

# Farmington Observer & Eccentric

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Fifteen Cents

## Budget increases outpacing new revenue for the school

By NANCY STEIN  
The Farmington Board of Education will ask to renew a five-mill school tax April 2.

"The five mills expired on December 31, 1973, and we couldn't operate our schools as we do if the millage isn't renewed," said William Prisk, Farmington-Schools business manager.

"I'm not worried about our people, Prisk said.

"They know how important it is. In the past, the city has always renewed millage and until two years ago voted for any needed increases.

The five mills will return the schools to a tax of 22 mills above

"Our people have always supported millage renewals."—William Prisk, business manager

the state allotment of 8 mills for a total of 30 mills.

School tax is based on the State Equalized Valuation (SEV) of property. All school taxes are property taxes.

PRISK THINKS there may be some misunderstanding about the SEV and what it means to Farmington Schools.

"The amount your home's assessed at is a matter of public

record. If you want to know what it is, just go to the city assessor's office and ask."

Property is assessed for tax purposes at half its market value.

If your home is worth \$40,000, it should have an SEV of \$20,000.

In turn, a mill is a tax of \$1 for every \$1,000 of SEV.

A one-mill tax on a house with an SEV of \$20,000 and a market value of \$40,000 would be \$20.

"THE SEV for the whole school

district will go up this year from \$377,682,340 to about \$415 million," explained Prisk.

"That will give us a revenue increase of about \$1,119,000 which is fine, but our projected figures for next year, because of inflation and the built in increases in contracts already show an increase of \$1,783,863 to run the schools as we are presently doing."

This year's budget was \$19,202,215. Next year's is projected at \$20,586,078.

This year the schools had the five mills. Next year's costs are based on the assumption that the people will return the five mills.

## Nader charges industries are inventing shortages

By HELEN PARKS

Consumer advocate Ralph Nader Monday called on his Oakland University (O.U.) audience to make a choice: fight for their rights or watch the economy hurtle into chaos.

"There should be a revolution in citizen obligation. No longer can we just say we have the right to vote and that's it. That's no longer enough," Nader told 3,000 persons at O.U. "There are so many problems. You can work on the problem of your choice.

"By devoting five, 10, 15 or 20 hours to a civic obligation, you're exercising a choice. Or you can witness the erosion of a wealthy economy hurtling into greater chaos, Nader said.

WHILE CALLING FOR more citizen involvement, Nader criticized a gamut of national institutions including the schools, General Motors and the White House.

Nader said, "The best interest of United States industry is in the White House. The second-best in-

vestment is the White House. The White House is for sale every election year for about \$120 million."

"What a shame 20,000 engineers and scientists are put to work on trivia such as hepping up horsepower," Nader said of General Motors.

And Nader said, "In Michigan there are some of the shoddiest nuclear power installations."

"WE ARE SEEING a breakdown of one of the biggest economies in the world," he said. "It keeps growing and breaking down."

"If we allow industry to stampee us into more nuclear power plants, stampee us into accepting a greater monopoly of all forms of energy . . . you can be sure we will continue to be victimized by the practices of these companies," Nader said.

"If the energy crisis stays and there is successful relaxation of pollution controls and permits are granted for industry to do mass

amounts of off-shore drilling . . . there will be no end to the spiralling inflation.

Once the other industries see it, they'll say they have their own shortage. Every self-respecting industry will look for a shortage to accommodate it."

In addition to suggesting more citizen involvement, Nader recommended that industry spend more time on researching such things as solar energy.

"It's the most practical form of

energy. Solar energy could heat and cool houses and buildings in a very few years and with more research and development generate electricity," Nader said.

He suggested that consumers begin learning how to buy products such as cars and food before spending their paychecks, and that educators start teaching about energy and industry. He characterized American history classes as "rah, rah flag-waving material."

### Cooper takes aim at turtle

State Senator Daniel Cooper thinks we should take a closer look at the friendly little turtle.

Cooper (D-Oak Park) said he's working on a bill to regulate the sale of live turtles. The bill would require the inspection of the little creatures before they're sold.

According to Cooper, the pets with their homes on their backs, also carry

salmonellosis—a disease that can cause acute illness in humans.

Salmonella bacteria transmitted to individuals handling an infected turtle can cause high fevers, diarrhea and vomiting in humans, Cooper said.

### Man is charged in store breakin

A March 15 examination date has been set for the Farmington Hills man charged with breaking into an area drug store.

John Voskuhl, 18, of 21042 St. Francis, was arraigned Monday before 47th District Court Judge Michael Hand and released after posting a \$500 bond.

According to police, Voskuhl was arrested about 4:30 a.m. March 3 near the Smith Rexall Drug Store, 27702 Eight Mile Road.

