

today's
hot line
observerland

PONTIAC — Oakland County's board of supervisors have placed on the Aug. 6 ballot a request for a one-mill tax increase to be used exclusively for road improvements. The fund will be administered by the Oakland County Road Commission.

PLYMOUTH — Plymouth became the third city in Michigan to adopt an open housing ordinance when the voters approved the measure, 988 to 770, Monday at the polls. The ordinance had been endorsed by the Mail & Observer, Governor Romney, and the American Association of University Women, Plymouth chapter.

PLYMOUTH — The Plymouth Community Board of Education announced plans for raising the tax rate 4.20 mills and asking the public to adopt an \$11 million bond issue at the next election on June 10. The action was brought about because of the high cost of construction of the new high school.

LIVONIA — The Wayne County Board of Supervisors' Equalization Committee has figured that Livonia property values have increased enough within the year to raise the tax bill eight per cent for owners. It raised the rate 11 points, and added about \$50 million to the valuation figure, boosting it above a half-billion dollars. But the extra money will still leave the city and the schools pinched for revenue in the face of soaring costs.

WESTLAND — The Wayne Community Board of Education Monday agreed to place a seven-mill tax increase proposal for one year on the June 10 school election ballot. In doing so, board members expressed the inadequacies of local property taxes for supporting public schools and stressed the need for more sources of income from state and federal governments. The district is faced with a budget carrying a \$1.4 million deficit.

GARDEN CITY — Support has mounted for approval of a 7.5 mill school tax increase following statements from the school board president and two citizens groups. The proposal will be on the June 10 school election ballot.

GARDEN CITY — The school board has authorized a study of "shared-time" program with local parochial schools. Supt. Donald R. Shader has directed to start the study.

REDFORD — Eugene Duston, teacher and former Redford Township Trustee has let GOP leaders know he will accept a draft to run for State Representative against incumbent Democrat John Bennett in the 34th District (Redford). But Duston says he will defer to anyone else wanting the GOP ticket.

REDFORD — A third criminal charge has been placed against Detroit's Ellis Ross stemming from the March 25 robbery of a Redford Township bank and shooting of a township policeman.

What's Inside

- Humphrey Tosses Hat Into Presidential Ring, Page 2A.
- Record 174 Are Graduated From Schoolcraft College, Page 3A.
- Two Attorneys Take Reapportionment to Circuit Court, Page 3A.
- Detroit News Publisher Subpoenaed Before Senate Committee, Page 8C.
- Editorial Comments, Page 10B.
- Public Affairs, Page 4B.
- Civil Rights Legislation Brings Demonstration in Britain, Page 5A.
- Crossword Puzzle, Page 5A.
- The World of Women, Pages 1-6C.
- Doings in Area Churches, Pages 6-7B.
- Home Improvement and Garden, Page 3D.
- Sports, Pages 1, 2, 3, 5B.
- RU Trackmen Set Three Records, Page 1B.
- Who's World Heavyweight Champion Now? Page 5B.
- Movies and Dine Out, Pages 8-9B.
- Weekly television listings, Page 10H.

OUT OF BREATH?

Tired of pedaling miles every night in your own bedroom? Perhaps you've graduated to more mobile forms of exercise - or simply adjusted to your bulging midriff. Put somebody else aboard that exercising machine! For only \$4.44 you can advertise it for sale in a Twin-Action Observer Want Ad. Phone GA 20900.

Schools Set Public Hearing
On 4-Mill Request Monday

By FRED DeLANO
Possibly the two most important questions in relation to the Farmington Board of Education's request that an additional four mills for operating purposes be voted at the June 10 election will be answered at a special public meeting Monday night. They are:

1. If the measure fails to pass, exactly what will be trimmed from the budget the \$811,000 which the four mills represent for 1968-69?
2. Does the board have any intention to exercise its right to levy an additional one mill as authorized by the taxpayers in 1965 for operation of two new swimming pools and auditoriums, which still are far from completed?

Monday's meeting will be at 8 p.m. in Farmington Junior High School.

AT THAT TIME, board and administration spokesmen will be prepared to give a detailed analysis of their proposed \$11-million operating

budget for 1968-69 and why they believe the added taxation is necessary.

Actually, the four-mill proposal on the ballot will ask that the levy be continued for 10 years.

Another inescapable question Monday will pertain to the board's reported decision, no matter how the millage question fares at the ballot box, to transfer two mills from its debt service levy to operations. The board has the legal right to do this.

To a property owner in the school district, each mill represents a tax of \$1 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.

The present school tax rate of \$32.40 per \$1,000 carries \$32.40 for operations and \$9 for debt retirement.

