

the farmington

enterprise & observer

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

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Weekend of August 28-29, 1971

Ask Board To Save Sports With \$46,000 In Donations

By MARTHA MAHAN

A promissory note for \$24,030, signed by six members of the Farmington Junior Football Assn., was delivered Thursday morning to the school administration office. Superintendent Roderick Smith had said that amount was needed to cover all non-sports extra-curricular activities for the full year plus the fall athletic schedule as long as gate receipts were contributed and all coaches and faculty sponsors agreed to work at half pay.

The association members also pledged to try to raise an additional \$22,395 which the administration said would be required to restore winter and spring sports.

Signing the promissory note were Robert Chesley, Paul Manos, Richard Crudele, Ral Homovec, Gordon Muir and Jim Moore.

SUPPORT to accept the earmarked private donation was given at a public meeting Thursday night by Board President Richard Peters and Trustees Ronald Emmitt, Kenneth Perrin and Betty Brennan.

Aldo Vagnozzi was absent because of a prior engagement.

Dr. Mervyn Ross said he was firmly opposed to accepting the earmarked funds saying that the board had let the public know before both elections what must be done and should stick by what it had said.

Mrs. Kay Stirling said that she was "in." She agreed it would destroy chances of passing future millage proposals but added "I find it difficult to turn down the

proposal offered."

Sports and all other extra-curricular activities are the nearest thing to certain for Farmington public schools this fall.

Only a technicality prevented the board of education from ordering them restored Thursday, and the action now is expected to come at a special meeting Sunday at 8 p.m.

AN OFFICIAL decision is being rushed because high school football players must start practice Monday to be eligible to play the first game on their schedules.

Thursday night, Athletic Director Jack Cotton was told football players could not report for practice until after formal action was taken Sunday night.

On Friday, however, football players reported for practice at all three Farmington high schools. There reportedly were no coaches present at the practices but the players were called by their head coaches to attend.

Some trustees were reported to be extremely upset by the practices Friday and could change their votes by Sunday night.

A majority of the board, which was pledged by pre-election statements to eliminate all outside-of-class activities if the Aug. 23 millage vote failed, said it would accept a citizen offer to underwrite costs of the program.

They could do this and still keep their election promises, the quartet claimed, because they were not spending any money from school funds. The millage bid was defeated.

It was Vagnozzi's absence which prevented the board action. Sunday night's meeting, with its more than 20 official go-ahead. Because only a board quorum to act meeting had been given, full attendance was the "swirl of activity"



WHAT IS IT?—Mrs. Evelyn Rhynekow of Springbrook Dr., Farmington Township, needs the services of a botanist to identify the maverick squash in her back yard. The squash, which grew wild in the compost pile in her back yard, is about 22 inches long. It is shaped similar to a Hubbard squash but is a bright orange instead of green. Two squash are growing in the massive plant which is about twice the size of this one. (Evert photo)

necessary to take official action. Sunday night's meeting, with its more than 20 official go-ahead. Because only a board quorum to act meeting had been given, full attendance was the "swirl of activity"

surrounding restoration of extra-curricular activities began Tuesday night when about 200 sports boosters came to plead to be allowed to solicit donations to keep athletics in the schools.

The board voted, 5-2, with Vagnozzi and Ross dissenting, to meet with a representative group the next morning to pin down specifics. Vagnozzi criticized the plan's failure to restore academic cuts, also resulting from the millage defeat.

The group agreed to underwrite the fall athletic programs and a full year of all non-athletic extra-curricular activities and pledged to try to raise enough to cover sports for the rest of the year, provided the Farmington Education Association (FEA) allowed its teacher-members to accept half pay for their supervisory services.

A PUBLIC meeting Wednesday night brought in checks or pledges totaling \$13,935 Chesley said, and at least another \$2,000 on Thursday. On Thursday morning the six delivered the promissory note.

The FEA, faced with accepting either a pay cut or the onus of having killed school sports, worked out an agreement with the board's labor negotiators which partially met the wage reduction demand and won certain other concessions as well. It still must be approved by the board.

would add an estimated \$3,075 to costs. It could be met, Dr. Smith said, from an already budgeted special activities account.

The FEA said the agreement also pledged the board to hire for each of the 19 elementary schools one acting principal, one teacher for service squad and one teacher for safety patrol supervision. This could amount to an estimated maximum of \$16,550.

Hiring of this kind of personnel normally is the choice of the board and whether they would have chosen to hire them for the coming year is problematical, one board member said.

IN ARRIVING AT an overall budget of \$46,425 for all extra-curricular activities, Dr. Smith said he deferred until next year purchase of all but the most necessary equipment, contributed \$25,000 in estimated gate receipts, and calculated coaching and supervisory fees at 50 per cent of the norm. Payment of full fees would have brought the total to \$127,300, Dr. Smith said. Pre-election figures provided by the administration calculated costs for sports alone last year at \$131,700.

Fall sports underwritten by the \$24,030 promissory note are high school varsity and junior varsity football, cross-country, golf, girls swimming, tennis and cheerleading and junior high 8th and 9th grade football and Girls Athletic Assn.

Those wishing to contribute checks or pledges to the activities fund should mail them, Chesley said, to the F.F.A. School Fund, Post Office, Farmington.

today's hot line

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what's inside

A Fast Job

Shiawassee and Gill Rds. in the City of Farmington have been completed at record speeds, and part of the speed has been due to cooperation in cleanup operations from residents.

