

Why League Supports Schoolcraft Millage

EDITOR:
The League of Women Voters of Livonia urges support of the millage increase for Schoolcraft College appearing on the Sept. 13 ballot.

The college is requesting an additional one-mill in property taxes, half to be used for expansion of its present facilities and the other half intended for operation of those facilities.

The League of Women Voters believes that the opportunities afforded by community colleges should be available to all young people who seek them and should be financed jointly by the state and the local community college which benefits.

During the 10 years of its existence, Schoolcraft College has grown far faster than its founders anticipated. About half of those students who have attended Schoolcraft at a relatively modest cost have been residents of Livonia.

A two-year curriculum geared either to a terminal vocational education or to preparation for transfer to a four-year institution is of considerable value to Livonia residents. There is no question that the demand for advanced education is accelerating, not only because of the demonstrable need for it in a technologically complex society, but also because we have come to recognize our obligation to provide this educational opportunity to many who might otherwise not be able to afford it.

The LWV urges a "yes" vote Sept. 13.

BARBARA QUENNEVILLE,
President

NANCIE BLATT
Finance, Education
Chairman
Livonia League
of Women Voters

2nd Chapter Adds Its Voice

EDITOR:
The League of Women Voters of the Northville.

READERS' FORUM

Letters must be limited to 300 words. Letters must be signed, with the writer's address. Names will be withheld only at the writer's request and for good cause. Please type or write plainly. The editor reserves the right to reject unsuitable letters.

Thanks From The Ridge

EDITOR:
I was elated when I read in the July 8 issue of the Livonia Observer that sidewalks were planned along Henry Ruff from Lyndon to Five Mile and along various sections of Merriman.

Since then, I have seen nothing further about Council action. Also, phone calls to the City Council office and the city engineering office leave the distinct impression that there is a lack of communication and perhaps enthusiasm between the two offices.

John Molnar, president of the Merriman Estates Civic Association had a cute letter published July 14 that opposed the sidewalks. The essence of the letter was that even though there had been some "tragic" pedestrian deaths and a hit and run, calls to AAA, the state police and several insurance companies assured him that there had been hundreds of deaths on sidewalks (also injuries can be caused by bicycles, mini bikes, heart attacks and slipping on ice). Therefore, the Council should take a long hard look before spending hundreds of thousands of dollars on useless concrete sidewalks in residential areas.

It seems to me he missed the point completely. A child or adult is much safer walking on a sidewalk than in the street. The trouble is, no one really believes that an accident will take the life of one of their family. It always happens to the other guy.

And what price do you put on a child's life? Ask a family that has lost one what they would pay to turn time back.

The stretch of Henry Ruff mentioned above is the only street between Lyndon Meadows Subdivision and Riley Junior High School. It was crowded this last school year with students walking to and from Riley. I shudder to think how many will have to walk in the street this year with no school busses running. There will also be more auto traffic as some parents decide to drive their children to school.

I would like to see the City Council, with all possible haste, take the final steps toward seeing these sidewalks completed. There are too many careless and irresponsible drivers on the streets to delay.

BILL BEATTIE
Father of hit and run victim

MRS. G.S. ORBAN,
President
The League of Women Voters of the Northville-Plymouth Area
MRS. E. HANCOCK
State-Local Education
Chairman

FR. EDSTAN COGHILL,
O.F.M.
Holy Childhood of Jesus
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Harbor Springs

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Sidewalks Are Needed!

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Faculty Stand: 2 Versions

The Schoolcraft College Faculty Forum has declined to take a public stand on the millage proposal in the Sept. 13 election, but has urged members of the Michigan Education Association in the college district to support the increase.

"We have decided not to make a public statement on the millage," faculty President Richard Arlen told Observer Newspapers, indicating that this position was the informal consensus of the faculty.

However, more than 2,000 letters signed by the Forum and printed on Forum stationery, were mailed to district residents belonging to the MEA urging support of the millage, Observer Newspapers learned.

"Schoolcraft College is in need of a millage approval on Sept. 13, 1971 to continue the orderly expansion of programs at the college and to maintain the quality of existing programs," the letter states.

"We urge your favorable consideration of this millage request at the poll on Monday, Sept. 13, 1971."

The college is asking for a half mill for general purposes and a half mill for capital construction in the election. Both millage requests are for an indefinite period of time.

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