

# the Farmington Enterprise & Observer

Wednesday, September 1, 1971

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

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## Board Accepts Private Fund For Extra Activity Program

By MARTHA MAHAN

Farmington high school football teams have been assured a 1971-72 season. Assurance came when the board of education, by a 5-2 vote, agreed Sunday night to accept a private guarantee to underwrite costs of fall extra-curricular sports programs and non-athletic out-of-class activities for the full year.

The board, said, to try to raise enough funds to cover winter and spring sports schedules.

*"It's the good guys fighting the good guys, and the bad guys are laughing at us all" -- Dr. Mervyn Ross*

He talked with school staffs, board members and taxpayers in the two communities. Emmit said to learn whether their actions had "fractured" the community, and was assured they had not. "On that basis, I feel a 'yes' vote is necessary," he said.

Accreditation. Who's Fooling Who?"

"Now we're in the position of the good guys fighting the good guys, and the bad guys are laughing at us all," Dr. Ross said.

The motion to accept the earmarked funds, offered by Perrin and supported by Mrs. Brennan, specified that expenditure of the donated money and the programs would be under board control, and that no public funds would be used.

It specified also that no phase of the program would begin until fully funded and that the agreement applied only to the 1971-72 school year.

Mrs. Stirling said her decision to go along was based on the "best interest of the students." The board's

credibility would be harmed, she said, only if public funds were spent for extra-curricular activities.

Perrin said the board kept its word that there would be no extra-curricular activities if millage failed. "We do not have the programs now," he said. "We have kept our faith and it is because we kept faith that this whole movement (to collect private funds) came about. If we had made changes, we could have reinstated the programs, but we said we would not and we have not."

Vagnozzi's question over use of public funds had to do with an agreement worked out between the school administration and the Farmington Education Assn., the teachers' union.

The board first had asked the FEA to allow coaches and faculty sponsors of other extra-curricular activities to accept half the normal stipend. The agreement eventually reached called for half-pay for sports coaches and music directors but full pay for other faculty sponsors.

It also pledged the board, Vagnozzi said, to hire acting principals which the board

had hoped to avoid during the current financial pinch. In addition, he said, it pledged hiring of safety patrol and service squad heads. These were the areas, Vagnozzi said, which would involve payment from public funds.

THE CITIZENS group pledged to make up the pay difference for sponsors of non-athletic out-of-class programs Perrin said but there was no mention by the board of how the other pay would be met.

Athletic Director Jack Cotton later confirmed that he had been approached a week before the August millage election with an offer for a fund drive to support sports if the millage failed.

He said he reported the offer to Peters, the board president. Peters said the matter had been discussed at a board "executive, (secret) session, but that it was felt inappropriate to indicate any posture toward it before the election.

today hot line

Vol. 83, No. 94 40 pages, 4 sections

what's new

### New Chief

Farmington Township has a new police chief who will take over duties in about a month. He's from Westland, and the Observer's man in Westland, Leonard Poger, has a background interview.

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### Readers Respond

A teacher writes. A school board member writes. A parent writes. Farmington residents respond to events in the community and news stories in the Enterprise and Observer via letters.

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### Private Funds

What do some Farmington leaders think of the private funds being donated to back school activities? The coverage on this issue continues on

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### Rap Line

Rap Line — what is it, and how does it work? An in-depth look into Farmington's crisis intervention efforts begins today

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### Ecology

The Scouts from Longacre School gave local ecology efforts a boost recently. The Enterprise camera was there, and we have a story and picture.

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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 8:30 a.m. Due to the shortened business week, our 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

261-3800



## Group Sets \$50,000 Goal For Campaign

By DOUG JOHNSON

Private donations totaling \$50,000 to support sports and other extra-curricular activities are being sought for Farmington School District in the wake of school board action Sunday night.

Before a large crowd in the Farmington High School auditorium, the board voted 5-2 to accept the offer of a group of Farmington residents to raise the funds.

Monday, Robert Chesley, one of the backers of the plan and a signer of a guarantee of \$25,000 to start the fall program (including football) outlined what the group hoped to do:

"QUITE SIMPLY, we plan to raise \$50,000. That's slightly more than the \$46,000 mentioned last week. But we want to be sure that at no time is any tax money being used to support these programs," Chesley said. Originally, the price tag for the save-the-activities program had been set at about \$46,000.

"Checkers or donations can be made out to the Farmington Junior Football Association (JFJA) School Fund and mailed care of the Farmington postmaster."