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Inside Rap Line

The purpose and goals of Rap Line have been a topic of discussion at many levels throughout the Farmington Community. In today's edition, the executive secretary of Rap Line begins telling what the drug prevention program is all about.

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2 Plus 98

Two adults and then about six young people begin tossing ideas around early last spring, and the result has been a teen activities center which has served about 100 youths a week this past summer. Hopes for next year are discussed by the center's founder inside.

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Local Names At 'M'

"There will be plenty of familiar Observerland names on future Michigan teams... that is, provided freshmen who have accepted athletic tenders make the grade." Check the Campus Capers column on the sports page to see how local athletes are doing in college.

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Bowling Fun

An Observerland lad won a national bowling championship at the age of 11.

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Observer employees will celebrate the Labor Day holiday with their families.

The Observer central offices and switchboard will close the evening of Friday, September 3. We will resume business as usual Tuesday, September 7, at 6:30 a.m. Due to the shortened business week, your Wednesday Observer will be published Thursday, September 9. Deadlines for this post holiday edition are:

CLASSIFIED WANT ADS	11:30 a.m. Wednesday
CLASSIFIED DISPLAY ADS	5 p.m. Tuesday
DISPLAY ADVERTISING	5 p.m. Tuesday
CHURCH-WOMEN'S NEWS	12 noon Tuesday
ALL OTHER NEWS	6 p.m. Tuesday

The Observer circulation staff will be available for calls concerning delivery of your hometown newspaper from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Saturday, September 4

LABOR DAY

261-3800

Sentence 2 In Bombings

Two former Schoolcraft College students have been sentenced to prison for their roles in the March 19 bombing at Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge branch in Farmington.

Myra Court, Livonia, was sentenced to 10 to 25 years in prison after pleading guilty earlier to charges of plotting explosives with the intention of destroying property.

Eileen M. Orr, 21, of Highland Park and formerly of Garden City, was sentenced to 2 1/2 to 15 years in the Detroit House of Correction for aiding and abetting in placing explosives to destroy property. She had pleaded guilty.

SENTENCES were handed down Thursday by Oakland

Circuit Judge Arthur Moore. Both were given credit for the 114 days spent in jail after being arrested on May 3.

Stevens and Miss Orr had been charged with placing two pipe bombs in a biology lab at Orchard Ridge on March 19.

No one was injured although extensive damage was done to the lab.

After the pair were arrested, state police found a cache of explosives in a bedroom closet at the home of Miss Orr's parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Orr, 6505 Fairfield, Garden City. The parents denied knowing about the explosives which included 20 sticks of dynamite, a link of lead pipe and a coil of fuses.

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College Selects Brown

The lame duck board of trustees for Schoolcraft College appointed Erwin ("Erv") Brown, a former trustee, to fill the vacancy on the board from the resignation of Dr. George Martin.

Dr. Martin had resigned from the board on Aug. 3 for health and professional reasons.

Acting on advice from the college's legal counsel, the board voted 6-1 to appoint Brown to the remaining two years of Martin's term.

An Editorial A 'No-Win' Position Faces School Board

Out of the swirling tangle of money, politics, sports and education now sweeping over Farmington's school system, a few points come clear.

First, the citizens group which has raised enough money to pay for the fall athletic program and all non-sports extra-curricular activities is to be congratulated.

Some people in the community may disagree with the Farmington Junior Football Association's clear emphasis on football over other kinds of programs in the schools. But no one can question the concern of citizens who have chosen to put their money where their heart is.

It's reflective of the kind of community support for schools that represents the best hope of continued educational excellence in Farmington.

THE BOARD of Education, however, finds itself in a no-win position.

On one hand, if the board decides at its meeting on Sunday night to reject the private offer of \$24,030, it will slap in the face a genuine expression of community concern and probably commit political suicide into the bargain.

On the other hand, if the board chooses to accept the offer it will have seriously eroded what remains of its credibility. The board said before this week's election that if the millage failed, all extra-curricular activities would be cut, football included. If the board accepts the money, extra-curricular activities will go on, football included.

Who's going to believe what the board says next time around?

Further, by accepting outside money which (let's face it) is intended mainly to save the foot-

ball program, the board will have abdicated from its responsibility to be centrally concerned with using its available money to insure the best possible academic program for all children in the school system.

If the board is going to let another set of priorities be imposed on its functions by an outside (no matter how well intentioned) group, one has got to wonder just how strongly the board is concerned about its fulfilling its legal responsibility to run our school system academic education.

THE BOARD will meet Sunday night to decide what to do.

Faced with the Hobson's choice between political suicide and destruction of credibility, the board would be well advised to accept the money, but with no strings (i.e., emphasis on football at the expense of other programs) attached.

Only in that way can it respond positively to the sincere concern of Farmington citizens to save parts of the school program which they find important enough voluntarily to tax themselves and simultaneously maintain some shred of credibility in carrying out its legal responsibility to insure a sound educational program for all children.

The board might also find it appropriate Sunday night to point the finger of responsibility squarely at the State Legislature, which, by irresponsible fiddling around on property tax reform and state aid for public schools, has directly caused the defeat of the millage and the ensuing uproar.

—Farmington Enterprise & Observer