

Vocational Centers on School Ballot

Half Mill For Area Centers

A proposal for area vocational educational centers throughout Oakland County are on the ballot of the annual school election Monday, June 12.

At the same time, voters in the Farmington School District will elect one trustee for a four year term. Six candidates have filed for the seat now held by Barbara Brown. Mrs. Brown did not choose to run for re-election.

THE COUNTY-WIDE proposal calls for the creation of area-wide vocational centers located in the four quadrants of the county.

Cost of the construction and operation of the centers, which would serve an estimated 2,600 students each year or 10 per cent of the county's 11th and 12th graders, would be paid by a half-mill county-wide levy. It is this levy which is on the ballot for voter approval or rejection.

Farmington Superintendent of Schools, Gerald V. Harrison, said that if the idea is approved existing facilities would be used before the construction of a new center.

Harrison said that it is possible that the Oakland Community campus due to open in Farmington Township in September would have some room for a vocational program for a period of time. He cautioned, however, that this would be temporary as probably by 1970 the college would be using the available space on the campus.

In addition to the vocational teaching facilities at Farmington High School is also a possibility for temporarily housing the area centers, Harrison said.

"IF WE HAD the room and met the needs we might contract for other students from other districts," Harrison commented, "but all vocational programs in the quadrant would be filled before an additional facility would be built."

The four centers would be operated by the school district in which they are located, but all the costs would be met by county, state and federal funds. The local school district revenue or budgets would not be affected by the centers.

Curriculum of the centers would be set with the advice of a citizen committee according to Dr. David Soule, director of vocational education for the Oakland Schools.

Current needs of employers in the county and the occupational interests of the young people entering the vocational program would be reviewed. THREE YEARS of study of the economic opportunities in the county have indicated that

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FARMINGTON HIGH student Fred Passow operates a lathe in the mechanics shop at the school. Under the supervision of instructor Ted Bielecki, whose watchful eye keeps tabs on what Fred is doing at the lathe, the mechanics shop

at FHS is part of the currently existing vocational education program in Farmington's public schools. A county-wide millage proposal on June 12's ballot would provide for an area vocational education program for the county's schools.

Will Supplement Local Teaching

By SUE SHAUGHNESSY
Editor

Farmington's existing vocational education program would serve as a feeder to the county-wide area vocational education center proposed for voter approval on June 12.

At least, that's the best means to describe the function of the two programs.

Farmington Director of Vocational Education Earl Baumunk said that the local district would continue to assume some responsibility for vocational education should the proposal pass.

He termed the local district's contribution as pre-vocational experiences—especially in the industrial arts area.

Thus, he explained, "differs in terms of the sophistication of the equipment needed" to prepare people for actual employment in the field.

Farmington, which is currently building an addition to the industrial arts area at Farmington High School, might run feeder programs in the other high schools of the district into the Farmington High facility. The addition is scheduled for completion in September, 1968.

The Farmington High facility, in turn, could serve as a feeder program to the larger, more advanced area programs.

Today, the Farmington schools have six classes a day in the vocational field, Baumunk said that there are students enough for seven classes a day if there was room.

In order to understand the difference between what the Farmington School District is already doing and what the county proposal would do it is necessary to define some of the terms used by the educators.

INDUSTRIAL EDUCATION is defined as "a generic term including industrial arts and vocational (industrial) education."

INDUSTRIAL ARTS is "a phase of general education which provides experience centered around the organization, products, processes and materials of industry. It also provides occupational experiences, which are helpful in the choice of a vocation."

PHI-VOCATIONAL EDUCATION is the same as industrial arts.

PRACTICAL ARTS is defined as "a phase of general education which provides experience centered around the organization, products, processes and materials of industry. It also provides occupational experiences, which are helpful in the choice of a vocation."

which is of a manipulative nature on a non-vocational basis such as, business, home economics and industrial arts."

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION is education organized to prepare the learner for entrance into a particular chosen vocation or to upgrade employed workers."

Thus Baumunk refers to the local program as "pre-vocational," while the proponents of the county-wide program term it as "the area vocational center."

There is a need in Farmington.

According to the schools, in 1968 an average of 63 per cent of the graduates of the public school system planned to attend college, of the remaining 37 per cent seven per cent planned to take further training on a post high school vocational level, while 20 per cent went into the work force directly from high school.

The Michigan Vocational Directors Association states that the local school districts, an area vocational education center and the community colleges all have a role to play in the future of vocational education in the state.