Chesley said the FJFA was being used since it was already an established, tax exempt organization.

"A thing like this can't be set up over night, and we needed something by Sunday, or football wouldn't start," Chesley said. "And this group has interests well beyond football. The name is a misnomer."

Early Tuesday, Chesley said the group had raised almost \$20,000 in pledges and actual cash gifts. About \$4,000 of it was raised after the school board meeting Sunday.

Junior highs or grade schools that "feed" these schools are asked to attend the meeting, Chesley said.

"We must have all of this money in the hands of the school board by the end of September. I'd like the entire program wrapped up by Nov. 15," Chesley said.

CHESLEY SAID it would not be possible for someone to pledge money now and pay it in December or March.

"We have to have all of the money or the programs won't begin."

That stipulation was part of the group's agreement with the board and prompted Chesley, and five others—Paul Manos, Richard Crudele, Hal Holmes, Gordon Muir and Jim Moore—to sign the guarantee last week for \$24,000, allowing football to begin.

There was some mention of an additional \$2,800 needed for the entire fall program to begin, and Chesley said Monday that they had verbally agreed to add that to the \$24,000 in the guarantee.

Chesley explained the group's motivation, and denied rumors that they had made pre-election promises to raise the money if the millage vote failed.

"PEOPLE MUST understand in all of this we are attempting to maintain these activities for one year. We had nothing to do with the 'no' or 'yes' vote. I personally voted yes because I think it is the cheapest investment we could make — an investment in the kids."

"I cannot agree with people who want to 'punish' or 'set an example' at the expense of the kids. This should not be a lesson for voters at the expense of the kids."

"Our group voted for the millage. We met for the first time last week, we are well aware the school cannot support these programs. It is ridiculous to suggest that we would work prior to the election to ask people to vote 'no,' and then go out and beat our brains out to raise the money."

CHESLEY also said he was not involved in the recall campaign.

"We are just six guys who agreed to sign a note to get this

controversial donations of private funds. The board is seated at the top of the picture. (Observer photo by Harry Mauthe)

## Head Start In Jeopardy

Signatures on petitions to save the Farmington Head Start program are being sought by parents, who are faced with possible curtailment of the program by Oakland County.

Head Start is a program that helps children from poor economic backgrounds get an early start in school, to put them on even footing with other children.

Donald Howell, director of extended services for Farmington Public Schools, said he would withhold \$400,000 if the Office of Economic Opportunity in

Oakland County (OCOEO) votes to extend the Head Start program year round in some communities and eliminate it in others.

HEAD START originally began under the auspices of the federal government's poverty programs and is now under the wing of the OCOEO.

Howell said several Farmington citizens involved directly and indirectly with the Head Start program in Farmington schools are involved in soliciting signatures for a petition to the OCOEO to keep the program in operation here.

Howell added that children in the William Grace, Larkshire, Gill, Shawawee and other elementary school areas will be affected if Head Start is axed. Mrs. Chris Shatwell, director of Head Start, said she believed Farmington needs more pre-school activities all the way around.

Head Start helps "improve the social, intellectual, psychological and emotional level of kids who haven't had the opportunity that other kids their age have had," she said.

HOWELL added that he and other interested citizens

recently attended a meeting of the OCOEO in Pontiac where efforts of Farmington citizens to propose a full-year Head Start program were tabled for further study.

ANYONE interested in signing a petition or helping solicit signatures should contact the Thomas Herimans or James Zahn, or call Howell at the school board offices.

## Junk Car Crackdown Successful

The Farmington Township zoning department has caused homeowners to remove a total of 152 junk cars from Farmington streets and lots, according to a report to Supervisor Earl Teeples.

Teeples said the zoning officers had submitted a summer's-end report showing the two-man force had "considerable success in cleaning up cars, as well as bringing about compliance with other ordinance violations."

Landfills, locations of homes on lots, and other zoning matters, had been handled in the summer program, Teeples said.

"Efforts will continue and an October cleanup program is being formulated," Teeples added.



A FIRST FOR the Observer — Observer Newspaper Inc. Publisher Philip Power hosted the Farmington Rotary Club Tuesday afternoon in the newspaper's new facility, Levan and Schoolcraft in Livonia. It was the first such tour of community groups and Power expects there will be many more. The club held its regular meeting and ate lunch in the ONI board room. (Observer photo by Robert Wooding)

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