

Schools Eye Millage Election

By FRED DeLANO
Likelihood that the Farmington Board of Education will submit a new request for increased millage to district property owners in June loomed large this week on the heels of preliminary board approval of a tentative 1968-69 operating budget of \$10,903,482.

The latter figure is being submitted to the Oakland County Tax Allocation Board as the need for the coming fiscal year, and it represents a boost of \$1.5 million over the current year's expenses.

Major increases stem from the scheduled opening of a new junior high school in September, the staffing of that school, and the progressive wage increases due to the entire academic staff.

Even so, the \$10.9 million estimate is only tentative, and the question of specific millage needs is further muddled by lack of final figures of the district's 1968 tax base, the amount of state aid per pupil which will be approved by the legislature, and new wage negotiations with teachers which currently are under way.

Dr. Roderick J. Smith, superintendent of schools, told the board Tuesday night that a levy of 31.17 mills for operating purposes would be necessary to produce a balanced budget unless other ways are found to bring anticipated revenue and outlay closer together.

Property owners currently are paying a school levy of 23.4 mills, or \$23.40 per \$1,000 in state equalized valuation. Dr. Smith indicated he expects it to be possible to pare the expressed need for an additional 7.7 mills to the neighborhood of the same five-mill request which was submitted to the voters, and defeated, in November.

today's hot line

observerland

REDFORD—A charge of "assault with intent to kill" has been issued on a warrant for Ellis Ross, 30, Detroit, suspected of shooting a Redford Township policeman while fleeing from capture after armed robbery of \$10,730 from a Redford Township bank. The policeman, Patrolman Christopher Horn, suffered a fractured upper leg bone. Ross has also been charged with armed robbery by federal agents.

REDFORD—Redford Union schools will seek an increased operational millage of four mills in June, three of which will be a new levy and one to be picked up from debt levy. Total levy will then hit 39 mills in that primarily residential community.

PLYMOUTH—The taxpayers throughout Plymouth Community School District have been advised that the schools will use the one-mill levy that has been held in abeyance for several years as the budget jumps approximately nearly \$1 million.

PLYMOUTH—The annual battle of the budgets is being fought on all fronts in Plymouth, and the city may be forced to levy a two-mill tax increase for the proposed street improvement program.

LIVONIA—Residents of Arbor Estates subdivision in Livonia trooped to City Hall for the third time in a number of weeks Wednesday night to protest rezoning of their residential area to be held in abeyance for a new 25-acre apartment and shopping center complex. The multi-million-dollar development would be constructed at Hix and Joy Roads. City Council voting on the issue was postponed again. Home-owners in Arbor Estates say they'll attend every Council meeting in the future to voice their protest "no matter what."

LIVONIA—The city will elect a mayor, clerk, treasurer, four city councilmen, two constables, and either approve or reject a charter revision proposal at the polls Monday. Incumbents are seeking reelection, except for one councilman. The day will be a holiday for city employees, and liquor sales will be curtailed while the polls are open.

What's Inside

For dog lovers, "How to Watch an Obedience Trial" will help you appreciate the April 7 dog show at Detroit Race Course. Page 1 B.

The Detroit Pistons took a drubbing, and the Tigers, in spring training, have pitching problems. Pages 2-3 B.

Most prominent Republican lawmakers endorsed the moderate Oakland County 19th District group led by John Cartwright, but conservatives held their own convention anyway. Page 15 B.

A former dope addict told a Farmington audience that you don't need a lot of narcotics to "turn on," and federal agents said their problem is no longer just the inner city hoodlum but is shifting to the suburban student. Page 4 B.

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Poynter Pleads Guilty

Steven Dale Poynter, 24-year old former Farmington Township school officer, pleaded guilty to second degree murder in Oakland County Circuit Court this week for the fatal shooting of his wife, Mary Ann, last Nov. 10.

Judge Frederick C. Ziem accepted the plea after hearing testimony of Township Detective Russell Conway and Earl Tepleas, plus Poynter himself, as to circumstances of the shooting in the Poynter home at 33849 Rhonewood.

