

Budget Calls For Tax Drop

By FRED DELAVO

Farmington City Manager John D. Dian picked April Fool's Day to recommend to the City Council that the municipal tax rate be reduced almost 10 per cent, and he did it without joking.

Dian submitted to the council a proposed 1968-69 budget calling for expenditures of \$980,990 during the fiscal year starting July 1, which represents an increase of \$25,000 over the current year's outlay.

Included in Dian's projection is, an across-the-board wage increase for all 45 municipal employees ranging from six to eight per cent.

IN SUGGESTING a reduction in the tax rate, the city manager told the council:

"The budget was designed to reduce tax millage from \$11 per \$1,000 to \$10 per \$1,000 in an effort to offset the increase in assessed valuation that was imposed by the Land County Equalization Board."

Included in the municipal levy will be 5 mills for district library facilities.

The council has until May 20 to review the budget in departmental detail and will vote any changes it wishes to

make, and for that purpose will conduct a minute study of its recommendations during workshop sessions over the next few weeks.

In balancing the city's proposed expenditures to match anticipated revenue, Dian chopped some \$59,000 from requests submitted to him by department heads.

THE BIGGEST single departmental increase is for operation of the police and fire department where a proposed outlay of \$199,184 would compare with this year's budget of \$189,000.

Even so, the request by Public

Safety Director Robert Deadman for an even greater increase to permit employment of two more full-time police officers has not been supported by the city manager.

Police wage negotiations also still are in progress and the eight per cent salary boost recommended by Dian in the latest budget is subject to further talks.

Capital improvement expenditures highlighted in Dian's proposed budget include \$11,000 for development of a police pistol range, Farmington police currently get their pistol practice at a range in

Southfield.

"This new facility certainly should improve the proficiency of our 16 officers and 20 auxiliaries in the use of firearms, especially needed during these precarious times," Dian stated in his report to the council.

"ALTHOUGH this is another record budget as far as overall expenditures because of salary adjustments and continued capital improvement programs, we were able to retain our position for the eighth consecutive year of not increasing our tax rate," he said.

"This has been achieved primarily through the growth of our assessed valuation in the

community and the added economic vitality that has been given by the economic development of the newly annexed areas plus added state revenues that were badly needed to aid in staying abreast of our operational expenses."

Dian, who pointed out that at that time the municipal tax rate was \$12 per \$1,000 valuation. It was reduced to \$11.50 in 1961 and remained at that figure for six years. It then was dropped to \$11 a year ago.

Dian said the city expects to have an operating balance of approximately \$14,000 on hand at the close of the fiscal year June 30.

today's hot line observerland

LIVONIA — Livonia voters selected Mayor Harvey W. Moeckle to a fourth year over Council President Peter A. Ventura by 1/2 to 1.

Robert McCann, principal at Hull School, was elected to the City Council to fill the vacancy created when Jack Salvatore conducted an unsuccessful campaign for Mayor in the primary.

LIVONIA — Teachers in the Livonia school system have started negotiations for salaries of at least \$8,000 per year rising to a maximum of \$16,000 annually for those with master's degrees.

REDFORD — Township Police Chief requests replacement for injured patrolman and an additional detective sergeant. The Board of Trustees approved the replacement but is studying the request for an additional man.

REDFORD — An old Redford Township landmark disappears with the razing of the Boys Club building. It once quartered the Township offices including the Post Office and Fire departments. The building had been the center of Township activities since the turn of the century!

WESTLAND — The City Council received a proposed budget from Mayor Thomas Brown, who is recommending a \$1.65 per \$1,000 property tax rate increase, bringing the city's rate to its charter maximum of \$3. Included in the \$3 million budget are seven more firemen and 11 more policemen.

GARDEN CITY — Voters will go to the polls next Tuesday in a special election to decide the fate of six amendments to the city charter. Main charter changes include salary raises for the mayor and councilmen, lengthening the terms of their office from two to four years, and changing the fiscal year. No opposition has been expressed in an unusually quiet campaign.

GARDEN CITY — The board of education will make a second try in its efforts to obtain bidders for its \$4.1 million bonding program, needed to finance school additions. A date of April 15 has been set for opening of the bids. The board's first try last week resulted in no bids submitted.

PLYMOUTH — The Plymouth Community Board of Education learned with considerable shock that high school No. 2 will cost approximately \$9,049,187. This is \$731,597 above the estimated cost established only a month ago.

