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today's hot line observerland

REDFORD — Civil warfare in the suburbs is less of a threat now, according to Redford Township Police Chief Edwin Gleza, but he feels his township board should set up a Human Relations Commission to educate the community on the civil rights movement.

REDFORD — Mrs. Jean Sansone, wife of the late Anthony Sansone, plans to take part in the annual Redford Suburban League musical benefit show although she hasn't fully recovered yet from her own injuries in a car accident. She and her husband had been the show's sparkplugs for the past 11 years.

LIVONIA — A proposed open housing ordinance, which would make any form of discrimination in renting or selling a dwelling punishable by either a \$500 fine or jail sentence, or both, was introduced in City Council Monday night. Its opponents, however, are expected to include Mayor Harvey Moeckle.

PLYMOUTH — With the opening of the final bids Monday night, the cost of new high school No. 2 was placed at more than \$10 million, or almost \$2 million above the original estimate.

GARDEN CITY — Three former city officials, indicted by Grand Juror Bowles 18 months ago on a Civic Center land purchase controversy, have a May 3 date in Circuit Court. On that day, Judge Joseph Rashid will rule on an attorney's motion to discuss the case on the grounds that the defendants are entitled to a speedy trial and haven't been given one.

WESTLAND — The Planning Commission has approved the city's new master plan and revised zoning map and sent its recommendation to the City Council for final approval. The council faces a May 16 deadline in approving the new zoning map and will hold a public hearing on the map and master plan next Monday.

LIVONIA — The Wayne County Road Commission has agreed to a widening and paving plan on Merriman Rd. for the mile between Schoolcraft and Plymouth this year. It set aside \$400,000 for its share of the work. Commercial development, and a year's delay in the Farmington widening program between Schoolcraft and Plymouth, with Merriman Schooling a detour next year, figured in the revised plans.

What's Inside

Roundup of World News, Page 7B.
The Readers Speak Up on Numerous topics, Pages 9A, 9-9B.
GM Top Officials Share in \$14.9 Million melon, Page 3A.
Meyer Warshawsky named special prosecutor in Sheriff Peter Buback Houser Case, Page 3A.
Form Organization to end "hot summer days" and future riots, Page 3A.
Sports, Page 1-6B.
Tigers climb to top with nine-game winning streak, Page 1B.
Unbeaten Garden City West Nine Opens League Play, Page 3B.
International Olympic Committee bars South Africa from 1968 Games, Page 5B.
Weekly listings for Television programs, Page 14D.
Editorial comment, Page 9C.
Public Affairs, Page 10B.
Former Gov. G. Mennen Williams Shows Oldtime Pep after appointment to Philippine Post, Page 16B.
Summary of National news, Page 2A.
Dine Out and Entertainment, Pages 11-13B.
What's Doing in the world of Women, Pages 1-8C.
Church Activities in Observerland, Pages 10-11C.
Crossword Puzzle, Page 14D.



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4-Mil School Tax Increase Asked Of Voters On June 10

By SUE SHAGHNESSY

The Farmington Board of Education took the big step Monday night and voted to ask for an additional four mills (\$1 per thousand of assessed valuation) from the school district voters.

Election on the question will be held at the time of the annual school election Monday, June 10.

If approved, the levy would be for a period of 10 years.

Also placed on the ballot is the election of two trustees to the Farmington Board of Education for four years, plus election of three trustees to the Oakland Community College Board for six-year terms.

ON THE FARMINGTON Board, Trustees George Mahall and Richard Peters face re-election. Both have announced they will file for the office.

Oakes Makes Report

By FRED DELANO

Donald Oakes, the professional governmental consultant from Grand Rapids who has been hired by Farmington Township officials to ponder their future alternatives, submitted his first interim report Monday night.

The gist of the Oakes communique was the information that to date he has studied financial reports from recent years of both the township and the city and now will proceed with an analysis in which he seeks to determine the best of four routes to take.

The four include:
1. Continuing the status quo.
2. Incorporation of the township as now constituted as a city by itself.
3. Unification of the township and city of Farmington into one master city.
4. Similar unification, but with the villages of Woodcreek Farms and Quakertown determining their own status.

It was indicated that this probably will be the only interim report submitted to the township trustees to receive public mention.