Police discovered a hole had been knocked in the wall through an adjoining abandoned building, the former Nite Lite Bar.

Police said a number of items, valued at an estimated \$425 were taken. Listed were 15 cartons of cigars, 22 watches, four bottles of cherry brandy and 25 bags and bars of candy.

Several juveniles have also been questioned in connection with the incident, a police spokesman said.

## Police fee handling is changed in Hills

By DAN McCOSH

The cash register in the city finance office will handle all the fees being collected at the Farmington Hills City hall from now on, according to City Manager George Majors.

Majors said he instituted the change last week following revelations approximately \$1,900 had allegedly been embezzled from the

records bureau in the police department.

"If I had any idea they had been handling that much money (approximately \$8,000 per year), I would have changed the practice long ago," Majors said.

THE CHANGE means fees formerly collected at the police desk will now be paid to the clerk at the

finance department, and a receipt will be turned back to the police to indicate payment.

Majors said the change should allow closer accounting of the funds being handled.

The alleged embezzlement is still under investigation, but Majors indicated some information would be forwarded to the Oakland County prosecutor in the near future for a decision on whether criminal warrants will be issued.

Lt. William Kelly, the newly-appointed head of the records bureau who first discovered the shortage in the bureau's receipts, is appealing his suspension.

KELLY WAS suspended for 12 days by Public Safety Director Ronald Holko for "violation of department rules" in Kelly's handling of the embezzlement investigation.

Kelly attempted to file a formal report on the matter when he apparently believed the matter was being suppressed, according to his attorney, Robert C. Zack.

Zack and Kelly went to the state police with the embezzlement charges after Kelly had been dismissed.

Majors said he initiated the changes in handling the records bureau receipts on Wednesday, the day before Kelly asked for state police intervention.

### 150th has kickoff at Botsford Inn

The Farmington Sesquicentennial gets its official start at 8:30 a.m. Friday, at the Botsford Inn in Farmington Hills.

John Anhut, chairman of the sesquicentennial committee, will host the kickoff, which will be combined with the quarterly chamber of commerce breakfast.

Guest speaker is Philip H. Power, co-publisher of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, and a descendant of the original settlers of Farmington.

The breakfast is the first in a long list of activities planned to celebrate the area's 150th birthday. Anhut plans to announce the results of the months of effort of the sesquicentennial committee the six months of related activities with a historical theme planned for this summer.



PHILIP H. POWER



Who, me?

Janeen G. Ellis surprise is on page 3-C.

## City restricts pinball players

By CARL STODDARD

Pinball machines and other coin-operated amusement devices in Farmington would be under stricter control under a new city ordinance introduced Monday evening.

The Farmington City Council, by a 4-0 vote (councilman John Richardson was absent), introduced an ordinance prohibiting persons under 16 years of age from using the devices, unless accompanied by a parent or guardian.

The ordinance also requires that a person at least 21 years old supervise the operation at all times. The ordinance requires the owner be of "good character" and the building must be inspected by

the public safety department and the building department prior to occupancy.

In addition, the ordinance would require hours of operation be limited to 8 a.m. to 1 a.m.

"I am opposed to any kind of amusement device where money is exchanged," Councilman John Alden said. "I think it's just a way of taking money away from kids too young to make a determination."

Allen urged stricter controls, but decided to approve the present ordinance.

The planning commission is also studying the problem to determine if present zoning requirements regarding pinball are adequate.

## Senior special service is increased to 5 days

In an effort to keep the senior citizens taxi service rolling in Farmington, the city has increased the service to Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The service was formerly available only on Wednesdays.

Farmington city residents at

least 62 years old, may call the Suburban Checker Cab Company for transportation within the city. Cost of the service will still be 50 cents.

CITY MANAGER Robert Deadman said the agreement between the city and the cab company required the city to subsidize the system at \$10 a day. With the new agreement, the city will pay the difference between the 50 cent fare and the actual cost of the trip.

Deadman said that since the program started in January, slightly more than seven trips a day were taken by senior citizens.

The plan will be reviewed once a month by the city council in terms of cost to the taxpayers and the ridership.

### Farmington names 2 to local boards

The Farmington City Council approved two reappointments to local boards Monday night.

Lawrence Mayer, 33118 Grand River, was reappointed to the Farmington Historical Commission for a three-year term.

John Dinan, 36154 Smithfield, was reappointed to the Farmington City and Township District Library Board of Trustees for a four year term.



### \*nuptials

"Everything you always wanted to know about" but were afraid to ask—"The Observer & Eccentric's" special wedding section, is included in this issue. The section contains answers to many questions about nuptials including etiquette for the bridegroom and planning weddings which bridge the generation gap.

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