THE JUDGE said Poynter's sentencing for Tuesday, April 16. Under the law Poynter can be sentenced to any term up to life imprisonment. He has been confined to Oakland County Jail in lieu of bond since his arrest a few hours after the killing.

Poynter's shooting of his 23-year-old wife in their small, two-bedroom home on Rhonewood was the climax to a long period of marital discord.

Only two months earlier a family fracas had brought about Poynter's suspension from the township police force, after which he later resigned.

In that incident, Poynter's wife chased him from their home with a gun, with the pursuit following side streets to Farmington Rd., south of Nine Mile Rd., where city police intervened.

Mrs. Poynter spent a short time in a rest home following that outbreak.

The couple's two small children are being cared for by relatives.



OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED — A Farmington Teen-Age Republican Club (TARS) got an impressive official start last week at the 19th Congressional District—Oakland County Republican Convention. Receiving the charter from the GOP moderate wing chairman John Cartwright are, from left: Bruce Baker of 31918 LaMarre, president; David Clappison, 23244 Fleming, treasurer; and Tammy Rairight, 29553 Holiday Circle, secretary.

Carbon Monoxide Takes Two Lives In Township

Carbon monoxide poisoning resulting from what police said was a defective automotive exhaust system caused the death Wednesday morning of a young Farmington couple parked near the intersection of two of the area's most treacherous roads.

The victims were Laura Len Lichwala, 20, of 21251 Cass, and Ronald Richard (Kuhfeld) Taylor, 23, of 32523 Kirby. Township patrolman Peter Lario discovered them unconscious in Taylor's 1957 Chrysler at 6:31 a.m. Wednesday.

The car was parked on Bridgeman Rd., a few feet west of its juncture with Gill Rd., which have been under recent attack for impassable roadways. Both Miss Lichwala and Taylor were pronounced dead at Holston General Hospital.

However, police said there was no link between road conditions and the tragedy. Both victims were employed by the Mills Products Co., at Eight Mile and Farmington Rds., and it was established that both had left the plant at the conclusion of their shift duties at approximately 2 a.m.

Neither was married. Funeral services for Miss Lichwala were conducted at 11 a.m. Saturday, March 30, in the Heenev-Sundquist Funeral Home, in charge of Rev. B. Bryce Swiler of the First Methodist Church.

The same funeral home was the site of Taylor's final services at 2:30 p.m. the same day. His burial was in Grand Lawn Cemetery, Detroit, and

Miss Lichwala's in Glen Eden Memorial Park, Livonia. Miss Lichwala was a 1966 graduate of Farmington High School, and also had attended Ferris State University.

She is survived by her mother, Mrs. Leonard J. Lichwala; four sisters, Mrs. Acta Isaac, Jr., Linda, Peggy and Valery Lichwala, and one brother, Leonard, all of Farmington. Taylor, a graduate of Bentley High School in Livonia, had lived in Farmington three years. He previously had served overseas in the Army for two years.

Surviving are his mother, Mrs. Howard Taylor, of Sarasota, Fla., and father William F. Kuhfeld, of Farmington, plus two brothers, Fred and Kevin, and one sister, Gail, all of Farmington.

Public Schools, OLS Discuss 'Shared Time'

A plan under discussion since September between top executives of Our Lady of Sorrows High School and Farmington public schools for the latter to create "shared time" classes to accommodate some Sorrows students moved close to fruition this week.

Sister M. Laurencia, Sorrows principal, appeared before the board of education Tuesday to explain her request. She asked that Sorrows juniors and seniors who want to take art, language and industrial arts courses not offered at the Catholic high school be permitted to obtain such instruction, starting next fall, at Farmington High School.

She estimated the number of such students as 60 or less.

"THERE ARE many problems to be worked out regarding scheduling, and we do not visualize a complete junior and senior exchange program," Sister Valencia told the board. "However, there are some courses which we cannot possibly offer."

