

Quality Of School Program To Be Decided Monday

Are taxpayers of Farmington willing to pay the same amount of school taxes they now are to assure the continuation of a school program recently being offered in the local public school system?

This will be the question voters will be asked to decide when they go to the polls on Monday, December 10, for a special school election.

The great majority of the proposition is to be voted on which is rather complex and detailed will read as follows:

SHALL the limitation on the total amount of taxes which may be assessed each year against property in the Farmington Public School District, Oakland County, Michigan, for all purposes except taxes for

the payment of interest and principal on obligations incurred prior to December 8, 1935, be increased as provided in Section 21 of Article X of the Constitution of Michigan, for a period of ten (10) years from 1935 to 1945, to be levied by five (5) mills on each dollar (\$2.00 per \$100.00) of the assessed valuation as equalized, for the purpose of paying a part of the operating expenses of the school district (the same being an extension of the 5-mill tax limitation increase voted in 1935, which expires in 1942)?

School officials have made it clear that they do not see how it will be possible to decrease the present operating tax rate now or in the near future even

though admitting that Farmington's school taxes are higher than they would like them to be.

THE PROBLEM stems from the fact that the community is very much lacking in balanced development. While Farmington has been and is continuing to grow it has failed to attract a sufficient amount of industry and large commercial development to substantially ease the tax burden on residential property owners.

Residential development by itself does not provide for a good community tax base. This is true even when the homes are in the above average price ranges. Facts substantiated our frequently stated claim that Farmington is a poor com-

munity and getting poorer due to a lack of balanced development are offered by figures showing what has been happening to the state equalized valuation behind each child in the Farmington School District over the past six years. The decrease in per child valuation has been substantial and continues to drop.

These are the figures to prove it:

Year	Valuation Per Child
1937	\$10,555
1938	\$9,982
1939	\$9,702
1940	\$9,704
1941	\$9,506
1942	\$9,123

The average valuation per child for the entire state this

year runs over \$14,000 or nearly \$3,900 higher per child than our present per child valuation. It indicates quite clearly the unhealthy economic condition of our community, an even worse picture is presented when it is considered that the state average takes into account several rural districts where the per capita income is much lower than here and the pay scales of teachers and other school employees is also lower.

THE FARMINGTON School District has now been declared a "distressed district" by the state. While it is an undesirable label to carry it has worked to the district's advantage since additional state aid money has been allocated this year

for the first time.

Facts have been given to substantiate local school officials' claim that the high local school tax rate is not due to excessive spending for operations.

Remember, the voting precincts for school elections are not the same as those for other elections.

If you have any doubts at all about what school precinct you are in or the polling place for the precinct, consult the special voting precinct advertisement on Page 8B in this issue.

But rather due to the poor tax base we have. Figures were presented last week to show that the Farmington school

system's operating costs per child are being held below both the state average and the Oakland local school officials' claim that the high local school tax rate is not due to excessive spending for operations.

When complaints about local school taxes and the high tax rates we have are made, comparisons with neighboring communities are often given. Farmington school officials are the last to deny that our school tax rates are not among the highest for school districts in the Detroit metropolitan area. But, they quickly add that they have to be because of the inadequate valuation the community has behind each child.

THE PER CHILD state equalized valuation figure for Farmington this year is \$9,123.

See 1942 figures for 18 neighboring districts are:

Berkley	\$ 8,262.00
Birmingham	17,219.00
Clarencville	7,355.00
Dearborn	28,585.00
Fond du Lac	12,735.00
Garden City	4,842.00
Highland Park	27,117.00
Livonia	14,182.00
Oak Park	13,677.00
Pontiac	17,235.00
Plymouth	19,353.00
Redford Union	7,522.00
Rochester	10,728.00
Royal Oak	11,725.00
Sewell	11,412.00
Walled Lake	10,591.00
Westland	7,251.00
West Bloomfield	12,529.00

A comparison of Farmington's figure with these figures. See SCHOOL ELECTION Column 4, Page 8A.

The Only Medium Giving You Concentrated PAID Coverage in Farmington

The Farmington Enterprise

Official Publication for Farmington City and Township
FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1942

10c Per Copy
\$3.00 A YEAR
OKLAND & WAYNE COUNTIES
TWENTY PAGES

Names of Needy Area Families Needed Now

Unless the names of less fortunate families in the Farmington area, are called in immediately it is doubtful that the Goodfellow will be of help in making this a brighter Christmas season for them, Richard Habicht, co-chairman of the Goodfellow project, stated Tuesday.

Citizens have been slow this year in getting names called in and yet there is good reason to believe that there are as many if not more needy families in the area now than in the past, he commented.

Names will continue to be accepted today and tomorrow, Thursday and Friday, Habicht said. He expressed doubt, however, that families whose names were called in any later than this would be able to be given much assistance. Investigation of each and every

family to determine what is needed by them and in what quantities is necessary and this takes a considerable amount of time.