In one of his shortest regular meetings of the year to date, the trustees received the Oakes communique Monday night and also took these actions:

Voted to increase the tentative budget of the township for 1969 by \$55,000, subject to approval of the county allocation board.

Set May 6 as the date for public hearings on the necessity of sewers on Orchard Lake Rd. from Grand to Washburn, the necessity for roads in the Old Farm Colony subdivision, plus the adoption of bond resolutions for the Eastfield Hemlock-Medbury sewers.

The request for additional operating funds follows on the heels of the defeat — the first in the history of the school district — of a five-mill request in November.

A factor leading to the defeat was the increase in valuations throughout the district as ordered by the Oakland County Equalization Board.

Last week the equalization figures were all in, with the equalization factor being applied by the Board. In both the City of Farmington and West Bloomfield Township the factor was pegged at 1.0 by the county.

However, in the township — the largest portion of the school district — the factor was placed at less than the mandatory 1.0, or at .93.

IN A REPORT to the Board Monday night, Superintendent of Schools Roderick J. Smith told the Board that

the total equalized valuation of the school district for the coming year was \$202,752,857 as compared with \$154,423,354 for the 1967-1968 school year.

The kicker is the reduction in state aid coming to the school district under the terms of the bill approved by the legislature. Farmington schools have been caught in a sliding scale and lost a total of \$13.85 per pupil under the terms of a bill which approved a 10 per cent hike in state aid to school districts.

The total state aid that will pour into the District's coffers for the coming year is pegged at \$4,099,355 while the total state aid for the past year was \$4,098,199. This reflects the rise in enrollment from 15,265 students this year to an anticipated 16,100 for the coming year.

Under the state equalized valuation

figure the district backing in assessments for the district has risen from \$10.116 per pupil to \$12.558. Thus the reduction in the state aid formula.

Smith asserted that, if approved, the four mill proposal would bring an additional \$810,000 into the District's funds. This is compared to the anticipated \$325,000 which would have come to the schools if the five mill proposal had passed in November.

Calling the budget a "tight one" and asserting that it would merely "maintain" the District program, the superintendent forecast "drastic cuts" in the educational program if the millage proposal is defeated at the polls.

Trustee Peters added that the budget had to be set for the coming school year and observed that action would have to be taken following the June election. "There will be no additional vote after June," he warned.



DRY AS TINDER — Firemen from Farmington Township and Franklin Village are shown as they fought a devastating fire Saturday afternoon which consumed a barn on the Dean farm east of the Sarah Fisher Home at Inkster and 12 Mile Rds. Police records did not show what caused the blaze to break out in the vacant structure, but no damage was done to neighboring buildings.

School Trustees Refuse To Change Stand On Density

After a lengthy discussion of semantics the Farmington Board of Education refused to change its stance in opposition to any change in the density planning in Farmington Township.

The lack of action came Monday night with a resolution asserting that within the narrow confines of school population pressures the proposed satellite village development at 12 Mile and Grand to Washburn, the necessity for roads in the Old Farm Colony subdivision, plus the adoption of bond resolutions for the Eastfield Hemlock-Medbury sewers.

As such the motion died for lack of support.

the township per se.

What prompted the attempt to reverse the board's stance in reference to the particular project were figures supplied by the developer, The William Pulte Co., which contend that apartment projects do not engender the school population for an area which a basic subdivision of single family homes would.

The township planning commission has scheduled a public hearing on the satellite village proposal for 8 p.m. Thursday, April 25, in the O.E. Dunckel Junior High School.

On March 25 the school board stated its opposition to any change in the density zoning of

Planners Talk Noodle Huddle

By ELIZABETH WISSMAN

With a joint meeting of the Township Board and the City Council already held, the city planning commissioners took steps at their meeting Monday for a combat between themselves and township planners.

Commissioner John Allen, who is also a councilman, almost threw a spanner in the works when he said at the onset of discussion that the full scale negotiations going on between the two governmental bodies.

DURING DISCUSSION of pros and cons of the political overtones to a joint planners meeting, Allen referred to the "delicate negotiations going on between the two governmental bodies."

City commission chairman Fred Seibert said he questioned the control the council feels it should exercise over the commission.

Commission vice chairman William L. Burke said meetings would be "scheduled for the deliberate purpose of exploring mutual planning concerns."