Board Chairman Herbert Neal pointed out that several Michigan cities, Flint, Warren and Muskegon included, have adopted the "shared-time" philosophy with parochial schools, and added:

"We can get added state aid by taking these students into our classes, and it seems to me that everybody benefits. I feel we have a legal and moral responsibility to take these children."

The whole matter now is being worked out between Dr. Roderick J. Smith, superintendent of schools, and Sister Valencia for submission of a plan to the board April 8.

complaints from residents of Bridgeman St. about damage done to that road by trucks serving construction workers at the new Power Junior High School, and authorized on a basis of "moral responsibility" that corrective measure be taken.

The following morning a road contractor retained by the board started spreading 95 tons of rock and gravel on Bridgeman to improve its drivability.

Storm warnings relative to the proposed rezoning of a 320-acre site owned by the William Puller Co., for subdivision development at 12 Mile and Drake Rds. were raised when the board voted to ask the Township Planning Commission to uphold its present population density formula.

The issue is scheduled for public hearing April 10 at O.E. Danckel Junior High School.

Democrats Set Talk On Roads

With the problem of financing road repairs foremost in the minds of most township residents, Farmington City and Township Democratic Club will investigate sources of funds at a meeting at 8 p.m. April 3 in the lower level meeting room of the City National Bank, Orchard Lakes and 19 Mile Rds. Aldo Vagnozzi, local party leader, will explain four possible sources of funds.

Angry Residents Unite With WHAR

By ELIZABETH WISSMAN
A standing room only audience of 200 voted 194-6 to affiliate the Farmington Township Volunteer Road Committee with the county-wide road protest group, WHAR (Why Have We Road?) at a meeting Wednesday night in Gill School.

Along the way, the 200 voted to stage a telephone and letter to State Representative Raymond Baker, Congressman Jack McDonald and Township Supervisor Curtis Hall for road relief.

They also registered 78 voters and applauded vigorously the possibility of calling a referendum to recall Hall.

Two of the dissenting votes to joining WHAR were cast by Raymond Hatton and Leo Devine, both of the core group.

ALL 200 MEMBERS of the audience were on the raw edge and were not comforted by the fact that Gill Rd., leading to Gill School, got some sporadic attention from the county road commission prior to the meeting.

Plans had been made to bring special guest Ben East, chairman of WHAR, in the sober mood of East was stamped over Gill Rd., along with everybody else.

In speaking to the disturbed group, East made a strong point of unfiled road efforts.

"What we need to correct the county's rural road situation," he said, "is 5,000 members. It takes people in a tightly knit group."

WHAR wasn't organized to get one road repaired, but a long-time campaign for the betterment of the county roadway," he continued.

East was as angry at the County Road Commission as the 200 persons in the room.

IN REFERENCE to the fact that the three county road commissioners are appointed by the 86-member County Board of Supervisors, East said:

"We'll never get strong enough to make them an elective body. And they're all former township supervisors who have found a soft job."

"They have never needed to care what their public image is. But these people have been continuously derelict in their duty, with attitudes that have been both negligent and negative," he charged.

East made one exception in his condemnation of the three road commissioners. "I am certain," he stated, "that Paul W. McGovern is doing everything he can to find solutions

to this problem."

The other commissioners are Frazer W. Staman, chairman, and Sol D. Lomerson.

In discussing county rural roads, East stated, "In Farmington your problem is somewhat different. Your area is as solidly built-up as any street in Detroit. That makes your

problem more complex."

BEFORE EAST spoke, Aldo Vagnozzi, local Democratic leader, reported that legislation to get four per cent of highway taxes returned to townships did not come out of committee.

"Some townships in the county," Vagnozzi said, "are going to city status merely to get road funds."

Cities receive 20 per cent of the overall state highway funds. No state highway funds go directly to townships; they are returned to county road commissions, who allocate 15 per cent to the township and designate road work to be done,

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STANDING ROOM ONLY — Approximately 200 Farmington Township residents turned out Wednesday night to attend the monthly meeting of the Township Volunteer Road Committee. The group took all the seats and overflowed into the back of the school's multi-purpose room.