The telephone number to call if you know of any needy family or even expect that they might be in need is 414-9909. Calls should be made between the hours of 9 a. m. and 5 p. m.

Elks club officials revealed that they have now collected a large quantity of toys to be distributed along with Goodfellow baskets but were quick to add that they would still welcome more. If you have any good toys to donate take them to the Elks Lodge on Grand River just east of the City Hall and leave them on the steps.

John Richardson, co-chairman of the Goodfellow paper sale this year, reported that all is being made ready for the sale of papers at street corners throughout the community next Friday and Saturday, Dec. 14 and 15. A good number of old newspapers have already been lined up to sell, he said, but quickly added that more volunteers to sell for an hour would be welcomed. Any who can donate an hour of their time to be an old newspaper are asked to call either Richardson at GR 6-3682 or co-chairman Earl Laverty at GR 4-9843.

The Goodfellow paper sale is the main fund raising effort each year and the goal set for this year is to raise \$3,500.

Feels Signs Not Doing Justice For Farmington

Ed Baldwin, representing the Downtown Farmington Association, appeared before the City Council Monday night with a request that efforts be made to get Farmington's location advertised better with highway signs.

He pointed out to the Council that the sign on the expressway near the city limits and on Farmington Road says only "Livonia" and that on Farmington Road itself only "only signs Business District" and makes no mention that it is the Farmington business district that will be reached by turning north.

Large overhead signs on Eight Mile just before reaching Grand River also make no mention of the direction to Farmington proper, he added.

The signs indicate only that Livonia is reached by proceeding on Eight Mile and that if you turn right you are headed toward Lansing, Baldwin said.

The Council instructed the city manager to contact the state highway department to see what might be done to get signs that would better direct traffic into the City of Farmington.

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JCs Looking for 'Man of Year'

The Farmington Junior Chamber of Commerce has now begun a campaign to search for an outstanding Farmington area young man to receive its Distinguished Service Award.

Byecee President Earl Whaley has announced the appointment of Dan Peacock as chairman of the project this year.

Peacock states that a young man to be selected must be between the age of 21 and 35 and a resident of the City of Farmington. He should be a man who has been active in civic affairs and has shown the desire to make himself and others of the community better citizens. Peacock commented.

Letters have already been sent out to area churches and civic organizations asking their cooperation in the annual selection and some suggestions have already been received. It was reported. Anyone knowing a young man who they feel has the qualities for this award is asked to send a resume of the young man's background to Peacock at 2525 Meadowbrook Blvd., Novi, Michigan.

2, Maybe 3 Proposals Will Be On City Ballot

Two and very possibly three propositions will be on the ballot in April when City voters go to the polls to select three councilmen and a municipal judge.

In a report to the Council Monday night, City Manager John Dinan pointed out that two sections of the City Charter are now in conflict with state statutes and recommended that proposals to amend these sections of the charter be put to a vote.

The third proposal that the manager suggested be put to a vote would be one which would raise the yearly compensation for the mayor and councilmen.



TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR Curt Hall is shown packing office supplies in preparation to moving into the new Township Offices at 11 Mile and Orchard Lake Road. The relocation operation is expected to be completed by next Monday, December 10, barring unforeseen difficulties. Everything will be transferred from the old Town Hall, including the present Township Office telephone numbers. The new quarters will also house the Township Police Department, although for the present, Headquarters will remain at the Wheeler Street Fire Hall.

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Post Office Plans for Yule Mail Handling

The Farmington post office has now completed plans to take care of the rush of Christmas mail during the next two weeks. Postmaster Henry Trombley announced.

Christmas packages for anywhere in the United States should be in the mail before Dec. 10 and cards for out-of-town delivery before Dec. 15, he said. Cards with local addresses should be mailed at least a week before Christmas.

Beginning next Wednesday, Dec. 12, service windows at the office here will be open Monday through Friday from 8 a. m. until 6 p. m. Service on Saturday, Dec. 15, will be extended from the normal closing time until 1 p. m.

The post office windows will also be open on Sunday, Dec. 16, from 2 to 4 p. m. specifically for the first half of the mail, including Christmas packages.

THE POSTMASTER said that Christmas cards be separated into two bundles "all for local delivery" which should contain cards for Farmington addresses only and "all for out-of-town delivery" which would be all cards going elsewhere than in Farmington.

The use of 4-cent stamps on Christmas cards is urged by the post office when sent the way the envelope can be sealed and messages included on the card. Cards will also be forwarded or returned, if necessary, provided you include your return address on the envelope, it was pointed out.

Cards sent for 3 cents must go unsealed and contain no messages. These cards will neither be forwarded nor returned to you if the person you are sending to has moved.



SANTA COMES TO TOWN: The Downtown Farmington Association exercised its influence last Saturday, December 1, and arranged for a local visit by Old Saint Nick. Due to the unusually mild weather, Santa had to trade in his reindeer for a fire engine, but the hundreds of youngsters who lined the parking lot in the Downtown Farmington Shopping Center got an extra treat as the red-suited man set up headquarters at the north pole, at, north end of the Center.