PLYMOUTH — Fire swept the interior of the Plymouth Heat Treatment Co. Tuesday noon. No one was injured. Building alone was valued at \$30,000.

Drive-In Disorders Stir Council Wrath

A stiff ordinance to combat traffic congestion and juvenile loitering in the vicinity of drive-in restaurants in Farmington was given a unanimous go-ahead by the City Council Monday on the heels of the arrest at one such site of four youths charged with possession of marijuana.

Craving of vehicles through drive-in parking lots, and the gathering of any number of persons other than in the restaurant or in a properly parked vehicle will become illegal when the council takes final action on the ordinance April 15.

The legislation also stipulates that no outdoor car service is to be provided between midnight and 6 a.m.

IT WAS AT 2:20 a.m. March 30 that police arrested four youths on the narcotic charge, as discussed in another news story, in a parking lot adjacent to a drive-in at 10 Mile and Orchard Lake Rds.

City Manager John D. Dian said of the ordinance, which was proposed by Police Chief Robert Deadman: "It will strengthen our enforcement in an area which has resulted in numerous complaints regarding the untoward conduct that is occurring at these restaurants."

Use of loud speakers, horn blowing and loud noises will be specifically prohibited. Owners of such establishments will be subject to license revocation if they fail to maintain an orderly operation.

Four Face Marijuana Accusation

Four Farmington youths charged with illegal possession of marijuana have been freed on individual bonds of \$1,000 each pending municipal court examination scheduled for May 6.

City police observed the four parked in an automobile in a shopping center parking lot at 10 Mile and Orchard Lake Rds. at 2:20 a.m. March 30 and placed the quartet under arrest when marijuana cigarettes allegedly were found in the vehicle.

Held in jail until their arraignment before Municipal Judge Michael H. Hand Saturday morning were:

Michael A. Gray, 20, of 34546 W. Nine Mile Rd., Donald H. Watson, 18, of 22181 Hawthorne; George G. Hileman, 18, of 23056 Hayden, and Nelson B. Wohlhagen, 17, also of 34546 W. Nine Mile. They all stood mute upon their arraignment, and pleas of not guilty were entered on their behalf. Personal bonds were furnished for all four to obtain their release pending examination which will determine whether the four will be bound over to Circuit Court for trial.

IN A SECOND major turn of events Monday, the council listened for 90 minutes to dissemblers opposed to one phase or another of the street paving program in the Alta Loma subdivision and then advanced the over-all project to its final stage for adoption.

Special assessment rolls will be up for hearing April 15 after the bond authorizations are expected to be voted, thus permitting work to be started by early June. Charges to property owners will range from \$5 to \$9.50 per foot.

The minority group from the subdivision, protesting the undertaking voiced objections to the use of deep strength asphalt and questioned the uniformity of the city's program.

Roads slated for surfacing include: Alta Loma Dr. from Cass to 9th Rd.; Moore Dr. from Fleming to Gill Rd.; Cass Ct. from Fleming west to the cut of sac, and Conroy Ct. from Fleming west to the cut of sac.

STILL A FIFTH street was added to the project when the council received petitions from homeowners on Cass, between Alta Loma and Fleming.



A SIGN OF SPRING — When the fishing poles come out it's certain that the nice weather isn't far off. Saturday afternoon, the fishing hole on Halsted Rd. just north of 11 Mile, had a number of young sportsmen on its shores. Four-year-old Robert of Livonia was there with his father, Albert R. Cote of 19520 Weyher.

William Grace Parents Approve New Card System

Director of Elementary Education Minnie Ziehe summed up her attitude toward "graded" (a term she dislikes) by commenting that "Children should be able to learn not on what they already know. Evaluation is a better word and plays its part only when it provides for a learning situation for the student and a teaching situation for the teacher."

Parent approval of the non-graded curriculum and non-graded report cards at the William Grace Elementary School came following a panel discussion on the March 25 PTA session.

A note following the discussion showed light of the 200 parents present still in favor of a purely ABC report card and heavy approval of the non-graded curriculum.

Members of the panel were: Nicholas Abid, William Grace principal; Mrs. Leon Crouse, learning center teacher; Mrs. Carolyn Kugler and Mrs. Linda DePooter, primary teachers; Mrs. Mary King, sixth grade; Mrs. Edith Grow, psychologist and diagnostician; and Robert Koen, principal of East Junior High. Moderator was PTA Program Chairman Ron Bone.

