



**Highmeadow  
Plays Bingo**

HIGHMEADOW SCHOOL'S 10th birthday bingo benefit gave children who won at bingo a chance to select a book purchased by the PTA to be dedicated to the school library in their names. Jenita Hansen, a kindergartner, makes a book selection with the help of Mrs. Phyllis Sepetys, co-chairman of the benefit.

## County Adds Gill Rd. Paving To List Of Summer Projects

Financing for Gill Rd., the muddy lane which caused two schools to close last spring, is on a list of Oakland County Road Commission projects for 1974.

Farmington Hills will receive as much as \$1.13 million from projects included in the road commission's \$21.3 million 1974 construction budget.

Gill Road is scheduled to be reconstructed to a two-lane pavement from Nine Mile to School Road, at a cost of \$200,000.

Half the cost of the Gill Road project is to be paid by the county. The remainder is to be paid by the City of Farmington Hills and the Farmington Board of Education.

The proportion to be paid

by the two local units is still being negotiated, according to Hills City Manager George Majoros.

Other Farmington Hills projects to be concluded next summer include several intersection improvements and paving projects.

The Eight Mile - Halstead intersection is to be flared and cleared of sight obstructions and a traffic light installed. Federal and state grants would pay \$22,000, with the road commission paying \$80,000 and the city paying \$50,000.

The 14 Mile - Haggerty intersection is to be flared and cleared of sight obstructions and a traffic light installed. The road commission will pay the entire \$75,000 cost.

Haggerty Road will be re-

constructed to a two-lane pavement, from Eight to Nine Mile Roads, with federal and state grants paying \$250,000 and the road commission picking up the remaining \$100,000 of the \$350,000 cost.

Another \$155,000 is tentatively allocated for paving parts of Farmington, Middle Belt, Orchard Lake and 10 Mile roads.

Road Commissioner Fred Harris said the projects will be constructed if the board of county commissioners approves the use of \$1 million in county general funds.

The "urban-area construction program" is a means of compensating the county's urbanized areas for consenting to use county general funds to match road commis-

sion and township money pledged to wholesale reconstruction of failed gravel roads earlier this year, according to Harris.

If the county commissioners approve matching funds with the road commission, paving will proceed on Farmington Rd., from 10 Mile to 12 Mile; on Middle Belt, from Northwestern Highway to 14 Mile; on Orchard Lake, from Grand River to I-696; and on 10 Mile from Orchard Lake to Beech Rd.

The county money to be allocated is mainly on roads still under county jurisdiction following the incorporation of Farmington Hills. Local street improvement priorities are still being set, Majoros said.

## School Tax Task Force Is Formed

Farmington school board President Dr. Mervyn Ross called for the formation of a special task force Monday to study the question of variable millage.

The action was taken in response to a threatened suit by the Farmington Council of Homeowners challenging the legality of the millage set by the school board last summer.

Ross set a deadline of Nov. 26 for nominations.

At that time he will name the members of the task force and ask them to make a complete study to set up guidelines and make recommendations for future action.

The board's action stemmed from the controversy following a tax increase levied early this year.

The 1973-74 millage of 37.53 was increased 0.7 mills after the county allocation board transferred millage formerly allocated to Farmington Township to the school district.

The allocation board added 1.2 mills to the school district allotment, money which formerly went to Farmington Township before it incorporated as the City of Farmington Hills.

Effect of the transfer is to raise the millage limitation for school operations by 1.2 mills.

In addition, the school board decided to levy the 0.5 mills remaining of their total millage, bringing the in-

crease for operations to 1.7 additional mills.

The debt retirement millage was reduced from seven to six, leaving a net increase of 0.7 mills.

The action was challenged by the Farmington Hills Council in August, which threatened to not certify the tax rate.

The issue was resolved at that time by directing both the school and city attorneys to negotiate a possible "test case" which would bring the issue to the courts without jeopardizing the school tax revenue.

The homeowners are asking Farmington taxpayers to pay their taxes under protest, pending settlement of the issue.

Several residents in the audience voiced the opinion that the proposed timetable was too slow, and no time should be lost in getting the issue settled.

At issue is the "differential millage" levied by Oakland County.

Oakland County is the only county in the state which levies "differential millage."

The county tax allocation board distributes the 15-mill county tax between local school districts, townships and the county government.

Its past practice has been to grant millage either to townships or schools. In school districts which overlap cities and townships, this

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