CONSENSUS of the planners is that the city has many mutual planning problems with the township ranging from off-street parking requirements to zoning.

The discussion was concluded with the adoption of what Commissioner Jim Piatt called a "statement of policy."

Prior to this action, the planners also discussed at some length making application for matching funds for park development. Under the Capital Improvement program \$11,000 has been allocated by the city for park development.

The plan had been to apply to the Michigan Department of Agriculture, but Dinan told the commission he had been in-

formed that the department has no funds at this time. He said that if the proposed open space bond issue is successful in November's election, funds would be available.

PIATT SUGGESTED that funding from the Office of Economic Opportunity be investigated. He said that the area south of 10 Mile is part of a target area for high priority consideration for federal funds.

Dinan said that filling for a state grant would not affect a federal grant.

He was directed to finalize the application for state funds and to check into CEO funding.

IN OTHER business, the commission held two public hearings.

The first concerned a \$6 million project developer Bruce Polozak plans for Halstead and Grand River.

The complex borders Chatham Hills, Tom Kolhoff, 36672 Saxony Rd., and Bill Mitchell, 36611 Saxony Rd., both in the subdivision, said residents have no decision as to whether they want the subdivision abutted by a greenbelt or a masonry wall.

If a greenbelt is used, the matter will have to go to another public hearing. The subdivision spokesmen plan to meet with the residents on the subject.

Polozak's development will have 15 acres of commercial property, including a motel, and 12 acres in multiple dwellings. The second public hearing occurred Dr. Bernard J. Nasson's request for rezoning of property next to his dental office at 32423 Grand River for a new office building.

The commission recommended to council that his request be granted.



MERRY MIX-UP — Farmington art consultants Bev Ellis and Bill Harmon untangle the strings of a butterfly mobile included in the elementary children's art exhibit, that two installed in the main corridor of Botsford General Hospital. April is National Children's Art month and the hospital wanted to help the schools celebrate it.

Ponder City Retirement Policy

The possibility of a revision in the City of Farmington's retirement policy and benefits with the proposal going on the November ballot exists with the formation of a committee to study possible revisions.

Formation of the city's retirement board into a committee of the whole to study the ordinance, with the thought of updating it came to light last week.

As a part of the city charter any changes proposed by the retirement board would have to be approved by a vote of the electorate.

City Manager John Dinan told The Enterprise & Observer that the committee was examining the ordinance with three points in mind.

THESE ARE:
A possible earlier voluntary retirement age for the city police force than the other city

employees.
The provisions for a person to retire before the age of 60 if one has been employed by the city for a number of years.
The benefits payable under the plan.

Currently a total of 44 city employees are covered by the retirement plan which costs a total of \$24,700 per year. Of this amount the employees kick in about \$10,000 a year out of their own pockets.

The retirement fund, which was established in 1951, has assets of \$105,314.

Members of the retirement board are: Harry Lapham as the citizen member; Director of Public Safety Robert F. Deadman representing the police and fire department; Marjorie Rhodes representing the city employees; Ralph Yoder representing the City Council; and Dinan, representing the city administration.

Under the provisions of the current ordinance all city employees are allowed to retire only after the age of 60. When an employee reaches the age of 60 retirement is mandatory.

In most cities members of the police force are allowed to retire once a basic period of service has been established. As in Detroit or five years before the voluntary retirement age of the other employees with a mandatory retirement coming at the age of the voluntary retirement of the other employees.

In such cases, police retirement may be extended upon the approval of the department head and the consent of the retirement board.

If such a change were enacted in Farmington it would mean that the voluntary retirement age for the city police force would be 55 with five years retirement coming at the age of 60.

UNDER THE current ordinance no employee may retire with benefits until the age of 60 no matter how many years of service. Dinan said that this provision was not fair to the women employees of the city who might wish to retire when their husbands quit work and draw their pensions when reaching the proper age.

Dinan said this was not possible under the current ordinance.

In the light of the benefits paid, Dinan said that the ordinance was written seven years ago and that the committee would examine the provisions in the light of the cost of living which has occurred since 1961.

The city currently has three employees who have retired under the provisions of the ordinance and it seems likely that if any change in the ordinance is approved it would include these three retirees.