IF FOUR MORE mills are voted June 10, and two mills are transferred from one category to the other, then the 1968-69 school tax rate would be \$38.40, with \$38.40 going toward operating costs and \$7 toward bonded indebtedness.

Even if the extra four-mill plan is beaten June 10, the board still can make the two-mill switch, if it desires,

and thus gain an estimated \$405,500 for operations.

Sources close to the board say this will be done, in any event. For justification they point to the fact that the current year's income is expected to fall \$900,000 short of expenditures, and that when this is coupled with a big budget hike for the coming year, the board has no other road to travel.

In regard to the so-called "swimming pool and auditorium" tax of an extra mill, the fact that these facilities are not going to be in operation until 1969 is thought to preclude any step toward adding this levy to the tax bill at the present time.

In its campaign for passage of a five-mill proposal last November, the board made no attempt to spell out what budget cuts it might make in case of defeat. As it turned out, no cuts were made at all, and a second attempt for millage passage became the alternative.

If beaten this time, there will be no chance for submission of a third proposition before the fall semester opens, and thus the "hard sell" ap-

proach has been decided upon. The board hopes voters then will evaluate millage in terms of specific educational activities.

MEANWHILE, two seats on the board of education will be filled in the same election. To date the only announced candidates are the two incumbents, Richard Peters and George Nahstoll.

In something of a political oddity this week a public announcement was issued by James Piatt, a member of the City Planning Commission, declaring:

"I am welcoming the entry of a qualified non-incumbent into the school board race."

Piatt took an active role in campaigning against passage of the millage issue in November and admits that he is soliciting for a candidate to run against Nahstoll and Peters, although not planning to enter the race himself. He added that as yet he has not decided whether to support or oppose the new millage request.



BATTER UP — With the coming of summer the thoughts of the area's athletes turn to the national sport of baseball. Little Leaguers are practicing in anticipation of the May 18 opening.

Dave Marting belts a hit while Mike Kanny serves as the catcher in a practice session Saturday in the city park.

School Crossing Traffic Light
Is Farmington Mom's Goal

A Farmington mother has mounted a one-person campaign to obtain a traffic light for the corner of Grand River and Powers Rd. and last week issued a plea for additional citizen participation.

The woman is Mrs. Jim Davis of 22540 Powers Rd. Mrs. Davis seeks what the city has unsuccessfully sought for more than two years—a traffic light to ensure the safety of the children crossing Grand River at Power Rd.

CURRENTLY a safety crossing guard is paid by the school district to assist the children at the corner. The rub comes from the fact that the State Highway Department—which has the jurisdiction over Grand River—does not install traffic signals for safety reasons.

Rather, the state considers traffic signals as instruments to control the flow of traffic. For this reason signals are installed only when a traffic count shows that there is sufficient vehicular traffic at an intersection to warrant the installation.

Mrs. Davis points to the announced plans for a traffic signal at the intersection of Grand River and Grove St., with the opening of the Federal's Store and contends that this is unfair.

"POWER RD. is the only cross street between Farmington Rd. and Nine Mile Rd. on this stretch of Grand River," she says.

"The children have to cross Grand River to reach four schools—Farmington Junior

High, Farmington Senior High and Our Lady of Sorrows Grade and High Schools," she adds. Mrs. Davis continues: "The walking bridge across I-57 at Power Rd. and all school children living in the area south of the expressway have to cross Grand River, too."

WITH THESE facts in mind Mrs. Davis is calling upon all the parents of Farmington to write to Charles H. Hewitt, chairman of the Department of State Highways, to turn over Grand River to the Oakland County jurisdiction.

Hewitt's address is: Department of State Highways, Stevens T. Mason Building, Lansing 48926.

This stems from the feeling of the city officials that when Grand River is turned over to

the county the chances for obtaining a traffic signal at the corner will be brighter than they currently are.

"In the summer kids on bicycles are making crossings here, also. Children using the park facilities for recreation programs and Little League baseball, plus attendance at summer school classes, keep a steady flow of young people going across this same street."

"THE STATE maintains that they took a count and no light is warranted. Children walking across the street wouldn't use the counter anyway! As for the people like me living south of Grand River on Power, we all take the back route through Warner Farms to Farmington Rd. to go into the shopping area in Farmington."

State Mediator
Called In On
Police Talks

Entry of the State Labor Mediation Board into wage negotiations, being conducted between Farmington Public Safety Department and the city administration emphasized this week how far from a settlement the factions remain.