National Bank of Detroit Selects New City Location

Business Run from City Home, Letter Charges

A letter from a group representing residents of Secular View Subdivision charging that a commercial business is being operated from a home in their subdivision was read at the Council meeting Monday night.

It was alleged in the letter that Donald L. O'Brien of 22306 Valleyview Circle is operating a costume jewelry business from his home and that it is detrimental to the whole neighborhood.

Large trucks are coming in to the subdivision to make deliveries of merchandise, the letter stated. It was also charged that an addition put onto the home was being used as an office and that the garage and other portions of the house were being used as storage areas for merchandise.

THE WRITERS asked that the city take immediate steps to stop this commercial business operation from being continued in their quiet, single family residential neighborhood.

City Manager John Dinan was instructed by the Council to investigate thoroughly the charges which have been made. It is urged that any violations of city ordinances are being committed, the manager has been instructed to advise O'Brien of these violations and to limit his time in which to conform.

The manager was asked to make a detailed report on his findings and any action taken at the next regular Council meeting.

Get Big Federal Grant for Sewer Arm in Twp.

The purchase of property at the northwest corner of Farmington Road and Alta Loma Street by National Bank of Detroit for the erection of a new building in which to house the bank's Farmington office was announced this week by Byron E. Lapham, vice president in charge of the local office.

The property, with 223 feet of frontage on Farmington Road and 215 feet of frontage on Alta Loma, is located just south of the Farmington Public Library and about 600 feet south of the present bank at the corner of Grand River and Farmington Road.

Three residential homes are presently located here. The bank will take over possession of the property on December 28. Plans are now being drawn for a completely new and modern banking office with large lobby and management area, drive-in banking windows and ample parking space. As soon as the plans are ready, present facilities at the main intersection downtown will be vacated.

Erection of this new building was recommended by the members of the bank's Farmington Area Advisory Committee, all of whom are local businessmen, Lapham said.

In addition to Lapham, the committee members are: Tracy G. Conroy, Walter M. Coon, Frank DePodesta, Delos F. Hamer, Lester J. Kelly, Robert B. Lindbergh, Kenneth R. Loomis, Bayard dew Tupper and Maurice R. Twomey.

THESE LARGER facilities will enable the bank to provide better service to the businesses and residents of the Farmington area, Lapham said. "Not only will we continue to offer the same quality banking service," he said.

Column 6, Page 8A

Treated Water Again Talked

The Detroit City Council's recent action in approving fluoridation of water evoked in Farmington a round of discussion at the Farmington City Council meeting Monday night.

The discussion was prompted by receipt of a letter from City of Pontiac officials pointing out the fact that voters of that community had balloted against a fluoridated water system several years ago.

It was agreed by the local Council that Pontiac's course of action would be of no consequence on this matter.

Action by the Farmington City Council taken earlier this year has the City on record as being in favor of fluoridation of Detroit City water. Only Councilman Hugo Peterson opposed this action at the time and is holding firm to his belief that it is a matter that should be left up to voters of the community to decide.

Twp. Bd. Gets Full Apology To Charges Made by Huck

The Farmington Township Board has obtained the formal written apology demanded from Emil Huck following his accusations of last week charging officials with bribery in connection with the transfer of liquor licenses.

In withdrawing the charges and offering his formal apology to the Board, Huck, who is negotiating for the sale of his business in Farmington Township, Huck's Party Store, 30444 Eight Mile Road, stated his remarks came "during a time of emotional strain."

THE TEXT OF Huck's retraction and apology: "I, Emil Huck, of 2315 Farmington Road (Farmington, Michigan) Honorable Township Board: On Monday, November 26, 1942, while I was in the Treasurer's office of Farmington Township, I made disparaging remarks in general about Farmington Township and its officials. These remarks and accusations were completely false, and were made by me during the time of an emotional strain. I wish to retract these remarks, accusations and utterances and humbly apologize to all members of the Township Board, as well as the department head of the Township of Farmington.

Sincerely yours,
Emil Huck, Jr.
30444 Eight Mile Road
Livonia, Michigan

After reading Huck's letter, Supervisor Hall commented that, "even though the charges have been cleared up, the Board did not soon forget the attempt to besmirch their record."

THE POINT WAS further made by Trustee Thomas M. Drake, head of the Board, at the retraction stated, "Any damage that may have occurred as a result of the charges to the Township's integrity remains past recall."

A positive view was given by Township Clerk Floyd Cairns who felt that the speedy retraction coming in less than 48 hours, "speaks well of the Board's authority" and shows it is capable of obtaining quick action.

Had Huck's letter of retraction not been received by the Board before the special meeting called for this Wednesday evening, December 5, legal action would have been instituted in a slander suit, it was indicated by officials.

