

## today's hot line

Volume 83 Number 54

## what's inside

### 5 Days To Poll-Time

Only five days remain before Farmington School District residents will go to the polls and decide the outcome of the requested 3.5 mills to operate for one year. Residents still weighing the issue might be helped by statements inside from two legislators, the League of Women Voters and letters from our readers.

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### Good Times Seen

The Farmington Chamber of Commerce feels a need exists for a social affair which will draw together all elements of the community. The Chamber hopes this need will be met with its President's Ball.

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### Center Has Future

Dennis Phenev, newly elected president of the board for the Farmington Community Center, discusses at length his expectations for the center in the future. Part of those hopes are already being realized as can be seen by reading the "At the Center" column inside.

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### Ladies' Days

They're going on despite a new state law - but with a difference in some cases. The story is in the Women's Section.

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### Tongue In Can

You've heard of "tongue in cheek," but have you ever heard of a tongue in a garbage can? When Oakland Community College sculpture students get creative, they really get creative.

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# Massive Millage Campaign Put In Gear For Monday

About 1,000 Farmington residents are involved in the grass roots effort to pass the millage requested by Farmington School District in the April 24 special election.

The pro-millage campaign, described as "eyeball to eyeball, eardrum to eardrum," is being coordinated by Farmington Citizens for Better Schools (FCBS).

A TEAM of 25 speakers is talking day and night at "coffee klatches," club and civic group meetings, reports Richard Crudele, committee co-chairman along with Mrs. Emma Makinen.

Headed by Bud Gow and Robert Chesley, the

citizen speakers' team, with help from local school principals and mothers, has appeared at about 200 coffee sessions throughout the district.

"Our goal is to hold 600 separate coffee meetings throughout the community," says Crudele. "At the rate they are being scheduled, we'll make it."

Any citizen or community group wanting to have a millage presentation may schedule a speaker by calling the Farmington Board of Education office at 477-1300.

THIS EFFORT is being backed by a phone campaign designed to reach all parents and every voter in the district.

About 500 citizen volunteers are scheduled to talk with parents of Farmington Schools' 16,804 public school children before election day.

Mrs. Nancy Van Deusen and Mrs. Phyllis Cummings are coordinating the telephone effort.

Coordinating the entire "grass roots" approach are Mrs. Makinen, citizens committee co-chairman, and her four voting precinct chairmen: Precinct 1, John Washburn; Precinct 2, Mrs. Irene Foster; Precinct 3, Mrs. Dottie Haase; and Precinct 4, Mrs. Rita Crudele.

"I think our grass roots approach will turn this thing around and put Farmington schools' education program back together again," comments Mrs. Makinen. She was referring to the two millage defeats last summer resulting in program cutbacks.

"We are finding people would rather be for something and believe in something."

"We know people can be made aware of an election through advertisements and a lot of written materials. But they make up their minds on how they are going to vote by talking to friends, neighbors and other people about the issues."

"And that is what we are trying to do with citizen volunteers, the \$7,000 raised from our candle sales and contributions."

CRUDELE reports that the questions asked by most voters centered on the bussing case being heard by Judge Stephen Roth.

Crudele says the recent opinion by State Atty. Gen. Frank Kelley "backs up what we have been telling people all along. No cross-district bussing plan involving Farmington children could go into effect this coming year because of court appeals and confusing legal questions remaining to be answered."

"That's why we are asking voters to approve the one-year millage request . . . to put our education program and our district back together for the coming year. The effects of what our children don't have for even one year can last a lifetime."

He adds that the recent Farmington school board action to move ahead in preparation for court intervention in the Roth case "should help calm fears of parents and dampen efforts by those who would use bussing to confuse and frighten voters into defeating needed funds for our children."

## Anti-Bussing Leader Is Supporting Millage

The leader of an anti-bussing group in Farmington announced this week that she strongly supports Farmington Schools' request for additional millage in the April 24 election.

Mrs. Mary Ann Rossman, Farmington representative of Tri-County Citizens for Intervention in Federal Action 35257, says she supports passage of the millage and has been an active campaigner to urge others to vote "yes" on the requested 3.5 mills (\$3.50 per \$1,000 equalized valuation) to be levied for one year.

Mrs. Rossman explains her stand does not represent an endorsement from Tri-

County Citizens because that group is specifically limiting its efforts to one issue - opposing in the courts massive, cross-district bussing.

"I feel we need to support our schools and fight to keep them."

Rossman has held a "candlelight coffee klatch" in her home to explain the need for local operating millage to friends and has been active in the pro-millage telephone campaign.