SOME OF THE points covered in the discussion were: Abid takes a firm stand on the value of non-graded report cards. In a school where more and more emphasis is being placed on individualized in-

struction, he maintains that this is the only possible means of marking.

A non-graded pilot study was authorized at the school in 1962. The authorization came after a two-year staff study.

Simply stated, non-grading is individualization of instruction in every possible area of learning. This means that a child may work at various levels of ability in the various subjects without being confined to a specific grade.

According to Abid, "William Grace students, as a result of increased individual instruction, are meeting with more success more often in more areas of learning." He cautions, however, that he does not maintain that the program be adopted throughout the district.

Library To Levy 1 1/2 Mills

The Farmington District Library Board will levy the maximum property tax millage permitted in this year as it prepares for a future expansion of facilities, it was disclosed this week.

This means a total levy of 1.5 mills, or \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. One-third of this is earmarked to cover current operational costs, with the other two-thirds going toward expansion as approved by the voters last year.

The announcement that the board will exercise its right to levy the full 1.5 mills came from Chairman Thomas P. Czupiak and puts to rest reports that a lesser figure might be decided upon.

CZUPIAK'S statement reads: "The Farmington District Library Board met with the Township Board and City Council March 30 and the purpose of reviewing in detail future plans for the expansion of library services."

"The group discussed library size, services, income and costs for the next 10 years associated with the planned new library to be constructed on the 12 Mile Rd. site, and the eventual expansion of the present library on Farmington Rd."

"The two governing bodies were in agreement with the library board on the desirability of levying the full one mill for expansion at this time, as approved by the voters in 1967, and of expanding library facilities as rapidly as possible."

"Early expansion will take advantage of present building costs, which may increase further in future years, and also of federal funds which are presently available for library construction and which may be limited in the future."

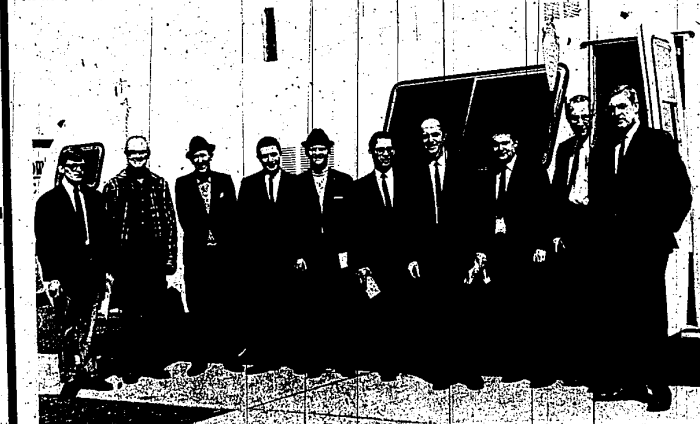
"In addition to these considerations, expanded population and increased library usage in the district warrant expansion of library facilities as early as possible."

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A TOUR — Members of the Michigan State University Community Institute staff toured Farmington Saturday as a first step in their work toward exploring governmental alternatives for the area. From left are: Bill Goodrich, MSU; William Cogsdill, Quakertown; Dr. Milton Taylor, MSU; James Platt, City of Farmington; Dr. John Richardson, Future Farmington Area Study Committee Chairman; Robert Anderson, MSU; Al Albertson, Wood Creek Farms; Bill Ice, MSU; Kenneth Verburg, MSU; and Russ Gilbert, study committee.

MSU Study Staff Tours Farmington For Atmosphere

A feel for Farmington... that was the aim of the five Michigan State University representatives who spent almost three hours touring Farmington Saturday.

The five are all involved in the work on the MSU study of governmental alternatives. The City, township and villages were all covered while the MSU people studied zoning maps of the area and asked questions about the economic value of the homes and the rental prices of apartments.

Accompanying the group were: Dr. John Richardson, chairman of the Future Farmington Area Study Committee which has arranged for the study; Russ Gilbert of the committee, who donated the use of a Motor Home for the transportation; William Cogsdill, representative of the Village of Quakertown; Al Albertson, representative of the Village of Wood Creek Farms; and James Platt, representative of the City Planning Commission.

The representative of the Township Planning Commission was forced to cancel the appointment at the last minute. However, the MSU group met with Township Trustee Thomas Nolan following the tour.

Kenneth Verburg, who heads up the MSU study team termed the tour as "helpful" and "an eye opener."