school musicians from all over the state.

Tom McKelvey, Farmington High School student, held second chair among 14 in the trombone section.

Among 49 clarinets, Cindy Niemczak was in third chair and Mary Miller in fifth. Both attend Farmington High.

Marcia Walck, Harrison High student, was one of nine piano students selected to participate in the all-state honor piano recital.

Also participating in the all-state program were Lori Barnes, Farmington Junior High pianist, and Gara Pesamoka, Harrison High cornet player.

**IF THE HOUSE NEEDS FIXING don't let money stand in the way**  
Add a room, get that new roof, fix up paint up...now's the time to plan and start any of those home improvements you've been thinking about. Whether you do it yourself (and need the money for materials), or use a contractor...the money you need is at Metro. See us for a prompt loan with low bank rates and convenient repayment plans.  
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