This association, which asserts that eight out of every 10 high school students do not attend college, notes that under the three-pronged responsibility:

The local high school will provide vocational education in such programs where it is economically feasible, where student population warrants, and where equipment and facilities can be provided.

The area vocational education center will serve to supplement programs in local schools along with providing programs that it cannot more effectively than the local school.

Among these would be a wide range of occupational courses, which keep abreast of the changing technology; provide counseling services and specialized vocational testing for students after referral and upon request of the local high school.

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IN CIRCUIT COURT:

Sorna Trial Postponed In Non-Jury Bid

Defense waiver of a jury in the conspiracy to commit murder trial of a Livonia family has caused postponement of the trial until June 13.

Motion by defense attorney Murdock Hertzog, acting in behalf of accused conspirators Mr. and Mrs. John Sorna and their son, Jules, 25, was made

in front of Oakland County Circuit Judge Farrell Roberts Wednesday.

Reassignment of the trial date was set in the first available opening at the end of the current Oakland County Circuit Court jury term.

The Sornas, of 20224 Purlingbrook, Livonia, are accused

of offering \$700 to Detroit factory worker Burt Davis to kill Mrs. Victoria Gogates of Detroit.

Mrs. Gogates was the key prosecution witness in last month's robbery conviction of the younger Sorna. Sorna was

convicted of a \$35 holdup of Paul and Vic's Market, 2834 Grand River, Farmington Township.

Davis told Farmington Township Justice Byron Walter in a pre-trial examination March 18 that he was approached by Jules Sorna in the Eagle Cafe, 17199 Dequindre, Detroit, on March 11, and that Sorna told him that he (Davis) looked "right for the job I have in mind."

Davis said Sorna then offered him \$1,000 later reduced to the \$700 figure, to do the job and offered to "go to Toledo to get a pistol." Davis then notified the Detroit police, who then contacted Farmington Township police.

Mrs. Gogates was the only witness who could identify Sorna.

Currently, the elder Sornas are free on \$25,000 personal bond each, while Jules is being held in custody in the Oakland County Jail in lieu of \$50,000 bond.

Conviction on the conspiracy charge carries a maximum sentence of 15 years imprisonment.

The Oakland County Circuit Court trial of John Merlo was postponed Wednesday, pending completion of psychiatric examinations of the accused killer.

Merlo, who has been charged with murdering his estranged wife, Sharon, on Jan. 6 in the beauty shop where she worked, was apprehended in Philadelphia in mid-January, after Farmington Township police had issued an alert to police departments throughout the nation.

Mrs. Merlo, 18, was living with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Kamen, 19340 Gaylord, Bedford Township, at the time of her death.

Postpone Merlo Case

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Tirrell noted the location of the Orchard Ridge campus of the college in Farmington Township and stated that the students on the campus throughout the "decades will be benefiting from the interest and concern" shown by Harrison.

"I will use your example in the years I have ahead," Tirrell stated, "and hopefully deserve as you do this type of wonderful occasion in the years ahead."

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TEACHER MEETS PUPIL — Farmington Superintendent of Schools Gerald V. Harrison greets Maurice Cole following Thursday night's testimonial dinner for Harrison. Cole was principal of the Lincoln High School in Ferndale while Harrison was a student.

Community Honors Gerald V. Harrison

The community turned out in force Thursday night to honor Superintendent of Schools Gerald V. Harrison. Harrison, who has been superintendent since 1957, is due to retire June 30.

His professional colleagues, personal friends, and family

were present in addition to representatives of every segment of the community.

They heard Board of Education President Richard Peters announce the Board's decision to name the third senior high school in the community the Gerald V. Harrison High School.

They heard about the decision of the Farmington PTA Council to designate the scholarships the group awards each year to graduating seniors as the "Harrison Scholarship Fund."

They saw the Farmington YMCA Board of Management present a plaque "for service

to youth." Harrison has served on the Y's Board since 1964.

They saw the presentation of the Farmington's Jaycees Outstanding Citizen Award.

They heard tributes from city, township and Village of Wood Creek officials along with reflections on the man and his

career from a former high school principal, a past superintendent of the Northville Schools, termed Harrison's work as principal of Northville High as "nine years

of wonderful relationship."

"He has been a credit to his profession over the years because of his honesty, fairness, intelligence and sincerity," Amerman commented.

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MORE THAN 200 friends filled the Farmington High School Gym Thursday night to honor Superintendent of Schools Gerald V. Harrison. They heard testimonials from long-time friends and professional colleagues and best wishes from the community. Harrison, who will retire June 30, received a boat to aid him in his hobby of fishing from the community.