She points out that the Farmington schools' millage is only for one year and it seems highly improbable cross-district bussing will be implemented during the next school year.

"Judge Stephen Roth refused to order the purchase of any busses on April 14," she explains, "and, therefore, it seems quite unlikely there will be any massive bussing this fall."

April 14 was the deadline given by school bus manufacturers for orders to be placed for fall delivery. The NAACP has asked Roth to order Detroit schools to purchase 350 school busses by April 14 with the state paying the bill.

AS AN INDIVIDUAL, Mrs.

Roth declined to take this

action and the deadline passed.

TRI-COUNTY Citizens is the only suburban, citizens group to be granted intervention in the Detroit schools desegregation lawsuit by Roth.

The organization, represented by attorney Robert Lord of Warren, represents parents of school children in Oakland, Wayne and Macomb counties and is actively involved in the lawsuit speaking for the rights and interests of suburban parents and students.

Supt. Roderick J. Smith when told of Mrs. Rossman's support, commented that the goals of Tri-County Citizens and Farmington schools are the same, and only their approaches differ.

The school district has decided to request intervention through its board of education, and that is to maintain and protect quality education for students attending Farmington schools."

Mrs. Rossman stresses that the issue of bussing should not be used as an excuse to vote against local school millage requests.

"Farmington residents must show they are willing to support our schools financially as well as emotionally, she concludes. "We intend to retain local control of our schools."

RICHARD CRUDELE, co-chairman of the Farmington Citizens for Better Schools, says he is most impressed with Mrs. Rossman and the responsible positions she has taken on both the bussing and millage issues.

Crudele added that once the millage campaign ends, he will join Mrs. Rossman as an active worker with Tri-

County Citizens. "Our goals are the same," Crudele concludes, "and that is to maintain and protect quality education for students attending Farmington schools."

# Earth Week Observed Nationally, But Ecology Is Daily Habit Here

By SANDRA ARMBRUSTER

Has your pile of papers, aluminum, glass and cans got you down? Are you choking on the fumes of burning rubbish?

Is the cacophony of noise around you building into a crescendo? Is that what's got you down?

Well, this is Earth Week and, although no projects have been planned to coincide with Earth Week, for many Farmington residents ecological practices are a daily way of life.

ONE OF Farmington's most active ecology groups is Earth Alive, which was formed about a year ago and is presently headed by Mrs. Nancy Kourtjian.

Earth Alive's main functions have revolved around three collection centers, monthly meetings and a newsletter with a circulation of 4,000.

Paper and clean aluminum such as rinsed foil baking pans are collected every other weekend at the Papermobile at Demery's parking lot located at 12 Mile and Farmington Rds.

Community groups are needed to help stack and load the papers, with profits for the weekend being split between the group working and Earth Alive. Profits earned by Earth

Alive through this collection center will be donated in the form of additional books for the new library on 12 Mile.

EARTH ALIVE has also helped open a new glass collection center on Grand River, just north of 10 Mile and Halstead.

Use of the building was donated to Earth Alive by Paul McElwain, who is associated with the Holiday Inn nearby.

Earth Alive pays liability insurance for the building, which is in need of light green cement block paint and slag to make the driveway passable.

Since Earth Alive began its paper collection center, the City of Farmington has noted a 25 per cent drop in the total yardage of rubbish collected in the city.

David Jones, director of public services, based this figure on a comparison of collections for the months of November through March for the past two years.

Jones attributed the reduction to Earth Alive's paper collection as well as unemployment, explaining that people aren't buying as much and that this is reflected in trash collections.

Although the city pays a flat fee for garbage collection, this reduction may be reflected in dumping charges to the city.

Jones noted, however, that any savings to the city would be minimal since the city this year is using a different dump

which has somewhat higher charges.

OTHER PROJECTS of the

ecology group affect Farmington residents in other ways. Earth Alive is now making orders for stationery made from recycled paper. About the quality of manila paper, the stationery manufactures

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IF YOU WANT to make even more money when you sell the collection of good used things from attic and garage - collect Observer Carrier Receipts when your carrier stops by each month. They're worth their face value toward the Observer Want Ad you'll be placing.

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**522-0900**



SCOUT ECOLOGISTS—Members of Farmington Boy Scout Troop 45 helped load newspapers into the Papermobile operated by Earth Alive, Farmington ecology group, this past

weekend. Robert Fisher of Lynford Dr., Farmington Township, hands some papers he bundled to scouts Andy Hannah (left) and Gary Watson. (Evert photo)