The department provides both police and fire protection for the city. State Mediator Leonard Bennett emerged from his first session with the department bargaining team and City Manager John D. Dignan with a brief statement:

"There has been no progress and the meeting adjourned subject to the call of the mediator. I probably will ask the parties to come together again in about a week."

STATE Intervention was asked specifically by the Farmington Public Safety Officers Association, which represents the nine patrolmen.

Bargaining between the administration and the Sergeants Association, representing seven other officers of rank higher than patrolman, is being conducted separately.

Farmington's pay scale for patrolmen now starts at \$7,000 and carries an increase to \$8,000 after two and a half years.

Dignan said the proposed 1968-69 budget which he has submitted to the City Council for the fiscal year starting July 1 would provide all police personnel with an increase of slightly more than eight per cent, but that bargaining units are asking for about twice that in wages and fringe increases.

The city manager added that if the city settles on the basis asked by members of the de-

partment it would jeopardize the planned reduction in the municipal tax rate. It has been Dignan's recommendation that the rate be cut from \$11 per \$1,000 assessed valuation to \$10.

FARMINGTON is one of a handful of governments in Oakland County which operate a public safety department in which men are trained jointly for fire and police duty.

Poynter
Sentenced
To 7-30 Yrs.

A prison term of 7 1/2 to 30 years has been dealt Steven Dale Poynter, former Farmington Township police officer, for the slaying of his 24-year-old wife last November.

Circuit Judge Frederick C. Ziem, who in March had accepted Poynter's plea of guilty to the charge of second degree murder, passed sentence April 25.

Poynter, 24, was transferred immediately to the Southern Michigan prison at Jackson to begin his sentence. The former policeman shot his wife in their home at 33849 Rhonswold the afternoon of Nov. 10. He surrendered to Township Police Chief Irving Taylor seven hours later.

Two months earlier Poynter had been suspended by Yale's after he and his wife had become involved in a public dispute, and the eventual fatal shooting was blamed on a combination of the marital discord.

Series To Examine Local Youth Problems

A four-part program focusing on teen-age problems in Farmington will open Monday, May 6, on the Oakland Community College Campus.

Sponsored by the Farmington Area YMCA as a community service project, the series is billed as "Four Mondays in May."

All the sessions will begin at 8 p.m. and end at 10 p.m. in "B" Building on the Orchard Ridge campus of the community college.

YMCA EXECUTIVE Director David Comfort explained the idea behind the series:

"We hear a great deal about the problems of youth and teenagers in general," he said, "and we thought that a very specific look at Farmington and Farmington's teenagers would be helpful."

"The series is designed to assist parents in providing information and some thoughts on how to deal with teenage problems."

"Specialists and professional people who deal with teenagers have been asked to provide their insights," Comfort continued. "In addition, the counseling staff of Oakland Community College will be on hand to provide needed assistance to the audience. The program has been formulated by the

Program Committee of the Farmington; Y and is under the direction of a layman's committee headed by Mrs. Robert Benya.

Format for three of the sessions will be panel discussions followed by question and answer periods. The fourth and final session will be a series of small discussion groups led by the OCC counselors.

SPECIFICS of the program:

Monday, May 6—What are the problems of teenagers today in Farmington? Township Police Detective William Kelly and City Police Chief Robert F. Deadman will discuss the crime rate in the area in relation to the incidents of vandalism and theft. Dr. David Schwartz, a local physician, will discuss pregnancy and VD.

An attendance officer from the Farmington Public Schools will discuss truancy in the district; while Larry Carps, a past case-worker of the Youth Guidance Committee, will talk about runaways.

A special feature of the program will be a tape recorded discussion among Farmington teenagers about alcohol and their reaction to the state law.

Fr. Thomas Bissonette, assistant pastor at Our Lady of Sorrows, will present a personal view on the teenager of today.

All of these resource people will speak for five or 10 minutes and then participate in a question and answer session. Questions from the audience will be encouraged.

AN IN DEPTH program about narcotics will be presented during the second session on Monday, May 13. During this program a film on the drug will be shown and then a panel of Dr. Schwartz, Kelly and Deadman will discuss the problem.

The causes of the problems will be the topic for the third session on Monday, May 20.

Dr. Schwartz, Herschal Wallace, former counselor in the Dearborn Schools; Dr. David Magaw, senior psychologist at Ropert's Court in Wayne; and Mrs. Lucille Magaw, a trained psychiatric social worker with the Dearborn Schools, will be the panel members.

Each resource person will give a short presentation followed by a general discussion. Here, too, the audience will be encouraged to ask questions.

The final session will break up into small discussion groups. Counselors from Oakland Community College will lead the discussions and the discussions will be open and informal.

There is no charge for the series, which is open to the general public.